



20

EVENT IDEAS

FOR THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
MODERN LANGUAGES
E C M L
C E L V
CENTRE EUROPEEN POUR
LES LANGUES VIVANTES

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Struggling to find ideas for an event for this year's European Day of Languages? We understand that organising events that are fun, inclusive, educational and motivational can be challenging. To help you get started, we've compiled a booklet of 20 engaging activities designed to celebrate this year's European Day of Languages.

In this booklet, you'll find a variety of events suitable for both class-level and school-wide participation. Our ideas embrace the principle of "starting small to go big", allowing you to tailor activities to the needs and interests of your students. Whether you want to leverage online resources or encourage imaginative and interactive experiences without technology, there's something here for every classroom.

Dive in and discover creative ways to make this year's European Day of Languages a memorable and enriching experience for all!

The 20 ideas outlined in this booklet are also available online at the following address: <https://edl.ecml.at/eventsuggestions>.

CONTENTS

- 1 Multilingual tongue twister challenge
- 2 Baking in a foreign language
- 3 Language taster workshops
- 4 Eurovision song/poetry/story-telling contest
- 5 Travel virtually
- 6 Set up your own treasure/scavenger hunt
- 7 EDL secret agent's language challenges handbook
- 8 The secret agent's language challenges app
- 9 Language fair
- 10 International online tandem
- 11 Board games day
- 12 EDL T-shirt contest
- 13 Foreign cinema festival
- 14 Start a book club
- 15 GeoGuessr challenge
- 16 Organise a 'special edition' newspaper
- 17 Learn how to say "Hello" in several languages
- 18 Lara's next journey through Europe's Regional and Minority Languages
- 19 The great multilingual joke book
- 20 Test out your knowledge of Europe's languages: further resources

A photograph of three young women sitting outdoors on a grassy area with stone steps in the background. They are all smiling and clapping their hands. The woman on the left is wearing a pink shirt, the woman in the middle is wearing a white floral shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a blue and yellow striped shirt with a patterned headband. A large white number '1' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Multilingual tongue twister challenge

How many tongue twisters, in at least three different languages, can you master in one minute? Tongue twisters are challenging in any language, but managing to do three or more is certainly not for the faint-hearted! Show off your skills, either individually or as part of a group, by submitting a video.

Activity type whole-school/classroom activity

Resources • <https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/Multilingualtonguetwisterchallenge/tabid/3268/Default.aspx>





Baking in a foreign language

For the 20th anniversary of the European Day of Languages we asked you to send us your best birthday cake recipes. We have chosen 20 amazing recipes and compiled them into a colourful booklet. Celebrate with us by baking one of these truly European birthday cakes and practice your language skills in the process!

Activity type individual homework/classroom activity

Resources <https://edl.ecml.at/Portals/33/documents/recipe-book.pdf>





Language taster workshops

Organise a 30-60 minute workshop to introduce a new language to your class group. You can determine the maximum number of participants based on the available space. The workshop could include: Unusual aspects of the language and similarities with the participants' first language; greetings and key phrases (such as counting 1-10); interesting trivia facts, 'false friends' and famous speakers of the language; an introduction to a sign language including fingerspelling names and learning how to meet and greet a deaf person; etc.

These sessions do not necessarily need to be led by qualified teachers; students or colleagues from different linguistic backgrounds can present their home languages. As these are taster sessions, adding some samples of national cuisine might add some extra 'spice' or 'sweetness' to the event!

Activity type organised event/ whole-school/classroom activity

Resources

- <https://edl.ecml.at/languagetrvia>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/signlanguage>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/celebrities>



4

Eurovision song/poetry/ story-telling contest

While waiting for next year's Eurovision song contest, why not create your own mini competition? Of course, this could prove a huge endeavour, so first determine on what scale you would like it to be held: within a single class, involving several class groups or perhaps involving the entire school. Consider setting up an organisation committee to help prepare the event.

Keep in mind that not everyone can sing like Celine Dion or Andrea Bocelli. To make it more inclusive—and to possibly save your ears—consider expanding it to a song or poetry contest. After all, the main focus is the language itself: can the performers use a foreign language and still sound impressive? Performances can either be live or recorded. If you wish to add a competitive edge, consider adding a voting system and judges, as in the real Eurovision!

Activity type organised event/whole-school/classroom activity

Resources

- Youtube, Spotify etc.
- For inspiration, see Junior Eurovision: a minority language view

<https://eurovoix.com/2019/11/23/junior-eurovision-a-minority-language-view/>



Travel virtually

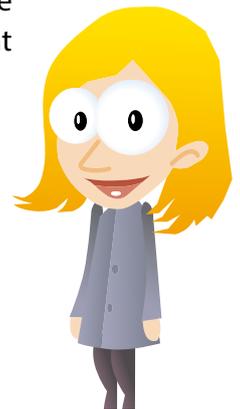
Make a map of the places you want to visit and learn the most useful expressions in the language of your dream travel destination. This can be done as individually or in teams. If everyone wants to choose the same country (which can tend to happen), you can randomly assign a different country to each team or student by drawing lots or using an online tool like [Wheeldecide](#).

Create a list of elements which each poster should include, such as: reasons to visit, notable sights, activities to do, languages spoken there and what makes them unique, and important expressions for the trip.

Activity type classroom activity

Resources

- <https://edl.ecml.at/language trivia>
- <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>
- Discover the world through languages poster:
<https://edl.ecml.at/Portals/33/documents/poster/EDL-poster-2020-LC.pdf>



6 Set up your own treasure or scavenger hunt

You can organise this activity the traditional way, with a series of tasks or items to be carried out or found at different locations, or use an app like Actionbound. Participants will have 10-15 tasks to complete within a certain timeframe. These can include multiple-choice or open-ended questions, such as 'List 10 foreign dishes originating from other countries available in a specific area of the town or city', or 'Find two local streets or paths that are named after foreign cities'. Each task can be allocated a number of points, turning the activity into a competition. The hunt can either be carried out in small groups of 3-4 or individually. If you are organising it as a competition, consider offering an appropriate prize to add further incentive!

Activity type classroom activity

Resources

- <https://edl.ecml.at/quiz> (inspiration for questions)
- <https://en.actionbound.com/>
- <https://www.ecml.at/Resources/ICT/tabid/5865/Default.aspx> (ICT inventory of OERs)





EDL secret agent's language challenges handbook

Here you have 51 challenges to choose from, which can be carried out over an agreed period, offering plenty of activity options! If you are short on time, you can even let the 'wheel of fortune' decide which challenge to take on. If you opt for the 51st challenge, we invite you to create a short video clip, based on either one of the existing challenges or one of your own invention, and upload it to the EDL website.

Some ideas for this final challenge are:

- "Demonstrate how you cook your favourite national recipe"
- "Recommend a foreign language movie from your country"
- "Recreate a country you would like to visit in your home"

The Handbook of Language Challenges is currently available in 37+ languages. Don't forget to reward yourself with a certificate upon completion of 10 or more challenges!

Activity type individual/ group activity

Resources • <https://edl.ecml.at/languagechallenge>



8

The secret agent's language challenges app



The challenges and quizzes featured in this app encourage learners — future international agents — to take advantage of the plentiful opportunities available to practice or learn more about a language beyond the confines of a classroom. Progressing through a series of seven levels, users can rise from a lowly agent in training to become a master secret agent.

Compete with friends to conquer challenges, identify countries and languages and complete quizzes. The challenges range from simple tasks like “count from 1-10 in 3 different languages within one minute” to ones that are a bit more demanding, such as collaborating with a friend to write the lyrics to a song or rap in a foreign language.

The app, developed with the support of the European Commission, is available in 31+ languages.

Activity type individual/group activity

Resources <https://edl.ecml.at/app>



Language fair

This can be as small- or large-scale as you wish. Divide the students into groups, each representing a different country. In case of multiple groups wanting to choose the same country, you can randomly assign countries to teams by drawing lots or using an online tool like Wheeldecide. The goal is for each group to organise an activity for the fair centred around their chosen country's language. Some examples include cooking a traditional recipe, learning a typical dance or song, or even presenting a sketch or short play in a foreign language. The fair could be organized in a spacious indoor area or even outdoors. The objective of the language fair is to encourage students to explore the world around them and demonstrate that there are various ways to learn a new language.

Activity type whole school/classroom activity

Resources

- [Wheeldecide](https://wheeldecide.com/)
- <https://languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages/>





10

International online tandem

A very effective way to learn a language is through tandem learning, where students practice with a native speaker. To make sure your students don't miss out on the great opportunity of learning a language alongside a native speaker, why not organise an international online tandem? This is an activity that requires a considerable amount of organisation, so to make it easier your school might consider joining the European Commission's eTwinning platform. eTwinning promotes school collaboration across Europe through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It enables teachers to search for other registered eTwinners and schools, connect with them, and collaborate on various activities. By joining this platform, your school can easily connect with foreign schools in the eTwinning network and organise international online tandems. Of course, this event can be organised as many times as you wish and with different language combinations to enable students studying different foreign languages to participate. The goal is to make international friends and maximise language practise opportunities.

Activity type whole-school/classroom activity

Resources

- <https://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/index.htm> (Example of an eTwinning event)
- <https://en.actionbound.com/>
- <https://www.ecml.at/Resources/ICT/tabid/5865/Default.aspx> (ICT inventory of OERs)

A board game board with a network of blue circles and a small glass container with colorful beads. The board is blue with a pattern of interconnected blue circles. Several colorful pawns (green, yellow, orange, blue, red) are placed on the board. A small glass container with colorful beads is also visible. The text "Board Games day" is written in white on the left side of the board.

Board Games day

Organise a 'Board Games Day' with your students to show them just how fun languages can be! Divide students and rotate them through various games. For added excitement, you can also split the class into groups but have them all play the same game to see who wins.

The idea behind the activity is for students to practice the language they are learning in an engaging manner, possibly without even realising they are actually learning!

For the 2024 European Day of Languages, the European Centre for Modern Languages is developing a brand-new board game centred around languages. The new game will be available to try from the second week in September. For further details, visit <https://edl.ecml.at/EDLboardgame>.

Activity type classroom activity

Resources

- <https://www.spanishplayground.net/spanish-board-games>
- Board game ideas that can easily be adapted to any other languages:
<https://www.ef.com/wwen/blog/teacherzone/try-these-classic-board-games-in-class/>



EDL T-shirt contest

Every year, the European Centre for Modern Languages organises a T-shirt competition on the occasion of the European Day of Languages. Why not encourage your students to take part?

To enter the competition, students simply need to create a design, image or graphic that meets the requirements listed on our website and upload it to our platform: <https://edl.ecml.at/tshirtcontest>.

The winner will not only get to see their design displayed on all our t-shirts, but he or she will also be featured on our website! Time to get your ideas flowing!

Activity type whole school/classroom activity

Resources

- <https://edl.ecml.at/tshirt> - here you can check out our t-shirt store and read more about previous winners and their designs!



Foreign cinema festival

Encourage your students to improve their listening skills by organizing an 'International Film Festival.' Whether at the class or school level, this event can span several days and feature films from various countries and languages. Choose subtitled versions according to students' language proficiency. This fun and engaging festival will enhance their skills and spark interest in different languages and cultures.

You can also explore Eurimages, the Council of Europe's fund that supports award-winning independent European films.

Activity type whole school/ classroom activity

Resources

- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/eurimages/eurimages-prize-list>
- <https://www.commonsemia.org/lists/best-international-films-for-kids>
- <https://thelearningadventure.com/2020/04/language-films-students>
- <https://www.negrabohegian.com/blog/2019/4/2/20-foreign-movies-to-watch-with-kids>

(Some foreign language film ideas)





Start a book club

Another easy and fun way to improve students' reading comprehension and vocabulary in a foreign language is to start a book club. This type of activity not only helps to promote a love of reading, but also improves language skills in many areas, such as writing and spelling. In addition, this activity can be used with different groups of students, regardless of age.

To establish a successful book club, don't forget to consider the students' interests when selecting the books to ensure that they are motivated and enthusiastic about this activity. It is also important to choose books that correspond to the language level of the students in the respective foreign language.

The link provided gives some helpful tools for setting up an online book club. Happy reading!

Activity type whole classroom activity

Resources • <https://bookclubz.com/>





GeoGuessr challenge

What better way to encourage your students to practise foreign languages than with a challenge? GeoGuessr is an online geographic discovery game that drops the player in a series of random locations around the globe and challenges them to find out where they are! To do so, players must pay close attention to their surroundings.

Luckily for us, one of the best clues you can get while playing GeoGuessr relates to languages. Students will come across all sorts of signs, advertisements and so on during their game. Recognising these alphabets and languages and knowing where they are spoken will help them to find out which country, city or area they are in. They will need to pinpoint their location on the map, earning more points the closer they get to the spot chosen by GeoGuessr. Moreover, there are different game modes. In other modes, you can choose whether you want your students to play worldwide, or whether you want GeoGuessr to place them in a specific country or area to focus on a particular language or culture. A fun time is guaranteed!

Activity type whole classroom activity

Resources • <https://srtaspanish.com/2018/05/04/geoguessr-lets-explore-the-world/>

16

Organise a 'special edition' newspaper for the Day of Languages

Whether for your class or the entire school, your newspaper project can be as small- or large-scale as you desire. To get started, you will need an editorial team consisting of journalists and a photographer to develop your very own Language Tribune, Herald, Bugle, Times, or whichever title you choose for your newspaper, to be published on 26th September! What might your newspaper include? Like any typical newspaper, it can feature a variety of interesting articles and features: an editorial, interviews - perhaps with the school principal on the importance of languages, with pupils who are interested in a particular language, with teachers on what first attracted them to the language they teach, or with any polyglots you know! You can emphasise the resources that are easily accessible within your school or community, conduct online research about local place names with foreign origins and their significance, or research some interesting language facts in a 'Did you know?' format. You could also include the lyrics of a popular song in a foreign language (perhaps with a translation). Consider developing a crossword or quiz on languages. Almost every newspaper has a sports section or a gossip column, so why not profile a local sports 'celebrity' or other notable person who has a different language background? If you wish to make it more challenging, how about producing a bilingual version?

Activity type whole-school/classroom activity

Resource • <https://edl.ecml.at/samplene newspaper>



Learn how to say “Hello” in several languages

Students collaborate in small groups to design posters featuring greetings like „Hello“ or „How are you?“ in various languages. The pupils presenting the posters or vocalising the greeting are recorded on video, for example using a mobile phone. The clips can be combined into a single video presenting the results of the activity, or a competition can be organised to see how many languages the students can use to make the greeting within a limited time period (for example, one minute).

The aim of this activity is to teach pupils about language diversity and further inspire them to study foreign languages.

Activity type classroom activity

Resources • <https://edl.ecml.at/downloads>



18



Lara's journey through Europe's Regional and Minority Languages

Lara sets off on a new language journey! In this chapter of her journey, she explores the fascinating world of regional and minority languages, uncovering numerous linguistic treasures along the way, fuelled by her curiosity!

Having explored some 46 of Europe's more prominent languages on her first journey, this trip sees Lara dig deeper to discover lesser-known languages, often specific to certain areas. In some cases, the languages she encounters have several dialects, lack a standardised written form or can be transcribed in different scripts. Additionally, many of these languages are experiencing a decline in native speakers. Despite these challenges, each language has a proud tradition and is supported by dedicated and active communities of speakers seeking to preserve their linguistic heritage for generations to come.

Activity type classroom activity

Resources

- <https://edl.ecml.at/languagejourney>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/languagejourney/guideforteachers/tabid/3227/Default.aspx>

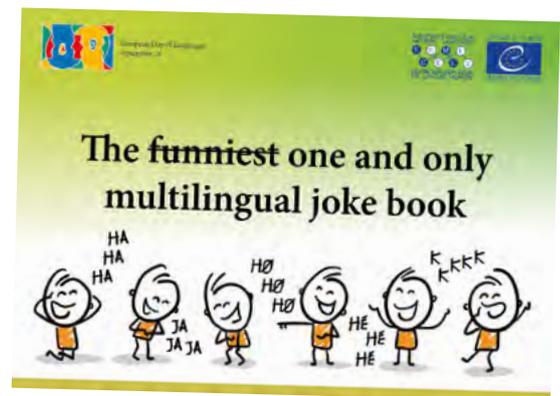


The great multilingual joke book (or Make me Laugh!)

In how many languages can you make someone laugh? A sense of humour and what someone finds amusing are often considered to be influenced by the language(s) they speak and their cultural background. To put this idea to the test - especially during a time where there has not been much to laugh about - we are inviting you to send us your best jokes. The jokes can be in your native language(s) or a language you are learning. The most important thing is that they are funny! They can of course relate to language or be adaptable to different languages, but the primary criterion is that they are amusing! Submit your favourite joke, and if your joke makes it past the scrutiny of a very strict jury (comprised of individuals who don't laugh much!), your joke may be selected to feature in a second edition of the Multilingual Joke Book (developed in 2022).

Activity type classroom activity

Resources • <https://edl.ecml.at/jokebook>





Test out your knowledge of Europe's languages: further resources

There is a wealth of information on the EDL website relating to Europe's languages, including language facts, trivia, famous quotes, quizzes (with a Kahoot quiz in the works!), as well as languages games. Why not organise a language contest for your class based on one or more of these activities?

Activity type classroom activity

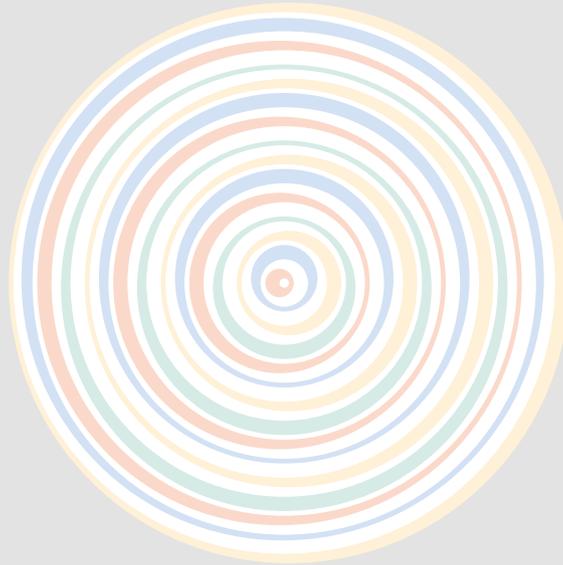
Resources

- <https://edl.ecml.at/quiz>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/language trivia>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/language facts>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/brain game>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/language journey/guide for teachers/tabid/3227/Default.aspx>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/sign language>
- <https://edl.ecml.at/quotes>



Promote your events

The European Day of Languages offers an opportunity to raise awareness of all the languages represented in today's Europe. It is a celebration of Europe's unique linguistic context and an impetus for people of all ages and walks of life to also learn to communicate, (and be understood!) in a language in addition to their own. Around the Day thousands of events take place, often dealing with very different topics and audiences but with the same inherent premise – to encourage language learning.



EDL events calendar

We warmly welcome event organisers entering details of their activities (perhaps inspired by this booklet!) from all around Europe and indeed the world into the EDL calendar <https://edl.ecml.at/edlevents>. By doing so, they will also be able to download an official event certificate.

Each day, throughout the month of September, a particularly special event will be showcased on the homepage of the EDL website <https://edl.ecml.at>.

European Day of Languages
26 September



Journée européenne des langues