

Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)

Rationale

What Do Associations Gain from Membership?

An association of language teachers differs totally from any other professional association of teachers in that it is inconceivable without international links. In an age of increasing globalisation where communication is more and more influenced by rapid technological advances, it is important to be able to draw on the knowledge, experience, support and friendship of colleagues in other countries. As the language curriculum in some countries may have become, in the view of many, increasingly limited and instrumental, access to other ways of thinking and seeing the world becomes more, not less, essential. While teachers of languages need input from fellow professionals overseas, and to feel a sense of belonging to a network of colleagues “beyond their own backyard”, teachers in other countries rely on the experiences of their colleagues, for example, to inform and extend their own practice and expertise. The international dimension is, in short, a sine qua non of a languages association.

FIPLV is unique in that it is the only organisation bringing together teachers of different languages worldwide. The benefits of membership are many and varied, and some appear more valuable at times than others. They are perhaps felt most keenly when concrete activities bring individual members of associations together with a common purpose, such as Linguapax V in Melbourne in 1995, the Symposium on Language Teaching and Peace in Graz in 1998, the UNESCO Conference in Melbourne in 2001, the LACS (Language Associations and Collaborative Support) Project in 2008-2011 and FIPLV World Congresses every three years.

The following is a synthesis of the benefits of membership as seen by members of the FIPLV Executive. The numbering is purely for convenience and does not indicate any particular priority.

1 Participation

- membership of the only internationally recognised Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representing languages educators, which brings together six other international associations of language teachers
- membership of an international forum of language educators
- possibility of hosting and attending international conferences or events of other member associations
- scope to contribute at an international level
- membership of FIPLV Regions and involvement in their activities
- input and access to surveys on language teaching at the international level

2 Networking

- links with UNESCO through FIPLV ‘operational relations’ status
- links with major international unilingual associations through FIPLV (i.e., AEDA, FIPF, IDV, ILEI, LATEUM, MAPRYAL, SIPLE)
- liaison with other international associations (e.g., AILA, etc)
- international collegiality enabling discussions with teachers from many parts of the world
- establishing international linkages to further personal growth
- identifying colleagues internationally who can assist you in your own teaching

- creating contacts for your students for postal, video, DVD, email, chat, blog, etc, exchange
- establishing networks through project participation (e.g., ECP in Europe, Linguapax Workshop in Graz, the LACS (Language Associations and Collaborative Support) Project with the ECML, etc.)

3 Projects

- involvement in UNESCO projects (e.g., Language Policy, Multilingualism, Tolerance, Linguapax, Language Rights, endangered languages, etc)
- participation in FIPLV Projects (e.g., LACS, Professional Development, the Teaching Profession, Multilingualism, etc)
- membership of ECP Projects (in Europe)

4 Advocacy

- access to international speakers to promote a cause (e.g., French Teacher Symposium in Israel)
- support for improved conditions (e.g., smaller class sizes in Portugal)
- support for and from international forums enhancing the intrinsic aims of language teaching (e.g., peace)
- support for and from international forums combating undesirable elements of humanity (e.g., racism, intolerance, ethnocentrism, monolingualism, discrimination, etc)

5 Learning

- problem-solving at the international level
- discovering new ways to promote the teaching and learning of your language(s)
- potential for personal growth through FIPLV publications and activities
- access to ongoing professional development internationally

6 Professional Development: Conferences, Workshops and other Activities

- access to triennial and international multilingual congresses addressing the needs of teachers
- access to international speakers at the cutting edge in the field of language teaching
- access to international workshops organised by FIPLV (e.g., Linguapax Workshops in Melbourne and in Graz, etc)

7 Publications

- receipt of FIPLV publications (e.g., Linguapax V, project reports, etc)
- access to content of publications of other member associations through the FIPLV website
- possibility of contributing to FIPLV publications

8 Information

- details of FIPLV World Congresses and those of international unilingual associations
- details of other conferences which impinge upon language teaching
- access to state-of-the-art details of movements within the profession
- access to information contained in the FIPLV website (www.fiplv.org)
- email contact details of many associations and educators on an international level
- potential to distribute information received to international membership of national associations

9 Concessions

- reduced registration fees for individual members of member associations of FIPLV
- reduced membership fees for those experiencing financial hardship

- consideration in the context of solidarity and potential support from other members
- potential sponsorship for participation in FIPLV activities

10 Inspiration

- access to global horizons
- access to new ideas for implementation in personal environments

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