

Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)

Profile

The Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes, founded in Paris in 1931, is the only international multilingual association of teachers of languages. It has Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) 'operational relations' status with UNESCO and has representation as an NGO with the Council of Europe.

Aims

- to promote the teaching and learning of languages in order to facilitate and improve communication, understanding, cooperation and friendly relations between all peoples of the world
- to develop, support and promote policies designed to diversify the languages taught, to improve the quality of language teaching and make this teaching available to all
- to develop the continuity and cohesion of multilingual education in primary, secondary, further, higher and adult education
- to improve the professional training and development of future and practising language teachers in all sectors of education
- to help and advise on the founding of professional associations of language teachers
- to coordinate and develop the work of its member associations
- to encourage members of different language associations in the same country to cooperate with each other to promote the teaching of languages and language policy based on principles of multilingualism
- to support nationally and represent internationally the views of member associations
- to provide a vehicle of international solidarity for language teachers from different regions of the world

Members

Members of FIPLV may be either international unilingual associations or federations of language teachers, or national multilingual associations. Of the former category, there are currently IATEFL and LATEUM for English, ILEI for Esperanto, FIPF for French, IDV for German, SIPLE for Portuguese and MAPRYAL for Russian. There is also provision for associate membership.

Of the second category, national multilingual associations, which unite teachers across languages at the local level, FIPLV has around twenty-five members from all continents.

Structure

The supreme authority of FIPLV is the **World Assembly**, which brings together the representatives of member associations every three years. The **World Council**, which is comprised of representatives of the international unilingual associations, Regions of the Federation and national multilingual associations, meets annually.

The **Executive Committee** of the Federation, composed of five officers elected for three years, meets biannually. For the current triennium of 2004-2006, the officers are: President - Denis Cunningham (Australia); Vice President - Margareta Leoj (Sweden); Secretary General - Eynar Leupold (Germany); Treasurer General - Jan Robertson (New Zealand); Editor of Publications - Cecilia Odé (Netherlands). For the next triennium of 2007-2009, the officers will be: President - Terry Lamb (UK); Vice President - Margareta Leoj (Sweden); Secretary General - Denis Cunningham (Australia); Treasurer General - Leena Hämäläinen (Finland); Editor of Publications - Cecilia Odé (Netherlands).

In line with the FIPLV Statutes, FIPLV has undertaken a process of regionalisation, which allows more concrete cooperation between neighbouring associations in different areas of the globe. FIPLV also encourages associative relations among teachers of different languages in areas of the globe where it has fewer members (eg Africa, Asia, Latin America).

Important Activities

FIPLV organises a world congress every three years. The most recent took place in Göteborg (Sweden) in July 2006. The six preceding events were in Auckland Park (South Africa) in 2003, Paris (France) in 2000, Recife (Brazil) in 1997, Hamburg (Germany) in 1994, Pécs (Hungary) in 1991, and Canberra (Australia) in 1988. The next is to take place in Moscow (Russia) in July 2009.

As an NGO, FIPLV is often consulted by UNESCO. In this context, FIPLV published *Language Policies in the World of the 21st Century* (1993), a collection of teaching materials to foster tolerance (1994), *Linguapax V* (1995), and *Linguistic Diversity in the Pacific* was published this year.

Also in collaboration with UNESCO, FIPLV was represented on the relevant committees for Linguapax, the World Languages Report (*Words and Worlds*), the World Congresses on Language Policies (www.linguapax.org) in 2002 and 2004, and the expert meeting to develop a position paper on languages for UNESCO (*Education in a Multilingual World*). FIPLV assisted the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations to organise the international workshop of Linguapax V in Melbourne (Australia) in 1995 and organised a UNESCO International Conference in Melbourne (Australia) in 2001.

FIPLV also participated in the international conference of language rights that took place in Bilbao (Spain) in 1996 where the *Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights* was adopted - and in another meeting in Barcelona (Spain) to further action on the issue.

Publications

FIPLV has its own website (www.fiplv.org) and publishes *FIPLV World News* two times a year. FIPLV also publishes the proceedings of seminars that it organises, such as *Linguapax V* and the *European Year of Languages 2001. An International Perspective on Language Policies, Practices and Proficiencies* appeared in 2005, while a special volume to celebrate the FIPLV 75th anniversary, *Languages Teaching: A Worldwide Perspective – Celebrating 75 Years of FIPLV* and *Linguistic Diversity in the Pacific* were published in 2006. It is hoped that the FIPLV History will be published later in 2006.

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