




TALKING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND EMOTIONS AT HOME


Erasmus+ 2014-2020
 KA2 "Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices"
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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS


**TALKING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND EMOTIONS AT HOME:
 EMPOWERING MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES**
 Closing conference



Brussels, 8 May 2018
 Sabrina Colombo
 Dana Engel
 Maria Stopfner



TALKING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND EMOTIONS AT HOME




Overview


- Focus professionals**
 - survey methodology & sample description
- Analysis and results**
 - What professionals say about family language policy
 - What professionals say about emotions related to language use
 - What professionals say about factors affecting language use
- Working with multilingual families**
 - Recommendations & issues to be addressed




TALKING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND EMOTIONS AT HOME


FOCUS
PROFESSIONALS



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PROFESSIONALS
 Methodology

QUANTITATIVE	QUALITATIVE
questionnaire with closed, semi-open and open questions	semi-structured interview (optional oral/in writing)
90 professionals	20 professionals
demographic data, professional biography, current area of work, contents of professional work with multilingual families	
↓ assessment of important issues in multilingual families potentials and needs analysis	


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PROFESSIONALS
 Sample description



- female: 88%
- working in education for children and adolescents: 75%
- working for non-profit organisation: 37%
- wide linguistic repertoire
- university education (BA/MA): 23%


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PROFESSIONALS
 Sample description



FIRST LANGUAGE(S)
 Latin, Flamish, English, Berber, Serbian, West-Flamish, Romanian, Maaslands, Polish, Turkish, Dutch, German, Italian, French, Croatian, Kikongo, Bosnian

SECOND LANGUAGE(S)
 East-Flamish, Dutch, Spanish, French, Greek, Swedish, German, Catalan, Russian, Bulgarian, Turkish, Somali, English, Italian, Arabic

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PROFESSIONALS
Languages encountered in daily work

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What professionals say about **FAMILY LANGUAGE POLICY**

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FAMILY LANGUAGE POLICY
What professionals say ...

„PARENTS influence language choice at home“

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
strongly agree	51%
agree	46%
neither agree nor disagree	1%
disagree	2%

QUALITATIVE

- Decisions about the family language policy are taken unconsciously.
- When parents are unsure, the family language policy changes over time.
- Situational in-/exclusion

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FAMILY LANGUAGE POLICY
What professionals say ...

„CHILDREN influence language choice at home“

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
neither agree nor disagree	63%
disagree	20%
strongly agree	8%
agree	6%
strongly disagree	1%

QUALITATIVE

- Children do not influence their parents.
- versus**
- Children push their family to use, approach, practice the new language.
- Children introduce the new language once they start school.

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FAMILY LANGUAGE POLICY
What professionals say ...

„CHILDREN agree with their PARENTS on how languages should be dealt with in the family“

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
neither agree nor disagree	63%
disagree	20%
strongly agree	8%
agree	6%
strongly disagree	1%

QUALITATIVE

- Children and parents do not hold the same views on language choice and language use
- This can probably become a source of frustration.

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FAMILY LANGUAGE POLICY
What professionals say ...

„Factors affecting language choice and use.“

CHILDREN

friends and peers, social media, school, family, religion, skills, desire to integrate and to be "normal"

PARENTS

- preservation of tradition
- factors related to migration (intentions for further migration, connections to past, legal status, type of migration)
- education (literacy in family language, educational background)
- religion
- economic factors

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It seems to me ... What I see every day ...
 In my experience ... For me... In my opinion ...
 I think ... I agree...

What professionals say about

EMOTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE USE

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EMOTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE USE
 What professionals say ...

„PARENTS find it difficult to manage the language practices within the family.”

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
disagree	25%
strongly agree	6%
agree	52%
neither agree nor disagree	17%

QUALITATIVE

Difficulties can lead to exclusion from their children's lives and the development of linguistic and emotional gaps.

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EMOTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE USE
 What professionals say ...

„PARENTS find it difficult to manage the language practices within the family.”

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
disagree	25%
strongly agree	6%
agree	52%
neither agree nor disagree	17%

QUALITATIVE

Negative emotions by parents:

- frustration because of problems in communication and dependence on others
- insecurity, feeling of uselessness, exclusion, failure, disappointment
- lack of confidence, insecurity, confusion
- lack of pride, sense of loss of identity
 - sadness and grief
 - stress

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EMOTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE USE
 What professionals say ...

„PARENTS find it difficult to manage the language practices within the family.”

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
disagree	25%
strongly agree	6%
agree	52%
neither agree nor disagree	17%

QUALITATIVE

Positive emotions by parents:

- intimacy within the family and deeper relation
 - sense of achievement
 - pride
 - satisfaction
 - happiness

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EMOTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE USE
 What professionals say ...

„CHILDREN experience the multilingual situation as a burden .”

QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
strongly disagree	6%
agree	9%
disagree	40%
neither agree nor disagree	42%

QUALITATIVE

Seen as an opportunity as well as an obstacle: opportunity & enrichment versus obstacle & source of frustration/source of confusion & doubts

Individual matter

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EMOTIONS RELATED TO LANGUAGE USE
 What professionals say ...

„CHILDREN experience the multilingual situation as a burden .”

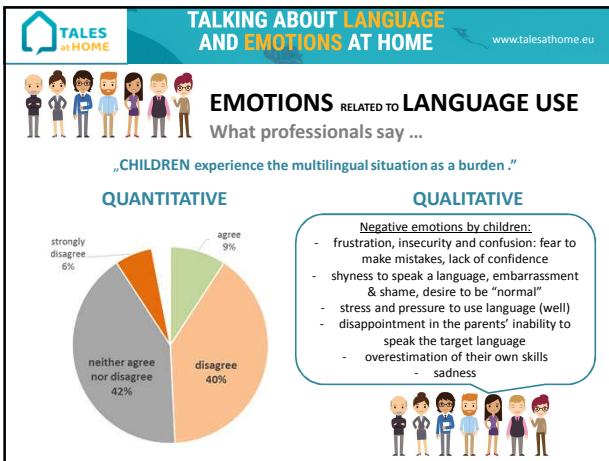
QUANTITATIVE

Response	Percentage
strongly disagree	6%
agree	9%
disagree	40%
neither agree nor disagree	42%

QUALITATIVE

Positive emotions by children:

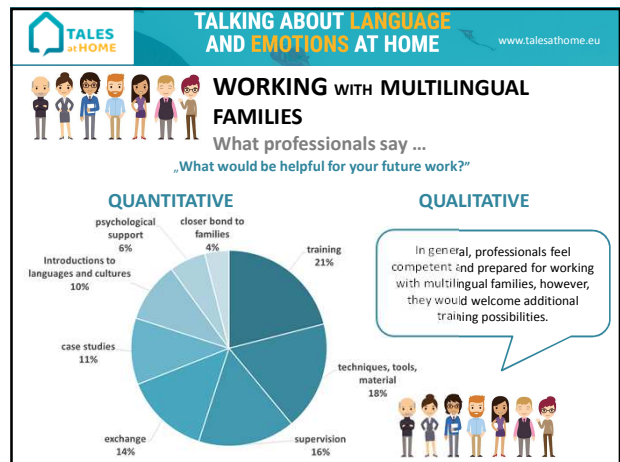
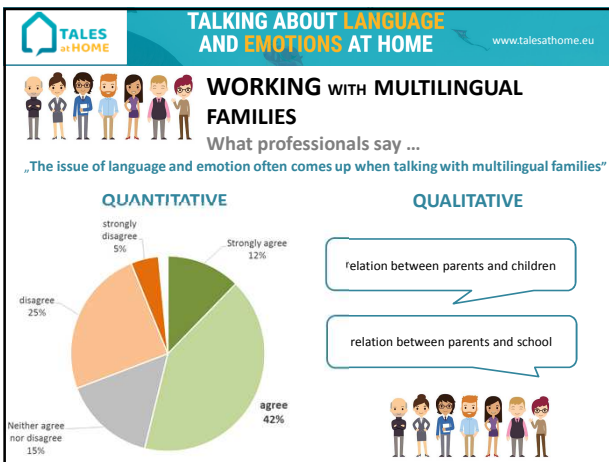
- easy approach to new languages
 - interest and openness
- competence, pride and confidence
 - feeling of encouragement
 - integration
 - joy and happiness



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RECOMMENDATIONS & ISSUES TO BE ADRESSED

WORKING WITH MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES



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WORKING WITH MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES
What professionals say ...

RECOMMENDATIONS

QUALITATIVE

- Importance of respecting the individuality of each case and try to reflect each family's individual situation, explore their stories together with them and understand their migration context
- One needs to observe family dynamics, individual family members' language use and habits
- Involving fathers more in the process, paying attention to parents' educational background

KEY ATTITUDES
Open, non-judgemental, encouraging, emphatic, interested

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WORKING WITH MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES
What professionals say ...

CHALLENGES

QUALITATIVE

- Use of new language is limited to school
- Children acting as interpreters for their parents
- Involvement of parents



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