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Åbo Akademi University

The European linguistic and cultural landscape

Tokyo
November 2013

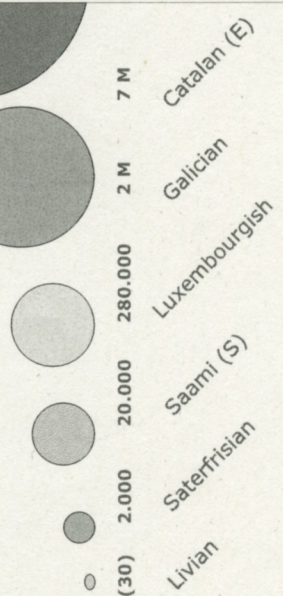


The European mosaic: European Union

- 28 states
- Appr. 505 million
- 24 official languages
- Some 50 million speakers of European lesser-used, regional and minoritised languages.



Differences in size



The Linguistic Diversity – a global scene



- Each dot represents the geographic center of the 6,912 living languages in the Ethnologue database.

Languages of the world, approx. 6900 in about 200 countries

- About 3000 are oral/only spoken languages without institutional support.
- Estimated to die in 30-40 years time.
- The UN-Declaration on the Rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities supports the linguistic diversity.
- A more populist view: "Linguistic and cultural diversity never causes conflicts. It is the refusal of some people to accept diversity that causes problems and strife" (Eileen Lemass, European Parliament)

European languages

- State languages: English, Spanish, French, German...
- Immigrant minority languages: Turkish, Arabic, Kurdish...
- Sign languages...
- Regional or minority languages: Saami, Frisian, Welsh, Catalan...



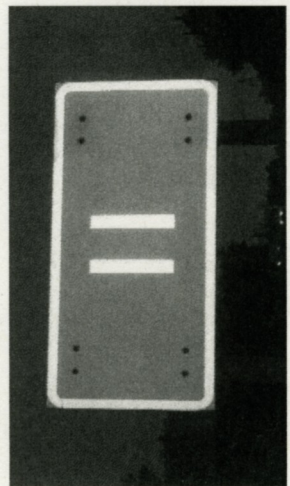
Council of Europe

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages



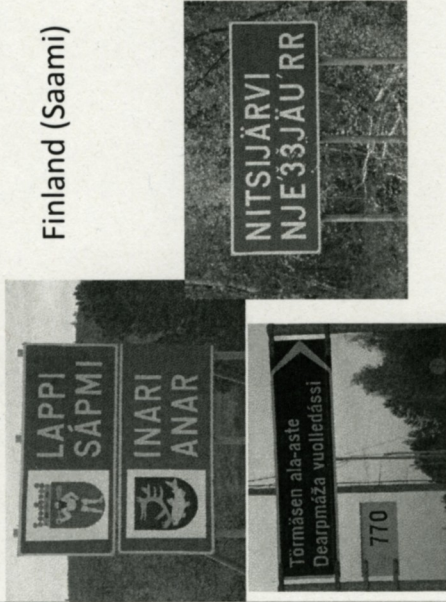
Monolingualism



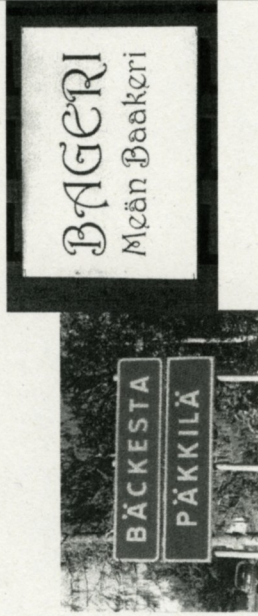
Finland (Swedish/Finnish)



Finland (Saami)



Sweden (Finnish in the Torne Valley)



Norway
(Saami, Finnish)
(and Russian!)



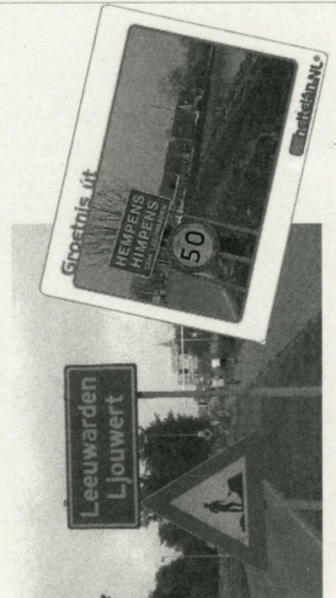
Denmark (German)



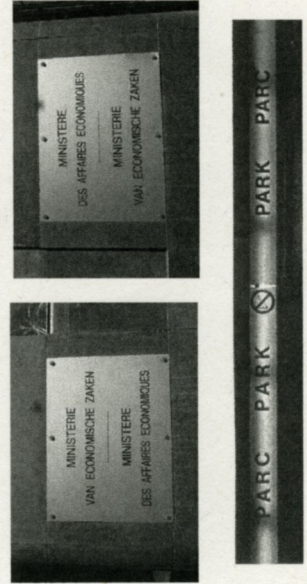
Germany (Frisian, Sorbian)



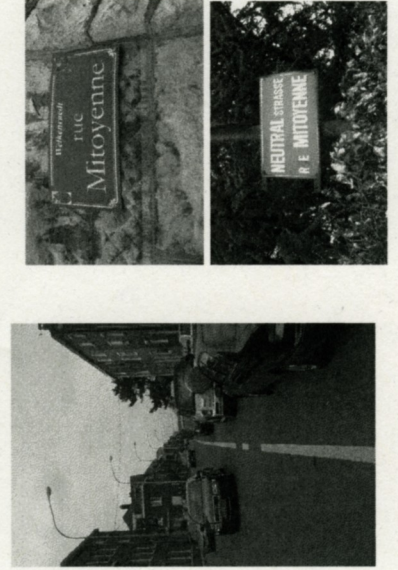
The Netherlands (Frisian)



Belgium = two majorities!



...and one minority language = German



Trilingual Luxembourg



Wales



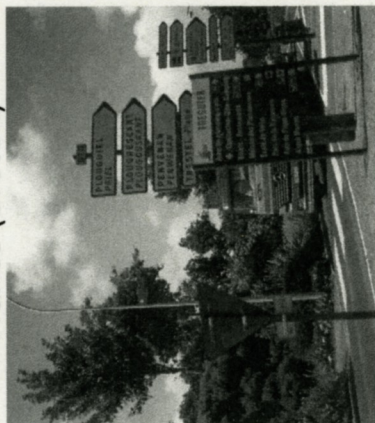
Portugal (Mirandese)



Ireland (Gaelic)



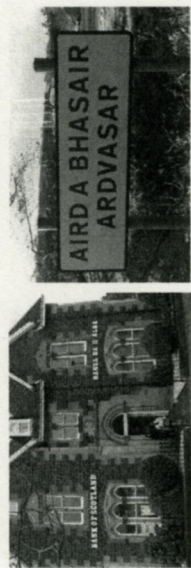
France (Breton)



Italy (Franco-Provençal, Slovenian)



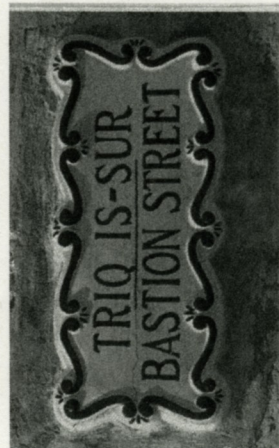
Scotland (Gaelic)



Spain (Catalan)



Malta (English)



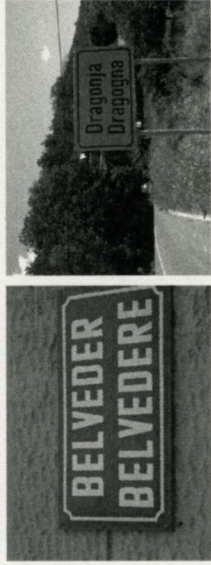
Austria
(Slovenian)



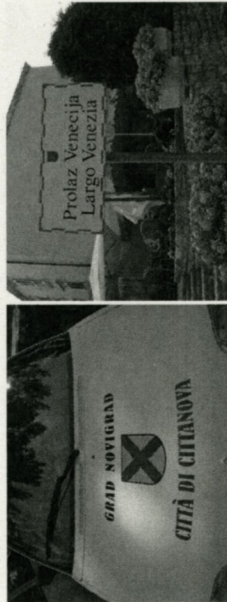
Switzerland (German/French)



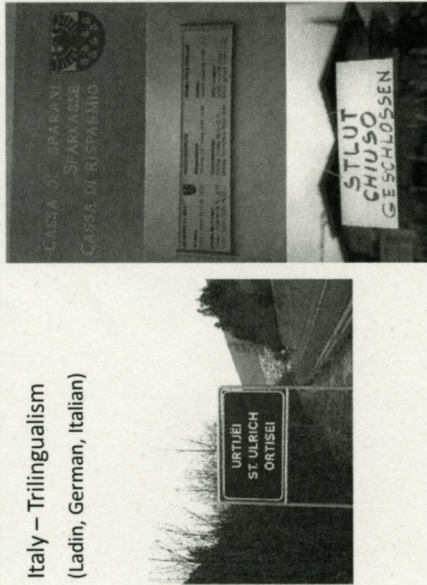
Slovenia (Italian)



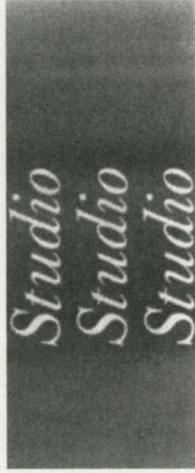
Croatia (Italian)



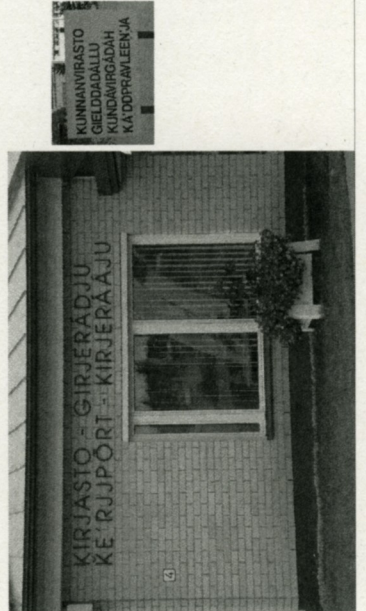
Italy – Trilingualism
(Ladin, German, Italian)



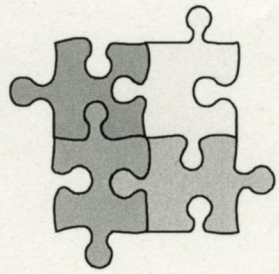
Trilingualism?
(Finnish, Swedish, English)– So simple!



Quadrilingualism
Inari-Anár-Aanaar-Aanar / Finland
(Finnish - Northern, Scolt and Inari Saami)

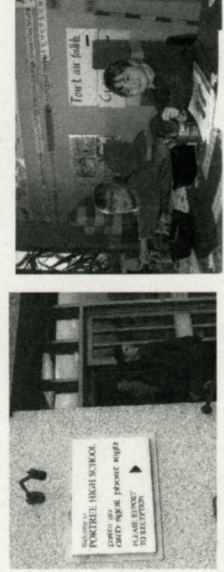


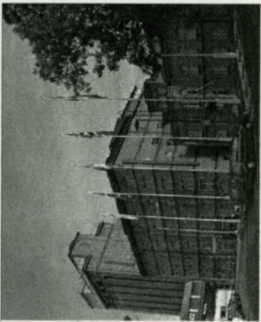
LANGUAGE POLICY



- Education
- Culture
- Media
- Administrative /legislative support

Education





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