The availability of multilingualism policy of the European Union in the European Higher Education Area

SİNAN BATAKLAR, Ph. D. – ISTANBUL KÜLTÜR UNIVERSITY

APRIL 24, 2017

BREMEN, GERMANY
Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Contents

• Internationalization of higher education and dominance of English
• Importance of multilingualism for the European Union
• Multilingualism and Mobility
• Bologna Process
• The availability of multilingualism policy of the European Union in the European Higher Education Area
Internationalization of higher education and dominance of English

- Internationalization as the main trend in European higher education.
- EMI (English as medium of instruction) in European Higher Education.
- 8,089 higher education programs using EMI only in Europe.
- Misuse of EMI as Internationalization
Importance of multilingualism for the European Union

• «The more languages you know, the more of a person you are»

The watchword in the first ever communication on multilingualism (Brussels, 22 November 2005)

• SOCRATES and LINGUA

• 2012 Research on multilingualism in the European Union

  98 % of the Europeans think learning a foreign language is necessary and effective for the future of their children.

  67 % think English is the most beneficial language.
Multilingualism and mobility

- Promoting language learning and linguistic diversity. An action plan 2004—06

«The European Union is built around the free movement of its citizens, capital and services. The citizen with good language skills is better able to take advantage of the freedom to work or study in another Member State.»
Multilingualism and mobility 2

- Council conclusions on the European Indicator of Language Competence (2006/C 172/01)

«To become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion»
The European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Ján Figel (Brussels, 10 May 2007)

"Bologna reforms are important but Europe should now go beyond them, as universities should also modernise the content of their curricula, create virtual campuses and reform their governance. They should also professionalize their management, diversify their funding and open up to new types of learners, businesses and society at large, in Europe and beyond. Countries should modernise their higher education systems in all their areas of activity - education, research and innovation - making them more coherent, more flexible, and more responsive to the needs of society. These would be great steps towards the goals of the European Higher Education Area as well as the European Research Area. "

Bologna Process
The availability of multilingualism policy of the European Union in the European Higher Education Area

Multilingualism is not strong in EHEA (European Higher Education Area) since English being so dominant in the European academia due to:

- Academic internationalization
- Student Exchange programs
- Accessibility of educational and research material
- Mobility of academic staff
- Employability of graduates
- CLIL (Content and language integrated learning)
- Coursebooks, textbooks, academic journals in English, almost all research conducted in English.
- Higher education in English giving competitive edge to graduates.
THANK YOU
for listening!
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION