



BALINGUA'S AMBITION IS TO MAKE BELGIANS MULTILINGUAL !

Flemish-, French-, and German-speaking Belgians will finally communicate after a few hours of learning: 33 € for a 33-hours course!



In Belgium a recent survey has shown that « the Flemish people are definitely more multilingual: Whereas 59% and 53% of the Flemish population speak French or English respectively, only 19% and 17% of the Walloons know Dutch or English.»

Born in 1941, Dr. René Bastin, C.E.O. of Balingua, wants this situation to change. *There is no such thing as a gift for languages. Any child can learn his or her native language. Indeed the children acquire their native language between the age of 0 and 7. Obviously, if we teach children with a method and concepts for adults, we are missing on something. If only we could work with a more scientifically based approach... that would be great!*

In Belgium, the same study reports, "Some weaknesses are probably linked to the way languages are taught. However other facts are more distressing. Schools have difficulty finding teachers to teach the three Germanic languages. One of the reasons mentioned by the Ministry and by the unions is that the teachers' salaries are higher in Flanders than in Wallonia – a situation that does not encourage Flemish teachers to go teach in Wallonia. Vandenberghe (2002, 2004) and Deschamps (2006) have listed many other reasons and make suggestions about the general functioning of the French-speaking schools: Very unsatisfying regulation mode, necessity for an assessment culture, which seems to be totally absent, need to solve the teacher shortage, especially in certain subjects, need for more school autonomy and less paperwork, necessity to abolish the barriers between the different school networks."

Dr. Bastin speaks candidly about the situation: *No one can say that politicians or teachers in general are concerned by this problem. They are probably aware of it, but we have yet to see a real evolution in the methods or programs. You could wonder, for example, why students don't have their foreign language classes all in the morning. Why not? Like this, students would have a block of two or three hours in the same language – that would obviously make their learning more efficient! Those 40-year old methods have to be assessed urgently. Moreover students have to be told that success comes with hard work – above all in the area of languages. What is essential is that students are not discouraged. Thousands of Mozarts have already been killed with boring methods.*



But teaching itself is not the only explanation for the situation. The study adds, "There is a lack of cooperation between the different regions. You could imagine – at hardly any extra cost – that elementary schools of one language community host in their buildings regular classes taught in the other community's language."

The Balingua® method: Who builds a house without starting with the foundations?

The theory underlying the Balingua® method is the result of the study of universal, neuro-linguistic mechanisms, which everyone developed with the acquisition of the native language. Without realizing it, *the learner already knows things that the methods can tap into in order to help him or him acquire a foreign language.* Thanks to Balingua, learning a language has become natural since the learning process relies on what the learner already knows.

The Balingua® method is specifically designed to boost the beginner's acquisition of the new language in a minimum of time, roughly 20 hours. After those few hours, the beginner masters the structures of the language, and he/she can then tackle the study of grammar, vocabulary, declensions, conjugations, etc. The learner is free to choose from any method, e.g. classroom instruction or self-learning.

Besides, the Balingua® method can also be used to activate the learner's passive knowledge of a language, i.e. develop his or her oral competence, as well as to re-activate "forgotten" knowledge.

For which languages? For now Balingua is available on the Internet in the following languages: American English, British English, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Lithuanian, and Spanish. Other languages, such as Brazilian / Portuguese, Italian, and Polish will be online in 2007.

Balingua = a 1 € /hour e-learning solution with a native speaker.

33€ and 33 hours is all you need to broaden your horizon and learn a foreign language!

For further information on the method, the author, or the company:

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