

Radovan Fuchs

Greetings from the Minister of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia

Dear President of EFNIL, dear directors of the European language institutions, dear participants, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the opening of the 18th EFNIL Conference jointly organized by the Institute for the Croatian Language and Linguistics and the European Federation of National Institutions for Language.

The Ministry of Science and Education greatly values and supports the work being done by the Institute for the Croatian Language and Linguistics because we are well aware of the importance of the language for our cultural and national identity. The role of EFNIL is essential in supporting research into official European languages; the promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity within the European Union is also the main mission of your organization, but this mission is shared and should be fostered and promoted by all of us. It is especially important to be aware of this event in this technological era and I am glad that in the coming days of the conference you will be exploring challenges and opportunities that this digital era presents for language research.

Teaching the national language at all educational levels in schools in order to promote written and oral competence is necessary to enable people to play a full role in society. Language is the medium by which we can directly participate in all forms of communication, exchange of cultural elements, knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, rights, and habits that make culture distinctive.

I believe that this important topic will benefit from this conference, both in terms of broadening theoretical insights and advancing the state of the art in language research and resources, and in finding new ways to preserve and promote linguistic and cultural diversity within the European Union.

Let this event be an inspiration and incentive for the exchange of new knowledge and experience. With this in mind I want to thank all the expert participants at this event once again, and I wish you all some very successful following days in the beautiful Dubrovnik area. Thank you very much for your attention.

Bibliographical information

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