Languages, Education and ICT

General Framework

Tatiana Murovana
UNESCO IITE
7,000 spoken languages + innumerable dialects and sign languages

- World’s population speaking 4% of languages: 97%
- World’s population speaking 96% of languages: 3%
7,000 spoken languages

- **70%**: 70% of languages are concentrated into **20 countries**
- **90%**: 90% of total international GDP is produced by the speakers of only **14 languages**
- **50%**: About **3,500 spoken languages** may become extinct within several generations
Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

- Adopted in 2003
- Provides clear guidance on steps to be taken to advance multilingualism in cyberspace
- Reflects the hope that we placed in ICT to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism, including in education
Languages in Internet

Off-line languages 95%

Languages presented in Internet 5%
Vital and “strong” languages

- Strong educational arguments in favour of mother tongue (or first language) instruction
- Balance between enabling people to use local languages in learning, and providing access to global languages of communication through education
- English is the language of science, English-speaking countries are leaders in student mobility and staff mobility
- Strong tendency in non-Anglophone countries to move towards teaching in the medium of English
Will new technologies crack the language barrier?
UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education

8 Kedrova St. (Bldg. 3), 117292 Moscow, Russian Federation

https://iite.unesco.org/
Liste.info.iite@unesco.org