

IN SEARCH FOR GOOD PRACTICES IN MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION: COMPARISON OF MULTILINGUAL UNIVERSITY'S MODELS

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With the EU Strategy „Europe 2020“ placing a special focus on enhancing „the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education“ (2010:14) and in view of the outcomes of the British Council Language Rich Europe project (2011), the issue of improving quality of higher education in multilingual Europe has become a topical theme. Multilingualism is viewed broadly – it does not only imply the knowledge of a mother tongue and mastery of the English language but also the knowledge of languages of neighbouring countries and languages of ethnic minorities. Hence, today universities' concerns are connected with implementing multilingual educational models not limited to bilingual programmes focused on English medium teaching. European multilingualism policy in higher education presupposes not only language studies and research in this area but it also underlines the importance of studies in various languages with creating a rich and supportive learning environment. The role and place of multilingualism and multiculturalism in universities should be highlighted in university development plans and everyday practices at all levels - from university's language policy with requirements to language mastery of students, administration and academic staff and the presence of multilingual and multicultural components in university curricula and the study processes for the creation of truly multilingual environment in cooperation with multilingual universities' network partners. The University of Tartu is one of the oldest Northern European universities; and it is the only classical academic university in the Republic of Estonia. Support of studies in English at Master's and Doctoral levels is one of its concerns and priorities. With Estonia having one third of its population Russian native speakers, support of Russian is also an agenda topic for universities. Almost half of Russian speaking students of the University of Tartu study in teacher education

University College in Narva. Narva is a border city located on the border of Estonia with Russia, with 96% of its population being native speakers of Russian. The presentation will present the trilingual educational model of Narva College of the University of Tartu in comparison with other European multilingual university models (Italy, the Netherlands, and Finland) and it will discuss nowadays tendencies in their development. The Narva College's model pays a special attention to the support of multiculturalism and national identity, to students' counselling and creating necessary pre-conditions for achieving language mastery at higher levels in three languages, it also values the role of cooperation with the community at all possible levels in a variety of forms and formats.