

Cooperation between Mercator Research Centre and province of Fryslân

Joint project proposal at launch NPLD

Leeuwarden/Ljouwert, 10 June 2008 - The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) will be launched at a meeting in Brussels on Wednesday June 11. The Euro commissioner for Multilingualism, Mr Leonard Orban, will address the members of the NPLD. He will also give a first outline of the policy paper on multilingualism that will be discussed by the European Commission on the 17th of September. On behalf of the provincial government of Fryslân Mr Jan Slijkhuis (Director of the Department Prosperity and Welfare of the Province of Fryslân) will speak about the significance that the Province attaches to the European network, in particular with regard to closer cooperation with other European regional authorities in the field of language policy.

Following the official launch of the NPLD the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (hosted by de Fryske Akademy), in cooperation with the Province of Fryslân, will present a joint project proposal on distance learning of Frisian and possible other languages. It is a proposal for the further development of instruments for distance learning and contact activities aimed at the acquisition of minority and smaller state languages and to experience their cultures, to be submitted to the Interreg IVc programme. The basis of this proposal is the successful project Edufrysk that was developed over the last two years.

Through its Network of Schools the Mercator Research Centre will strengthen the cooperation of bilingual and trilingual schools throughout Europe and develop project proposals within the Integrated Lifelong Learning Programme.

The NPLD, which is hosted at the Welsh Language Board, receives a grant from the European Commission for the years 2008-2010. By the end of the three years the NPLD will have developed into a pan-European organisation for regional, minority, and smaller state languages. The main aim is cooperation and the development and submission of project proposals within various EU programmes

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The Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, hosted at the Fryske Akademy, is already 20 year an independent and recognised centre for policymakers, researchers and educators in the sphere of multilingualism and language learning. Because of that the Mercator Research Centre is an important supplier of the social cohesion and social durability from multilingualism regions through Europe. The Mercator Research Centre brings Europe to Fryslân en Fryslân to Europe.

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