



2023



SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

ARABIC LANGUAGE LEARNING
IN EUROPE: REALITIES OF
POLICY & PRACTICE

MAY 8-9, 2023
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Arabic Language Learning in Europe: Realities of Policy & Practice



Mainstreaming Arabic in schools

The importance of language learning is now being more recognized in education policies. And the importance of Arabic as the 5th most spoken language in the world is also being recognized. Yet, Arabic language is not a mainstream offer and therefore not a realistic option for students in primary and secondary schools outside of the Arab world.

Over two days, with approximately 40 policy makers, academics, and practitioners from the language education and Arabic fields, this symposium will allow for structured dialogue on key issues and examine the practice and needs of teaching Arabic as a modern foreign language in schools.

QFI has operated for over 10 years primarily in North America and the United Kingdom. More recently, QFI has entered the European Union with programming in Germany and Italy but is still a relatively new player in this region. Leveraging QFI's experience working with the various aspects of the teaching and learning of Arabic, this first symposium brings together key stakeholders across the European Union and United Kingdom who are working on Arabic, or languages.

The goal of this symposium is to bring partners and potential partners together to network, share, and to better understand the current context and players; identify synergies; and articulate opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Venue

Warwick Hotel, Brussels, Belgium

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Program

DAY 1, 8 MAY

09:00 - 09:15 **WELCOME NOTE**

09:30 - 11:00 **OPENING SESSION KEYNOTE:
PERCEPTION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE LEARNING**

11:15 - 12:45 **PANEL ONE:
TEACHER SUPPLY: THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG
DILEMMA**

13:00 - 14:30 **LUNCH**

14:30 - 16:00 **PANEL TWO:
TEACHING TO/FOR WHAT: WHAT IS THE GOAL OF
TEACHING ARABIC AT THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
LEVEL?**

16:15 - 17:30 **CLOSING SESSION :
EMERGING KEY THEMES**



Program

DAY 2, 9 MAY

- 09:00 - 10:30 **OPENING SESSION:**
WHO IS QFI AND HOW CAN IT SUPPORT ARABIC LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN EUROPE AND THE UK?
- 10:45 - 12:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION:**
BEST PRACTICES IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION
- 12:15 - 13:30 **LUNCH**
- 13:30 - 15:30 **REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS**
- 15:30 - 16:30 **NETWORKING TIME**
- 16:30 - 17:30 **CLOSING SESSION:**
WHAT IS NEEDED FOR ARABIC LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN EUROPE AND THE UK?



Symposium Day 1

09:00 **WELCOME NOTE**

09:30 **OPENING SESSION:
PERCEPTION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE LEARNING**

This opening plenary will explore the current situation of language learning and the teaching of Arabic in Europe. What are the opportunities and constraints that Arabic faces in these contexts? How can Arabic language education become a more common offer as a modern language for all types of learners – those with or without prior Arabic knowledge? What is needed to shift the perception of Arabic language education?

11:15 **PANEL ONE: TEACHER SUPPLY:
THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG DILEMMA**

Quality and sustainable language programs require strong and effective teachers. Teachers come to the profession of Arabic teaching with various backgrounds and in various ways. This session will examine the existing models for teacher supply and teacher training (both pre- and in-service), as well as the challenges & opportunities in addressing the teachers. What is needed to produce a professional pool of Arabic teachers to develop sustainable Arabic language programs? What is the current situation in each region?

13:00 **LUNCH**

14:30 **PANEL TWO: TEACHING TO/FOR WHAT?
WHAT IS THE GOAL OF TEACHING ARABIC AT THE
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL?**

What is the ultimate goal of learning Arabic at the school level? Assessments drive instruction in many, if not all, school systems. And schools include Arabic as an offer for multiple reasons. This session will examine the various assessments being utilized in language classrooms across the UK and EU. What examinations currently exist for Arabic learners and how are they being utilized? How do teachers / schools decide what assessments to use? How are linguistic competencies that are in the assessments and that are being evaluated, being decided?

16:15 **CLOSING SESSION: EMERGING KEY THEMES**

Symposium Day 2

09:00 **OPENING SESSION:
WHO IS QFI AND HOW CAN IT SUPPORT ARABIC
LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN EUROPE AND THE UK?**

The World Café style

10:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION
BEST PRACTICES IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

A panel will explore best practices in language learning and the benefits of learning from experience with an aim of promoting the growth and professionalization of Arabic language teaching and learning. What should Arabic learn from other foreign language experiences? The goal of this session is to pinpoint key areas of learning from more established and mainstreamed languages such as French, Spanish, and German.

12:15 **LUNCH**

13:30 **REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS**

15:30 **NETWORKING TIME**

16:30 **CLOSING SESSION:
WHAT IS NEEDED FOR ARABIC LANGUAGE
EDUCATION IN EUROPE AND THE UK?**

Each group will drill down to their local context and the current positioning of the teaching and learning of Arabic there to begin with and come up with what key programming and partnerships are needed.



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