

Speaking Europe: European Languages

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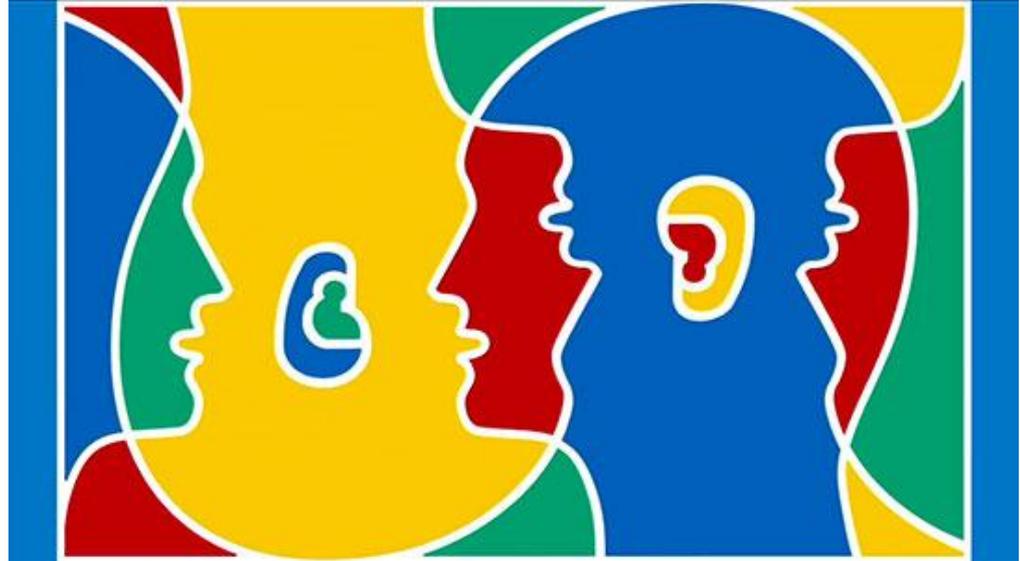
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Index

- Origin
- The main languages
- The weak ones
- Arrival of foreign languages
- Examples of variety
- Future



Origin

Most language of Europe come from the Latin (Romance languages), even though some of them (like German) are West Germanic languages and there are also Turkish and West Slavic Languages.



The main languages

Europe is a multilingual reality, there are more than 50 languages spoken.

The main languages are English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Romanian.

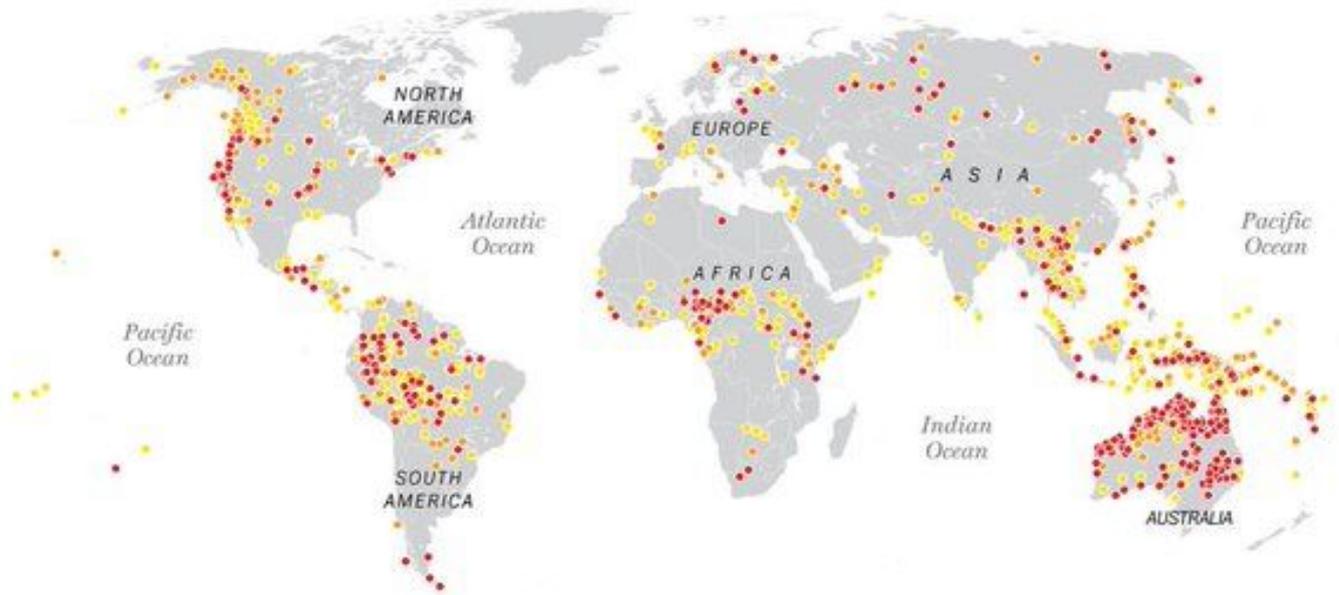


Weak languages

The languages of Europe are part of the Indo-European family.

The Icelandic, Latvian, Lithuanian and Maltese are four languages in a risky situation: They may disappear. The Bulgarian, the Greek, the Polish and the Hungarian are also on the road to extinction.

At risk languages ● Critically endangered ● Seriously endangered ● Endangered



Arrival of foreign languages



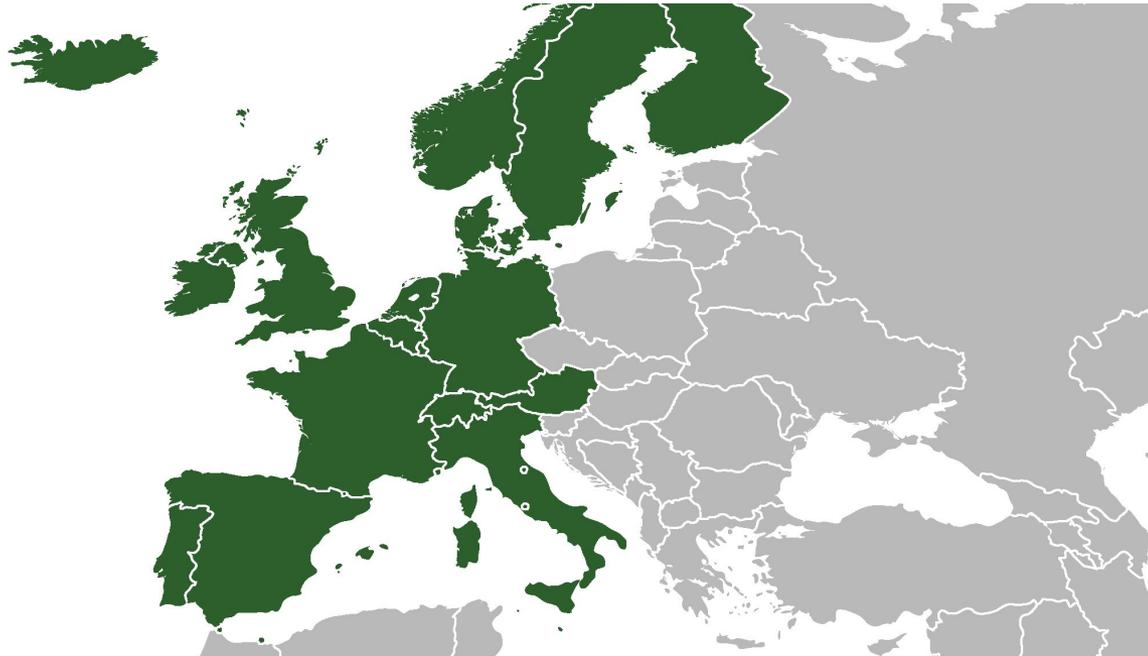
As a consequence of the immigration of the last years, Europe has become more and more multilingual.

Examples of variety



In the city of London for example, more than 300 languages are spoken.

Also...



In other big cities, specially in western Europe, the scholarized population has up to 200 matern languages!

But, which ones?

ARABIC ALPHABET

خ ح ج ث ت ب ا
ص ش س ز ر ن د
ق ف غ ع ظ ط ض
ي و ه ن م ل ك

Turkish Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Çç Dd Ee Ff Gg Ğğ
Hh Iı İi Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Öö Pp Rr Ss Şş Tt
Uu Üü Vv Yy Zz

The most extended of those are the arabic, the berber, the turkish,
the chinese and the hindu.

Future

However, many of these languages are spoken by a minority, and its future is being threatened. This is why it is crucial for the families to keep the languages alive, not renouncing to them in their daily and familiar life.

TOP MINORITY LANGUAGES OF EUROPE (Language Families)

Sources: CIA World Factbook, Ethnologue, BBC Languages

Language Families

- INDO-EUROPEAN
- URALIC
- TURKIC
- DAGESTANIAN

- 1 (Andorra) - Spanish
- 2 (Luxembourg) - French
- 3 (Monaco) - Ligurian
- 4 (Slovenia) - Serbo-Croatian
- 5 (Montenegro) - Albanian
- 6 (Macedonia) - Albanian
- 7 (Cyprus) - Turkish

No significant minority language:
Iceland (not pictured)
San Marino
Vatican City
Liechtenstein



We have to save them

The experts affirm that about half of the world's languages will be extinct by the next century and, as the languages are one of the riches of our humanity's story, we shall work to avoid it as much as we can.

