STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

Seminar Nazzjonali fuq il-Bilingwiżmu fl-Edukazzjoni ta' Pajjiżna
– X'Inhu l-Aħjar għal Uliedna?

Is-Sibt li għadda l-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti u d-Direttorat għal Kwalità u Standards fl-Edukazzjoni organizzaw seminar nazzjonali fuq is-sehem tal-Malti u l-Ingliż fil-qasam tal-edukazzjoni.

Is-seminar mexxieh Dr Christopher Bezzina, is-Segretarju Permanenti fil-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni, Kultura, Żgħażagħ u Sport. Fl-introduzzjoni tiegħu huwa rrefera għax-xogħol kbir li għaddej bħalissa fid-Direttorat biex jiġi aġġornat il-Kurrikulu Minimu Nazzjonali. Dr Bezzina qal li l-Malti u l-Ingliż, l-ilsna uffiċjali ta' pajjiżna, għandhom sehem fundamentali fil-proċess tat-tagħlim u li s-seminar kien okkażjoni biex jinstemgħu l-argumenti tal-ġenituri u l-istudenti, tal-akkademiċi u l-edukaturi.

Wara Dr Bezzina tkellem il-Professur Manwel Mifsud, il-President tal-Kunsill tal-Malti. Huwa saħaq fuq il-vantaġġ li jkollu pajjiż bilingwi bħal tagħna u fuq kemm nistgħu nkunu qrib il-miri tal-Ewropa kieku nagħrfu nużaw is-sitwazzjoni bilingwi tagħna. Huwa sostna li f'kull diskussjoni fuq il-lingwi fl-edukazzjoni għandu jiġi qabelxejn il-ġid tal-istudenti. Il-promoturi tal-Malti u tal-Ingliż, u fuq kollox il-ġenituri u l-ulied infushom, għandhom ifasslu flimkien l-aħjar triq lingwistika għall-istudenti, dik li twassalhom biex isiru ċittadini tajbin ta' arthom u tal-Ewropa, u żgħażagħ ippreparati għad-dinja.

Il-kelliema kienu akkademiċi u edukaturi magħrufa: Dr Marie Therese Farrugia, is-Sur Carmel Azzopardi, il-Professur Carmel Borg, Dr Ray Fabri, Dr Simone Galea, il-Kavallier Frank Gatt u s-Sa Mary Rose Mifsud. Bil-ħila esperta tagħhom, dawn ippreżentaw lill-pubbliku numeruż il-fehmiet ta' 28 edukatur li kienu taw fehmiethom bil-miktub. Dawn il-kitbiet inġabru fi ktieb sabiħ li tqassam b'xejn lil kull min kien preżenti u serva bħala dokument għad-diskussjoni. Wara kull intervent kien hemm ħin għad-diskussjoni, u kull min attenda seta' jagħti l-fehma u s-suġġerimenti tiegħu liberament.

Is-seminar għalqitu Dr Grace Grima, id-Direttur Ġenerali tad-Direttorat. Hija rreferiet għar-reviżjoni tal-Kurrikulu Nazzjonali li qed issir bħalissa u qalet li x-xogħol kollu li qed isir fl-edukazzjoni ta' pajjiżna għandu l-iskop li ħadd mill-istudenti ma jibqa' lura jew jitħalla barra. Huwa essenzjali li l-istudenti joħorġu mill-iskejjel jafu jitkellmu u jiktbu bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż, jifhmu dak li jingħad u li jaqraw, u jaħkmu l-argumenti biż-żewġ ilsna.

Is-seminar sar fl-iskola primarja ta' Ħ'Attard, il-Kulleġġ San Nikola, u għalih attendew mitejn ruħ. Il-preżentazzjonijiet tal-kelliema u d-dokument għad-diskussjoni jinsabu fis-sit tal-Kunsill www.kunsilltalmalti.gov.mt. Is-seminar ġie rrekordjat kollu mill-istazzjon E 22 u se jixxandar sħiħ ftit jiem oħra.

Il-Kunsill tal-Malti qed jistieden lil kull min jixtieq iressaq fehmtu biex jiktiblu fl-indirizz kunsilltalmalti@gov.mt ħalli jkun qed jieħu sehem fid-diskussjoni u fid-deċiżjonijiet li jittieħdu.

PRESS RELEASE

National Seminar on Bilingualism in our Malta's educational system
– What's best for our children?

Last Saturday, 5th December, the National Council for the Maltese Language and the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education held a seminar on the role of Maltese and English in education.

The seminar was chaired by Dr Christopher Bezzina, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Dr Bezzina highlighted the advantages of a bilingual nation like Malta, and claimed that, if we made good use of our bilingual situation, we could come very close to reaching the targets set within the framework of the language policy of European Union.

Dr Bezzina insisted that the students' well-being was to be given priority in any discussion on languages in education. The 'promoters' of Maltese and English, and, in particular, parents and the children themselves, together should decide upon the best linguistic option for the students, one that will make them good citizens both of their own country and of Europe, and one that will prepare young people for the various challenges they will face in life.

The speakers at the seminar are well-known academics and educators, namely, Dr Marie Therese Farrugia, Mr Carmel Azzopardi, Professor Carmel Borg, Dr Ray Fabri, Dr Simone Galea, Chevalier Frank Gatt and Ms Mary Rose Mifsud. The speakers prepared short presentations, highlighting the main points that emerged from a number of short articles dealing with bilingualism in education written by 28 experts involved in education at various levels. The articles were collected and presented in book form, and copies of the booklet were given free of charge to those present at the seminar, serving as a document for discussion. Every presentation by the speakers was followed by a discussion, allowing those present at the seminar to express their opinions and make their own suggestions.

The seminar was closed by Dr Grace Grima, Director General of the Directorate. Dr Grima made reference to the on-going revision of the National Curriculum, stating that the aim of the changes being carried out in the Maltese educational system is to keep students from falling back, or being left out of the system. It is important for students to leave school being able to speak and write in both Maltese and English, to understand what is being said, and to express their opinions in both languages.

The seminar was held in the Ħ'Attard Primary school, St Nicholas College, and was attended by 200 people. The presentations by the speakers and the discussion document can be accessed on the Council's website www.kunsilltalmalti.gov.mt. The seminar was filmed by TV E 22, and will be broadcast on television in a few days time.

The National Council for the Maltese Language invites all those who want to contribute towards the discussion to write to the Council on the following address kunsilltalmalti@gov.mt, and thus be able to participate in the discussion and in the decisions that will be taken.