



## CLIL IN HESSE

### Teaching

Bilingual teaching in Hesse is offered in many forms. There are individual bilingual classes as well as highly diversified integrated modules, which are all based on the current curriculum. The learning objectives outlined in the mainstream Hessian curricula also apply to the subjects taught bilingually. The selecting and prioritising of content subjects as well as methodological decisions, however, are up to the individual schools.

Bilingual teaching in dedicated CLIL classes was defined by the Conference of Ministries of Culture on 7th October 1994 as: “the teaching of subjects partially in the foreign language”. In Hesse, CLIL is currently offered at 41 grammar schools (English-German, French-German and Italian-German), at 20 secondary schools (English-German, French-German) and at 3 primary schools (French-German, Italian-German).

The subjects offered vary from place to place. Humanities subjects are highly represented (History, Geography, Political and Social Studies), but subjects like Mathematics or Biology are offered as well.

European concepts such as, for example, the “European Framework for Languages”<sup>1</sup>, the “Language Portfolio”<sup>2</sup> or other European projects have had a great impact on current methodological developments. The variant didactical models cover functional monolingualism as well as consistent tandem-usages of the foreign and the native language.

Within the range of bilingual classes, some grammar schools offer the possibility of taking the *Abitur* as well as the *Baccalauréat/International Baccalauréat*. Exams are then taken in cooperation with the examination boards of the partner countries.

Participation in a bilingual class is accredited by an official document. This is distributed after the completion of Year 10 or with A-Level certificates and certifies which subjects were taught in a foreign language, and in which year. It does not contain any grades.

Apart from the official bilingual classes<sup>3</sup>, many schools offer bilingually taught subjects in one or more foreign languages using a number of different models. The Ministry of Culture has supported this by various resolutions<sup>4</sup>, and it has also been included in the syllabi. This is based on the “[Weilburg Declaration of 2001](#)”, called for an expansion of bilingual teaching to include as many pupils as possible and saw this as a means of promoting multilingualism.

Topic work, project weeks, foreign language courses of varying length and levels as well as fixed lesson units in different year groups reflect the current modular diversification of

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<sup>1</sup> Gemeinsamer europäischer Referenzrahmen für Sprachen: lernen, lehren, beurteilen. Europarat Straßburg 2001

<sup>2</sup> Europäisches Portfolio der Sprachen / European Language Portfolio / Portfolio Europeen des Langues, Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe

<sup>3</sup> Erlass des Hessischen Kulturministers vom 28. September 1994, Amtsblatt Hessen 11/94, S.1096ff; Erlass vom 28.06.1996, Amtsblatt Hessen 49, 1996, S. 436f

<sup>4</sup> Verordnung zur Ausgestaltung der Bildungsgänge und Schulformen der Grundstufe (Primarstufe) und der Mittelstufe (Sekundarstufe I) und der Abschlussprüfungen in der Mittelstufe (VOBGM)



bilingual teaching, which is mainly offered in the language combinations German-English, German-French, German-Italian and German-Spanish. The subjects that are taught bilingually are not limited to the traditional bilingual subjects like Geography, Political Studies, Economics or History, but cover the whole curriculum, including Art, Music, Science and PE. Frequently, lessons take place within the form group or within the framework of compulsory options. These modules can be certified by school reports.

### **Teacher Training**

Within the first phase of teacher training, both the University of Frankfurt and the University of Kassel cooperate in offering an additional bilingual study programme. At the moment, there are single course options in bilingual teaching and learning.

At the University of Kassel in the School of English Studies/American Studies the specialised module “CLIL” has been offered as part of the Foreign Language Teaching and Learning Programme since 2004.

During the second phase of teacher training, two teacher-training institutions for Grammar Schools (Studienseminar Frankfurt and Studienseminar Kassel) offer modules on bilingual teaching and learning. During their teaching practice, teachers can gain practical experience in bilingual classes. At the Studienseminar Frankfurt, they can, for example, record this in a portfolio, which is certified at the end of their training. In addition, dissertations can be written on CLIL.