



MERCATOR EDUCATION

DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN A MULTILINGUAL ENVIRONMENT

Cor van der Meer

Mercator – Education

IASSIST

Madison

May 2004

Fryske Akademy
Leeuwarden, the Netherlands



THE MERCATOR NETWORK

3 Centres

- Mercator-Legislation (Barcelona)
- Mercator-Media (Aberysthwyth)
- Mercator-Education (Leeuwarden)

EBLUL (Brussels)

- Web-portal: www.lingualia.net

MERCATOR-EDUCATION

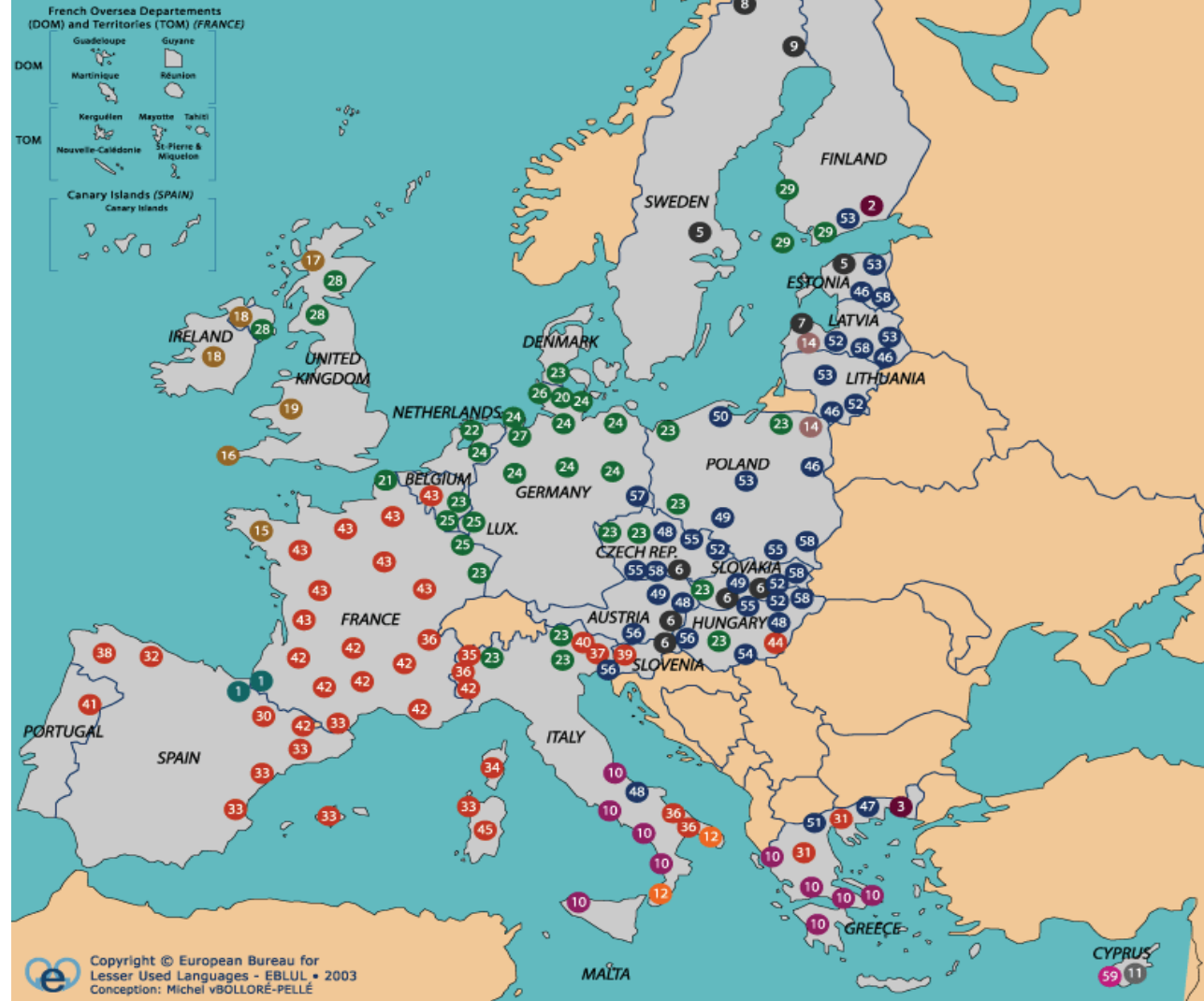
- Documentation centre for minority languages and education
- Research
- Network of experts
- Network of schools
- Library

EU-enlargement & minority languages

- 10 New EU member states
- 30 Minority languages
- 95 Minority language groups



The lesser used languages in the EU



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DIGITAL LIBRARY PROJECT

“Digital library for the European minority languages”

Goal: electronic disclosure of information about European minority languages with text, images and sound

“DIGIBYB” A PILOTPROJECT:

- Funded by the KNAW
- Minority language is Frisian
- Emphasis on publications & texts
- Runs till the end of 2004



TOWARDS A EUROPEAN MODEL:

- Local services in nearly all language communities
- A central service/portal available for every European language community

LOCAL SERVICE:

- All tools and application available
- Two ways:
 - Building own digital library
 - Open information for the central portal
- Maintained by the language community itself

CENTRAL SERVICE:

- Representation of every minority language
- Active collecting & indexing information
- Basic search possibilities
- Uploads possible (?)



REQUIREMENTS:

- Use of open software
- Open tools (i-TOR)
- Open repositories (OAI, OAX)
- Standard formats (Dublin Core, XML)



**III MERCATOR SYMPOSIUM:
*"Linguistic diversity and education,
challenges and opportunities".***

25 - 27 November 2004

Ljouwert/Leeuwarden
Fryslân, The Netherlands

www.mercator-education.org



THANK YOU !

www.mercator-education.org

mercator@fa.knaw.nl