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On the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture

My main focus, however, will be on you as language teachers – what this big political development might mean for you, how you might use it to your advantage – and most importantly, I want to stress the important role you play.

Here is an overview of what I intend to cover:

- Setting the scene: the Council of Europe in brief
- Rationale and significance of Recommendation R (2022)¹
- A closer look at plurilingual and intercultural education
- The Recommendation in detail; practical tips for promotion and implementation
- Implications for your professional learning
- Support from the ECML
- Closing remarks

So, let's just check that we are all clear about the Council of Europe itself.

So let me give you just a bit of background:

The Council of Europe is Europe's leading human rights organisation and the oldest intergovernmental political organisation in Europe, comprising forty-six European states and seven hundred million people in Europe. All member States have signed the European Convention on Human Rights.

It was founded in 1949, not long after the end of the 2nd World War – in the hope of ensuring that peace would endure. Well, look where we are today – that threat has returned.

The Council of Europe aims to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe. It does this through the development of Conventions and Charters, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence or the Convention on Cybercrime. In addition to these legally binding instruments, the Council develops Recommendations; as you can see from the name, these are not legally binding instruments but their adoption by the Committee of Ministers (CoM, hereafter), signals an implicit commitment to their implementation at national level.