L-Università ta' Malta

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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

PROJECT BRIEF

The data presented in this poster presentation focuses on comparing the University of Malta's (UM) Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Primary Education programme with Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes from the Universities of Cyprus (UC), Barcelona (UB), and the University College of Teacher Education (UCTE) in Austria. These data extracts are from a larger comparative study evaluating how the UM's ITE programmes prepare pre-service teachers for linguistic diversity.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How do the University of Malta's ITE programmes in Primary Education compare to the other selected institutions?
2. To what extent do pre-service teacher education curricula of the University of Malta align with EU recommendations and guidelines on multilingualism to foster an inclusive environment in Primary Education settings?

METHODOLOGY

The data evaluates European primary education pathways, comparing a 3 year model (180 ECTS x 6 semesters) with a 4 year model (240 ECTS x 8 semesters) as credit value directly dictates programme length.

COMPONENTS ANALYSED

The programme analysis focused on seven key components of language education:

Theoretical Foundations
Language studies, language-related study-units, language acquisition.

Pedagogical Methods
Teaching methods for multilingual settings.

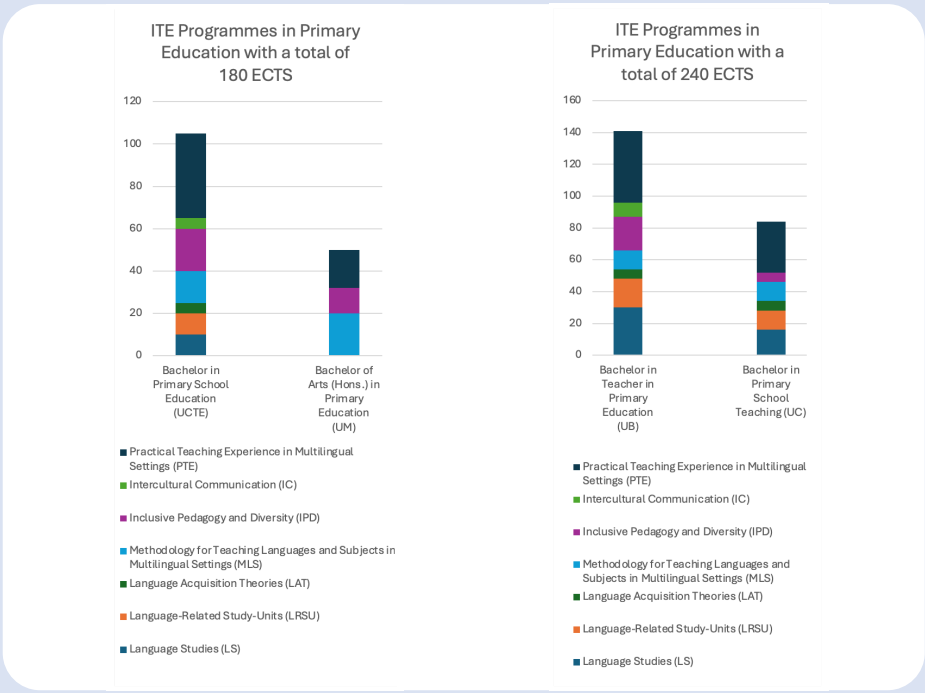
Inclusivity & Culture
Diverse pedagogy and intercultural communication.

Practical Teaching Experience
Practical teaching experience in multilingual contexts.

4 COUNTRIES ACROSS EUROPE

This study maps out core focus areas for multilingual education through a synthesis of established European ITE online curriculum frameworks.





RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

UB Programme
Prevalence: ~58% of total ECTS (highest among all programmes).
Details: Has the most extensive focus on multilingual education and assigns higher ECTS per component than UC.

UCTE Programme
Prevalence: High (roughly double the content of UM).
Details: Features a much broader range of multilingual content and language variety than UM.

UC Programme
Prevalence: Moderate.
Details: Offers less multilingual content than the UB programme, but assigns lower ECTS credits per component than UB.

UM Programme
Prevalence: ~28% of total ECTS (lowest among all programmes).
Details: Has the most limited variety of language components and the lowest overall prevalence of multilingual education.

Key Features Across All Four Programmes
Practical Teaching Experience: This is the single most prevalent and most important component across all programmes.
Duration: 8 semester programmes inherently allow for a higher prevalence and capacity of multilingual education content than 6 semester programmes.

Research Group - Prof. Josephine Milton (Principal Investigator), Dr Tania Muscat (Lead Researcher Wk 2b), Dr Charmaine Bonello, Prof. Josephine Deguara, Dr Rosienne Camilleri, Dr Michela Vella (Part-time RSO), Ms Rebecca Camenzuli (Part-time RSO).

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