

Submission from Udo Seiwert-Fauti , Senior Correspondent , European Media (Scotland- Strasbourg)

Being a native German , married into a very very French(Alsation)- German family and having lived for 10 years in Scotland and now reporting for Scotland I would like to / tae offer my experience with foreign languages on a more European level (noticing the current and on-going discussion on in/out of the EU...) .

I would really urge the Committee Scottish youngsters should / have to learn the most common foreign languages within the EU . This certainly is French (Auld Alliance and Strasbourg) , German (important Scotland supporter and trade partner) , Dutch (if they want to live in Brussels). German alone would cover Germany, Austria, Northern Italy, East and north of France, Switzerland , many East European countries and even the Baltic states. Even in Scandinavia you will find many German speakers.

If you look far more east Russian will be very much of help, from Ukraine to Aserbaidshan,Bulgaria , Rumania (sorry for naming this beloved UK countries) , Serbia and so on. And do NOT forget Chinese.....

To summon it up I would propose to renew and again press for a foreign language thinking in Scotland. I have the feeling many Scottish kids have no idea and imagination WHY they should learn a foreign language. They see no use in it. To state that very clearly ...English by far is not enough while I understand that even Gaelic is a EU working language , thanks to your celtic neighbours from Ireland. I also would urge Scottish companies to include foreign language skills in their job ads. If they do NOT demand it...why should kids learn it.

By the way I could be the blue print.....I speak English fluently, even understand the famous Glaswegian cab driver and try to train my Gaelic . I also speak French and German (native) fluently, have a good understanding of Dutch and Swiss German and Alsatian which all helps me to survive in my daily European environment and understand the very different European egos and thinking behind the languages.

If you would need any convincing person for your committee work I am there to help. I am accredited with the ScotParly since the (new) beginning in 1999. Just renewed my press pass !