

Français en Suisse – apprendre, enseigner, évaluer
Italiano in Svizzera – imparare, insegnare, valutare
Deutsch in der Schweiz – lernen, lehren, beurteilen

fide



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Learning a National Language to be integrated

A political vision

Speaking one of the national languages is essential for gaining autonomy in everyday life, finding a flat, finding one's way through the school system, becoming more integrated into the world of work and participating in social and political life.

The Federal integration policy aims to support the linguistic integration of immigrants by defining suitable and sustainable measures, in this way also meeting the needs of the Swiss society.

In 2007 the Federal Council committed the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) with the development of a conceptual framework for the linguistic integration of the migrant population. The Outline Curriculum for the Linguistic Development of Migrants, developed by the Institute of Multilingualism in Fribourg has been published in 2009. Inspired by best current practices and the most recent findings in the field of second language learning, it formulates proposals for the improvement of the language learning offers. On this basis, various development projects led to what has now become a comprehensive framework for promoting second language learning in Switzerland: fide | Français, Italiano and Deutsch in Switzerland – learning, teaching, assessment.



«I come from Afghanistan and arrived in Switzerland when I was 20 years old. My school background was not very broad, but I was extremely motivated to learn the language of my new living environment and integrate myself. Learning in scenarios was very helpful, because in this way I was able not only to learn the language but also to acquire the social skills that were important for my integration.»

Yaser Ataei

Care worker in training

A comprehensive and coherent framework based on national standards of quality

Within the Cantonal Integration Programmes (CIP), the Confederation and the Cantons commit themselves to reinforce and develop measures supporting the integration of the migrant population in Switzerland.

The sector Education and Work constitutes one of the pillars of this comprehensive development programme. fide supports measures foreseen in this sector by promoting language learning that is based on explicit quality standards.

A fide language test, geared towards the language needs in everyday situations in a Swiss context, allows assessing the oral and written language performance of the migrants. A language passport attests the levels achieved in a standardised manner all over Switzerland.

A fide quality label distinguishes course offers that meet high quality standards with relation to their didactic design, the profile of their teachers and the teaching and learning conditions.

Learning for everyday life in Switzerland

Focus on the learners' needs

Teaching according to fide principles means gearing teaching towards the real communicative needs of the migrants in Switzerland. The direct reference to their daily living environment is motivating, and it facilitates not only the learning of the language but also helps migrants to gain orientation in their new cultural setting. In this way, fide supports their social and professional integration.

Migrants learning a national language do not form a homogeneous group. Their extremely varying biographies and their different social, cultural and economical realities require differentiated and flexible learning offers. fide provides appropriate instruments to assess the oral and written language competencies of the migrants and to assign them to suitable course offers. fide refers to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and includes the levels A1, A2 and B1. The innovative teaching approach integrates effective practices in a systematic and coherent way.



«fide aims at supporting the people who immigrated in Switzerland to learn the local language. The innovative scenario approach allows learners to rapidly communicate in typical everyday life and work situations. This also favours their integration into the labour market. The Labour Office of the Canton of Fribourg has found the approach very convincing, and it is now being adopted by all work integration measures that also involve language development.»

Claudia Krasniqi

Labour Market Office, Development and Quality Assurance AMA
(work integration measures)



«Thanks to fide I can link my teaching even more closely to everyday reality. In this way the learning of the local language not only becomes more concrete, but it is also closer to the daily routines and needs of the participants. fide, for me, means above all opening spaces for learning and approaches to the language. The exchange, the construction of tangible competencies and the integration of the learners in the shaping of the learning process itself are central.»

Raffaella Simeone

Language teacher in integration courses

Action oriented learning in scenarios

The teachers support the learners in formulating their own learning needs and objectives. The fide learning map can be an important tool in this context: it illustrates 11 important domains of social interaction in Swiss everyday life. In action oriented learning situations, the migrants are enabled to deal with common situations of interaction with the resident population (the scenarios). Step by step, the necessary communicative tasks are analysed and the linguistic resources as well as the relevant context knowledge are assimilated. The closeness to everyday life situations facilitates the direct transfer of the newly acquired elements.

Co-construction and documentation of the learning process

In fide courses, the learners contribute actively towards the shaping of the learning process. Their resources and their experience, their prior knowledge and abilities as well as their daily surroundings are integrated and exploited for efficient learning. Regular feedbacks and reviews allow the learners to assess and consolidate their acquired competencies in order to open up new perspectives and learning aims. In a shared process, the learning contents and the teaching materials are constantly reevaluated and adapted to the specific learner group.

According to the portfolio approach of fide, the learners document their own learning process. They collect e.g. course materials, self-evaluations, feedbacks, information and oral and written text models and file these papers into a suitable documentation. In this process they learn to select documents which they consider important for their further learning process. Thus, the learning documentation contributes to the self-assessment of the learning processes and results, and favours the development of autonomous learning strategies. The principle «Learning and documenting what has been learnt», also means for fide: «Learning to document what has been learnt».

Qualifying the teachers

The qualification of the teachers has a direct effect on the quality and the coherence of a language course. The «Certificate of language teaching in the field of integration» certifies that the holders of the certificate dispose of competencies in the fields of teaching foreign and second languages to adults and dealing with multicultural groups. The training also enables them to apply the didactic principles of fide, using the scenario-based approach in a systematic and continuous way.

The qualification path to obtain the «Certificate of language teaching in the field of integration» is modular, allowing the experienced teachers to have their previously acquired competencies assessed and recognized. They can then complete their qualification profile in specific fields.



An Efficient Language Learning System to Support Integration

fide has been developed by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council. It comprises various coordinated elements and instruments, put at the disposal of the Cantons, the language schools and the teachers.

www.fide-info.ch

All fide documents and materials, as well as a vast selection of teaching aids, are freely accessible on the website www.fide-info.ch. General information, a practical guide for teachers and concrete tools for the planning, teaching and evaluation of language courses can be downloaded for free or ordered via the online shop.

The national fide Secretariat

The fide Secretariat is the information centre and the national partner for all questions concerning fide. It operates according to strategic guidelines formulated by the SEM. The tasks of the fide Secretariat include, on the one hand, general information and communication on fide, and on the other, establishing operating structures and procedures for the qualification of teachers in the field of integration.

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