

ROUND TABLE 2:

“Multilingualism, analysis of the current state of the art in Europe and the role of ELL”

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TOPICS

1. **European policies on multilingualism**
2. **The European label: impact and inventiveness**
3. **The Spanish and Portuguese case: Criteria for selections and examples of good and best practices.**



Main European policies: Mobility, Flexisecurity and Multilingualism

In 2000, a European Council was held in Lisbon with the purpose of setting a new goal for the following decade:

To become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with better jobs and greater social cohesion.

To achieve this goal, three main measures had to be taken:

1. Developing the information society and the field of Research & Development (R&D), promoting innovation.
2. Modernizing society by making Europeans active citizens in the development of their member states as well as fighting social exclusion.
3. Assure economic health and develop policies to make it stable.

European programs support studying and professional training

Governments of member states should develop policies and invest money in foreign language learning

- Programs are Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, and Grundtvig.
- The European language label.



The European Language Label

What is the European Language Label Award?

The European Language Label (ELL) is an award which encourages initiatives in the field of teaching and learning languages and is intended as a tool that can help teachers and learners become more aware of innovative initiatives in the field.

The ELL aims to inspire teachers and learners to adapt innovative and effective ideas and techniques, in accordance with their own needs.



Priorities

1. Language learning based on the new technologies

2. **Multilingual Classrooms**

3. Immersion programs and Language and Culture Bilingual Sections

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Priorities

Multilingual Classrooms

The racial and cultural map of European countries has changed in recent years. This change is especially evident in Spain, a country unaccustomed to immigration.

The educational community has been one of the most affected by these changes. Thus, the incidence of multilingual classrooms is increasing continuously

The European label: impact and inventiveness

In most of the selected examples of good practice, the co-coordinators the following assessed the following aspects concerning the impact of the award:

- Confidence in the undeniable ability of the project to improve and develop language learning and teaching.
- Thanks to the award many projects have become tools available to the wider teaching community.
- Demonstrated the democratic and universalist philosophy underlying the winning projects.

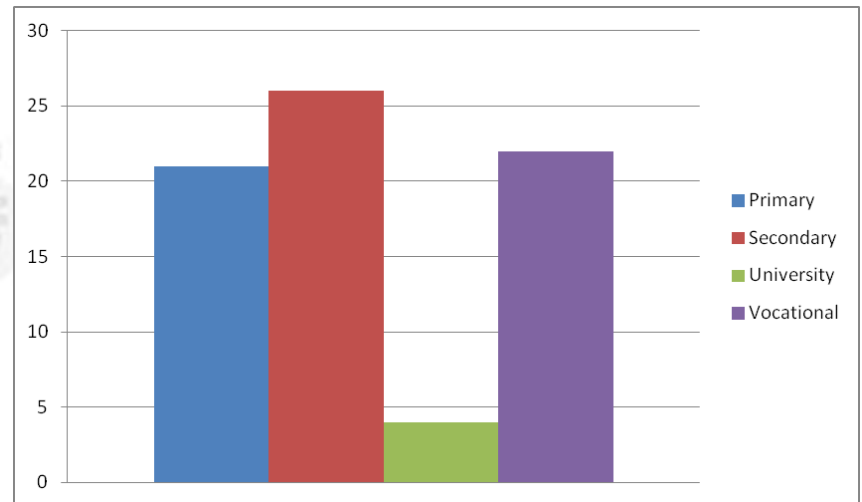
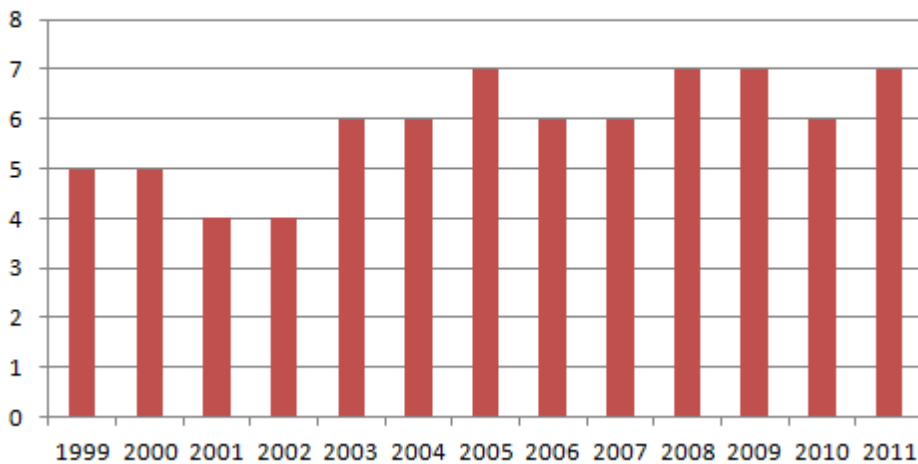
The European label: impact and inventiveness

- The award has served to help improve educational institutions in danger of marginalization.
- The award has served to convey to the educational community the importance of such initiatives for universal education.
- Helps motivate the innovative work of teachers and institutions who have worked hard to enrich their educational programs and the quality of their teaching.

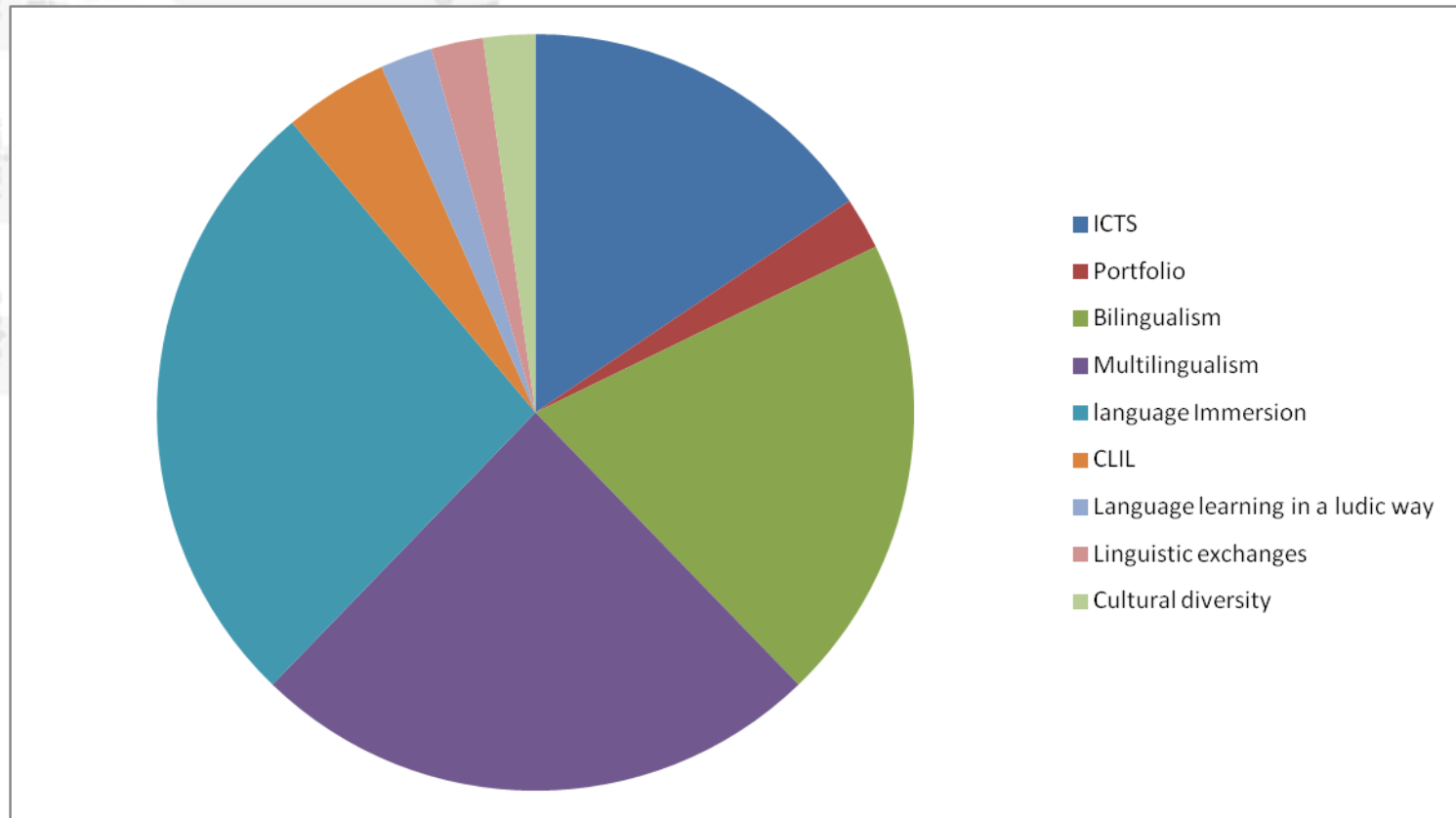
Award of the European Language Label in Spain

Through a historical analysis of the granting of this award we can make the following observations:

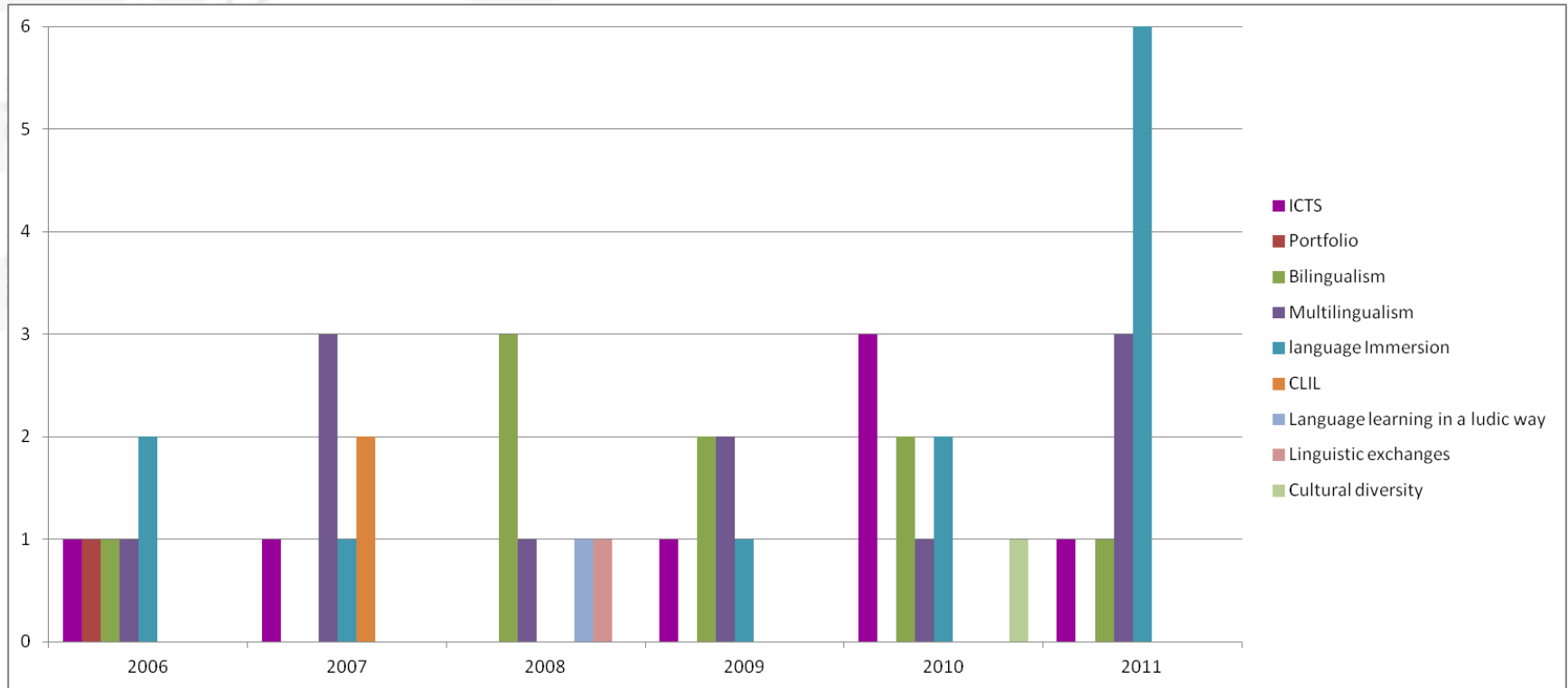
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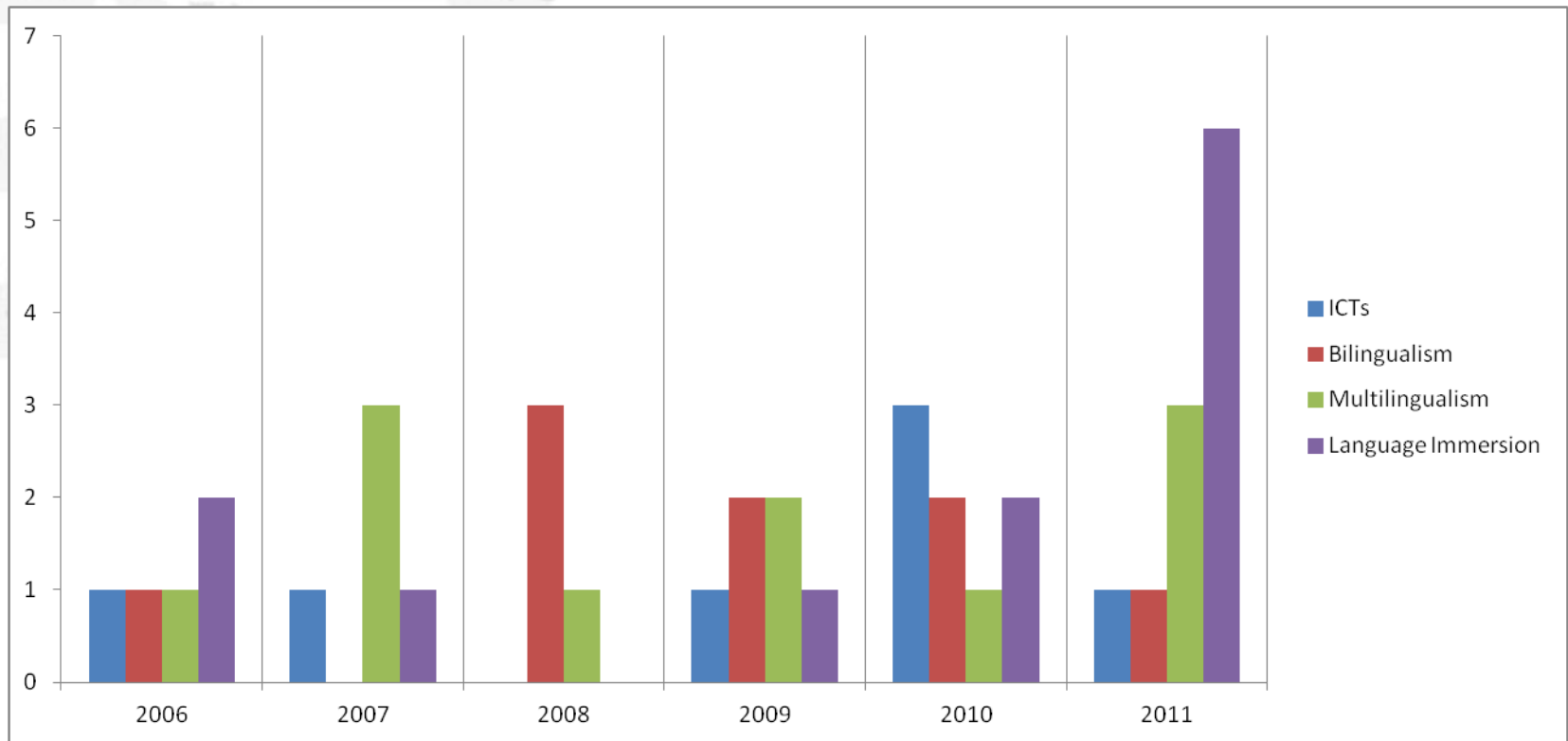
Award of the European Language Label



Award of the European Language Label



Award of the European Language Label



Best practices at national level

The best practices in Spain were selected in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Education as already mentioned above.

- School education: ALEHOP: programme for the Development of Communicative Skills
- Adult education: E-tridem.net. Intercambios Interculturales en Entornos Virtuales
- Higher education: Le tour de France
- Vocational Education and training: Taste of the Language

Recommendations

During the interviews with the project coordinators, most recommended:

- To keep working for a better world from a collaborative and interdisciplinary perspective.
- To increase awareness of good language learning practice in Europe through programs' web page to continue learning from other excellent projects.
- To teach languages using global methods that are able to react to universal needs and to motivate teachers to continue to transfer knowledge to enrich perspectives.

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Recommendations

- Conduct training for teachers using based on the experiences of award winning initiatives. Most relevant aspects for future ELL award participants:
- That participants involved in innovative and creative projects know that what they do is what needs to be done, to feel the excitement for and pride in their project. It is a means to demonstrate the great quality work taking place in education to improve language teaching and learning.
- That the important thing is not the European label itself, but the ideas and projects presented and how they work in the classroom to achieve the learning objectives.

Recommendations

Among the suggestions offered by the project coordinators some of the most interesting include:

- Publish the criteria to be met by candidates for European Label awards well in advance as they are different each year and these criteria are of great help when planning the structure of the project to be submitted.
- Increase dissemination of these experiences through media interviews, participation in conferences or publishing articles in journals.
- Develop quick tips on how to plan and develop quality learning experiences for language learning based on initiatives that have achieved a European Label award.



THANKS