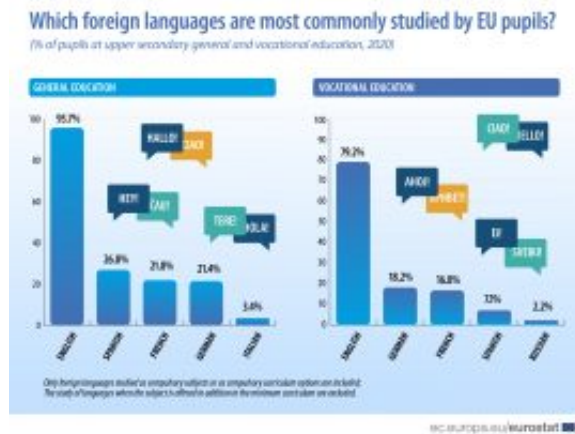


European Day of Languages: what tongues are studied in the EU?

English top of the list. Italian at the bottom



[“In the European Union, most primary- and secondary-school students study at least one foreign language: in the EU in 2020, 96.1% of primary-school students, 98.4% of junior high school students and 90.3% of senior high-school students studied at least one foreign language”. This was found by a Eurostat survey, issued in the run-up to the European Day of Languages. “In 2020, 60% of senior high-school students studied two or more foreign languages as compulsory or elective subjects, one percent more than in 2019”. In Luxembourg and France, all senior high-school students studied two or more foreign languages. Romania, Finlandia and Czechia too “reported a high number of students studying two or more languages \(all of them at 99%\)”. Such countries are followed by Slovakia and Estonia \(both at 98%\), Slovenia \(96%\) and Croatia \(94%\). “In 2020, English was the most widely studied foreign language at a general senior high-school and vocational level in the EU, with 96% and 79% of students, respectively”. Spanish came second \(27%\), followed by French \(22%\), German \(21%\) and Italian \(3%\). In addition, Russian was the most widely learnt non-EU language in the EU \(3%\), especially in Estonia \(67%\) and Latvia \(57%\), followed by Lithuania \(30%\) and Bulgaria \(24%\).](#)

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