



## TNP3-D: Network for the decentralised and centralised dissemination of TNP3 results and outcomes

In the Third Thematic Network Project in the Area of Languages (TNP3, 2003-6) we wanted to show:

- how consultation and collaboration with employers and graduates can help universities to understand why competence in a number of languages and intercultural competence matter;
- which languages and which language-related skills are required of graduates on the labour markets;
- and what universities should to do in order to prepare their students for the European and international labour markets.

Since the millennium, Europe has undergone fundamental changes, highlighted by key phrases such as:

- the Single Market, EU enlargement, increasing trans-European mobility, migration into Europe, globalisation;
- the advent of a knowledge-based economy, rampant advances in ICT;
- new job profiles, increasing mobility between jobs;
- the Bologna process, the Lisbon agenda, lifelong learning.

Many implications of these developments are not fully understood by those directly concerned – not least so their linguistic implications. The European Commission is one of many that maintain that competence in a number of languages is important both to employability and to economic growth. But is it really? Is English not enough?

In TNP3, we conducted a Europe-wide consultation among stakeholders. As a result, we have a clearer understanding of the languages required on the labour markets and of work-related communicative situations in which foreign languages are typically used. However, we also found that needs and perceptions differ widely across Europe. This is why we decided to go to the four corners of Europe – Aarhus, Braga, Southampton and Warsaw – to discuss TNP3 findings and recommendations with colleagues, students, employers, the social partners, and other providers. Ultimately, we want to convince universities that they have to step up their provision in foreign languages for students of all disciplines, and that they should make languages an issue in their consultations with employers, alumni, and other providers.