



mother  
tongues

# Our language garden

Celebrating multilingualism on  
International Mother Language Day 2022

#OurLanguageGarden





# Our invitation for you

Mother Tongues is inviting you to celebrate multilingualism during February 2022 and to showcase your multilingual garden on 21st February, UNESCO International Mother Language Day.

#OurLanguageGarden





# Why a Language Garden

Our goal is to support you in creating an environment that welcomes all languages.

We know that languages thrive when the right conditions are in place, so we are comparing multilingual environments to gardens where languages can grow and flourish.

For languages to flourish the Language Garden needs to be tended with care, and everyone has a role to play.



# Your Language Garden

## Prepare the ground

A language garden needs the ground to be fertile. Create the conditions for welcoming languages and show everyone that your environment is open to all languages

## Grow your multilingual garden

A language garden needs some key ingredients to grow. These include different opportunities to use languages, to enjoy them and celebrate them. The more languages you can showcase in your garden, the more colourful it will be!

## Enjoy your garden party

Your Garden Party is your Celebration of International Mother Language Day. On this occasion showcase your garden in bloom!





## Step 1

# Prepare the ground

Find out what it takes to grow awareness of languages in your environment. Think of your context (school, work, family) and decide how to showcase the languages growing in your garden. Decide how many people to involve and choose one or two project leaders who will gather materials and build momentum.

## Things to think about...

How many languages are spoken? Who speaks them? How can we showcase the languages in our environment in a way that is interesting, exciting and inclusive?





## Step 2

# Grow your multilingual garden

Work collaboratively to create a project showcasing all of your languages - or as many as you can!

Use your creativity to respond to the Language Garden theme.

As your garden grows, get as many people involved and keep us updated about your progress using [#OurLanguageGarden](#)

## Things to think about...

What does the metaphor of garden, plants and flowers mean to you in relation to languages?

What is the best medium to exhibit the languages that make your garden so diverse?





### Step 3

# Enjoy your garden party

Now it is time to enjoy the fruits of your team efforts together. Celebrate your garden of languages on 21st February, International Mother Language Day.

Post videos and images on social media, tag Mother Tongues and use

**#MotherLanguageDay #OurLanguageGarden #MTFest22**

Use these hashtags to check out what other groups around Ireland have been up to! Together we can show that Ireland is an emerald isle with a kaleidoscope of colourful gardens!





Mother Tongues is a social enterprise working to promote multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in Ireland and beyond.

Our goal is to create a space that fosters belonging and celebrates linguistic and cultural identities through education and the arts. We do this by educating, empowering and supporting families, educators and organisations passionate about keeping languages alive at home and throughout the community.

Mother Tongues supports primary school teachers in applying simple techniques to make sure that all languages and cultures are valued in the classroom.

We also work closely with Community Based Heritage Language (CBHL) schools to share best practice in heritage language education.