

Presentation at the annual conference of EFNIL

Mannheim 5-6 oct, 2017

The Swedish Language Council (Jennie Spetz)

Abstract

The Swedish language in the spot light

The Swedish Language Act came into force in 2009. The act stipulates Swedish as the principal language in Sweden and specifies that Swedish should be usable in all areas of society. However, formalising the status of the Swedish language in an actual law was not an obvious decision. It was rather the result of discussions emerging among Swedish policy makers during the 20–30 years preceding the language act. Sweden's entrance in the EU in 1995 became a sort of political awakening. For the first time, the Swedish language placed itself within a minority political context (towards English but also the other EU working languages). An increasing immigration and the acknowledgement of five official minority languages also pushed the development towards the formulation of the Swedish language into an act.