

CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES ON AREAS OF NATIONAL NEED

Section 601(c)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) requires that the Secretary of Education consult with Federal agency heads in order to receive recommendations regarding areas of national need for expertise in foreign languages and world regions. The Secretary may take those recommendations into account when identifying areas of national need for the International Education Programs authorized by Title VI of the HEA and administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE). See HEA, Sec. 601(c) (20 U.S.C. 1121 (c)). What follows are the areas of national need identified by the Secretary, consisting of the seventy-eight priority languages that are less commonly taught and the world regions. Also included below is a summary of responses from those Federal agencies that responded to the Secretary's request for recommendations for Title VI competitions in FY 2012. For responses from additional Federal agencies, see Web postings from FY 2011, FY 2010, and FY 2009.

PRIORITY LANGUAGES

- Akhan (Twi-Fante)
- Albanian
- Amharic
- Arabic (all dialects)
- Armenian
- Azeri (Azerbaijani)
- Balochi
- Bamanakan (Bamana, Bambara, Mandikan, Mandingo, Maninka, Dyula)
- Belarusian
- Bengali (Bangla)
- Berber (all languages)
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Burmese
- Cebuano (Visayan)
- Chechen
- Chinese, Cantonese
- Chinese, Gan
- Chinese, Mandarin
- Chinese, Min
- Chinese, Wu
- Croatian
- Dari
- Dinka
- Georgian
- Gujarati
- Hausa
- Hebrew, Modern
- Hindi
- Igbo
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Javanese
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Kazakh
- Khmer (Cambodian)
- Kirghiz
- Korean
- Kurdish – Kurmanji
- Kurdish – Sorani
- Lao
- Malay (Bahasa Melayu or Malaysian)
- Malayalam
- Marathi
- Mongolian
- Nepali

- Oromo
- Panjabi
- Pashto
- Persian (Farsi)
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Romanian
- Russian
- Serbian
- Sinhala (Sinhalese)
- Somali
- Swahili
- Tagalog
- Tajik
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Tigrigna
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur/Uigur
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese
- Wolof
- Xhosa
- Yoruba
- Zulu

WORLD REGIONS

- Africa
- Central Asia/Inner Asia
- East Asia
- Middle East
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
- Russia/East Europe
- Western Hemisphere (Canada, Caribbean, Central/South America)

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES for FY 2012 Web Posting

I. U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) highlights the following languages as most vital to our country's future:

Chinese, Mandarin
 Indonesian
 Arabic (all dialects)
 Japanese
 Korean
 Russian

USDA ranks the following world regions as most vital to the future of U.S. agriculture:

Western Hemisphere (Canada, Caribbean, Central/South America)
East Asia
Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
Middle East

The Department also notes that “though Spanish is commonly taught, broad understanding of Spanish and Western Hemispheric cultures are critical to the success of U.S. agriculture. Spanish-speaking countries are key agricultural trading partners as well as a vital segment of the U.S. agricultural labor force. Therefore, the need to support the study of foreign languages and cultures of other countries to further expand trade beyond U.S. borders is strongly encouraged by the Department.”

II. U.S. Department of Commerce

The following languages and world regions associated with these languages are recommended in rank order of importance:

Mandarin
Arabic
Portuguese
Spanish Western Hemisphere and Europe
Russian

The Department of Commerce also notes that, “in addition to urgent needs...proficiency in the following languages is desirable:” French, Japanese, Hindi-Urdu, Indonesian, Turkish, Vietnamese, German, and Korean.

Commerce ranks the following world regions or countries as areas of importance:

China
Middle East
Brazil and Europe
Western Hemisphere
Russia

III. U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense “strongly supports the national effort to create a cadre of U.S. citizens with advanced, professional-level skills in languages and cultures that are critical to our national security” and lists the following languages:

Arabic
Chinese
Dari
Farsi

Hausa
Hindi
Igbo
Kurmanji
Pashto
Russian
Swahili
Somali
Sorani
Urdu
Yoruba

The Department of Defense also notes that Central Asian languages are considered languages of strategic interest. Central Asian languages are those spoken in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; the nations of Afghanistan and Mongolia; and the western Chinese provinces of Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Qinghai, and Tibet.

Additionally, the Department of Defense recommends the development of more language and regional study programs for Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East.

IV. U.S. Department of Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy submitted a list of languages and regions for which expertise would be helpful in advancing the United States' energy security objectives. The list follows:

<u>Languages</u>	<u>World Regions</u>
Russian	Russia
Turkish	FSU (non-Europe and others)
French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese	Africa
Arabic, French	Middle East
German, French, Italian, Spanish	Western Europe
Polish, Bulgarian	Eastern Europe
Chinese, Japanese, Korean	East Asia
Hindi, Urdu	South Asia
Indonesian (Bahasa), Malay, Thai, Tagalog (Filipino), Vietnamese,	Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
French, Spanish	North America
Spanish	Central America
Spanish, Portuguese	South America
Spanish	Caribbean

V. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department underscores the importance of international exchange programs in carrying out efforts to share experiences and expertise in the housing arena. The Department identifies the following as the most critical languages for national needs (the languages are not listed in priority order):

- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Chinese
- Korean
- Japanese
- Russian
- Vietnamese

VI. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior identifies the following languages as critical in its efforts to engage in its work in the Americas and in the Arctic:

- Spanish
- French
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean

In addition, the Department of Interior lists the following countries as important:

- Canada
- Mexico
- United Kingdom
- Japan
- South Korea