

Bilingual education improves teaching in all subjects, according to the largest European study

LOCATION: Iznalloz (Granada)

DURATION: 1'46''

SUMMARY: The University of Jaén has led Spain's first study about bilingualism in regions that have only one official language. Twelve universities have participated, including those from Andalucía, the Canary Islands and Extremadura, as well as 53 other centers and more than 3,000 people, including students, families and teachers. It has concluded that a bilingual education benefits students' understanding of a second language as well as their comprehension in the rest of their studies.

VTR

BACKGROUND

"Can you please read the sentences...?"

This is one of the groups that was analyzed in Spain's first study about the effects of a bilingual education in regions that have only one official language. It was carried out by the University of Jaén in collaboration with seven other Andalusian universities, as well as the University of Extremadura and the University of Las Palmas. The conclusions show the favorable effect that bilingualism has on learning.

María Luisa Pérez
University of Jaén Researcher

"The bilingual groups are significantly better than the non-bilingual groups in all aspects of English linguistic competence that we have measured, including grammar, vocabulary and the four linguistic skills."

Carmen Plata
Science Professor at
IES Montes Orientales

"The benefits are innumerable, given that they are exposed to the second language, in this case English, for much more time, and this better captures their attention with themes that they are passionate about."

The study has used the largest sample of people in reports of this type in Europe, with 53 centers in 12 provinces and more than 3000 people, including parents, professors and students, all which demonstrate the advantages of a bilingual education.

Ricardo Romero
Student

"The classes in English are helping us a lot because languages are the future, it's a key that will open many doors for us in the future with regard to work."

Yael Moren
Student

"I am doing two things at the same time: I am learning a language but at the same time I am learning what would be some basic skills for my age."

Rafael Herrera
Student

"It allows them to achieve knowledge, some linguistic competence that would otherwise be hard to achieve."

The analysis has certified the advantages of a system that is being implemented in a progressive way and has also detected how it can be improved, establishing new educational and teacher-training strategies.