

## **STATEMENT of the NPLD CHAIRS' COMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION IMMERSION MODEL in SPAIN**

As the Chair of the **Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity**, I wish to express our deep concern over the recent Supreme Court pronouncement which, in practice, makes language immersion models impossible in Catalonia.

The goal of the language-immersion programme is to ensure that the regional or minority language is present in the schooling system, while guaranteeing the learning of the Spanish language. This model has been praised by numerous international experts and organizations, such as the **Commission's High-Level Group on Multilingualism** (European Commission 2006:12), the **United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues** (2020), and the **Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**. In fact, the latter body, in its Fifth report in respect of Spain recommended the Spanish authorities to foster the implementation of the system of language immersion in all regions across the country.

Language programs can indeed have multiple incarnations; there is no one program that fits all sites and circumstances. However, we strongly believe that the so-called immersion model is the most effective system to ensure that the regional or minority languages of Spain are preserved for future generations.

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