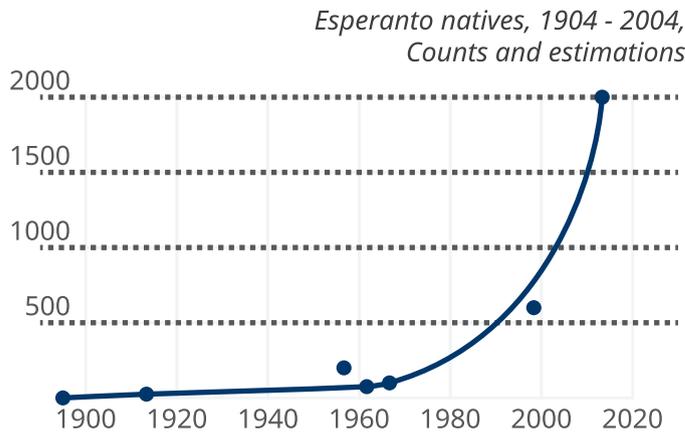


Esperanto as the main language. Native speakers

The first Esperanto native speaker was born in 1904; around 1960 some 200 native speakers were estimated, today there are about 1000 to 2000. There are even already native speakers of the second and third generation. At least a few thousand people use Esperanto every day. For more than one hundred people, Esperanto has become the main language, which they use in over 50 % of their time (up to about 90 %).



Several 100 000 regular Esperanto speakers

A few million people have learned Esperanto; several hundred thousand are likely to speak Esperanto regularly. Using the online course Duolingo, about a million learners start learning Esperanto every year. Nowadays, Esperanto figures among the 25 most offered languages in online language courses.

Esperanto Culture: Books, Songs, Videos, Word Games

So far, about 10,000 Esperanto books have been published and about 120 new publications are added every year; there are also e-books in which scientific topics are also covered. Since 1960, several thousand Esperanto songs have been published, many of which can be found on Youtube, where Esperanto videos are also posted. Word games are quite common in Esperanto and in everyday life; many a saying has become established.

Esperanto "as carrier of the Esperanto culture"

Poland has recognised Esperanto in 2014 "as the bearer of Esperanto culture" as a non-material cultural heritage. In Poznań one can study interlinguistics with an emphasis on Esperantology; in Amsterdam there is a chair for interlinguistics and Esperanto.

In Hungary, Esperanto is accredited at universities for foreign language certificates (since 2001 about 35,000 state-recognised examinations).

The writers' association PEN International accepted the Esperanto-PEN Centre in 1993. The Catholic Church approved liturgical texts in Esperanto in 1990.

China has been publishing Esperanto news almost daily since 2001, esperanto.china.org.cn.

Esperanto and Plurilingualism

The international language Esperanto has existed for more than 130 years, with speakers in over 120 countries worldwide. Esperanto was created from the beginning with the aim of developing a cultural language, and so a rich culture has developed in the Esperanto language community, with many books and songs in Esperanto.

Most Esperanto speakers speak several foreign languages - in addition to their mother tongue on average about three foreign languages (i.e. excepting Esperanto two other languages). Some speak far more languages. They love their languages and love direct contact with people of other mother tongues in their language, culture and country. Language learning and contacts with the most diverse cultures of Europe and the world enjoy a high reputation in the Esperanto language community.

