Towards an ecological approach to languages
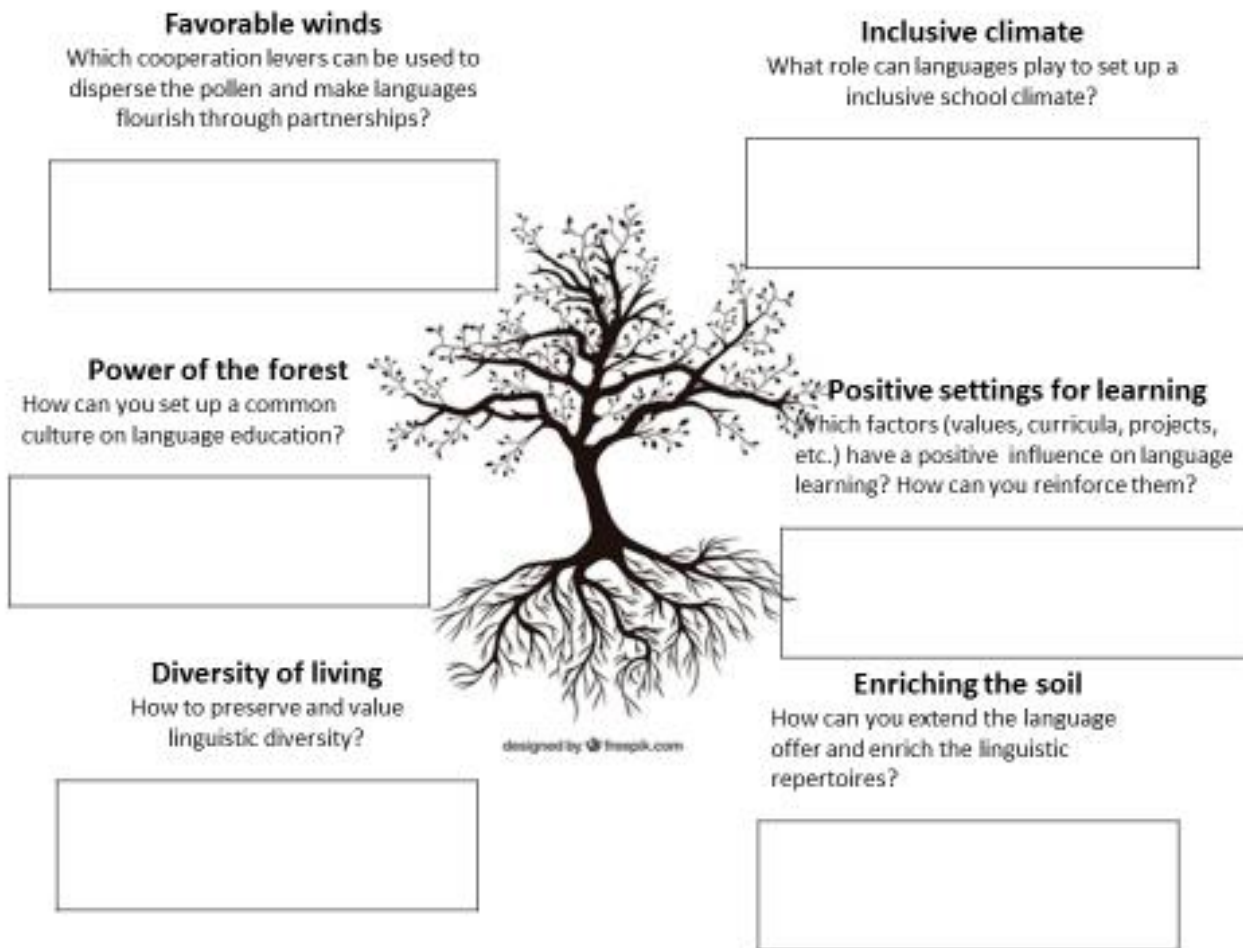
How to make modern languages flourish

"*The scientific approach to natural resource dynamics involves the characterization of how the environment influences the abundance and availability of a given resource. From the ecological point of view, the environment is a collection of natural factors (physical, chemical, and biological) capable of affecting living organisms. Therefore, any factor that can be consumed or used by an organism is defined as a natural resource*[1]."

This definition of "ecological approach" is transferrable to language education and the way we can develop learning environments where modern languages flourish. As it is essential to become aware of the various factors that influence the linguistic environment, this tool gives you the opportunity to observe language matters from a critical distance. Try to get an overview.

This tree[2] is a symbol for the surrounding linguistic ecosystem.
1- Discuss the main features of the linguistic ecology of your school.
2- Decide what can be done to improve things in each direction.
3- Change-Management: Design a strategy for the whole school community that makes it possible to progress in all the 6 directions at the same time.

Favorable winds
Which cooperation levers can be used to disperse the pollen and make languages flourish through partnerships?

Inclusive climate
What role can languages play to set up a inclusive school climate?

Power of the forest
How can you set up a common culture on language education?

Positive settings for learning
Which factors (values, curricula, projects, etc.) have a positive influence on language learning? How can you reinforce them?

Diversity of living
How to preserve and value linguistic diversity?

Enriching the soil
How can you extend the language offer and enrich the linguistic repertoires?

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[1] Begon M., Harper J.L. and Townsend C.R. 1990. *Ecology. Individuals, Populations and Communities*. Blackwell, Cambridge
[2] https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/tree

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