

Evolution not Revolution

**Challenge success and impact in
the Ministry of Education, Spain/
British Council Bilingual Project**

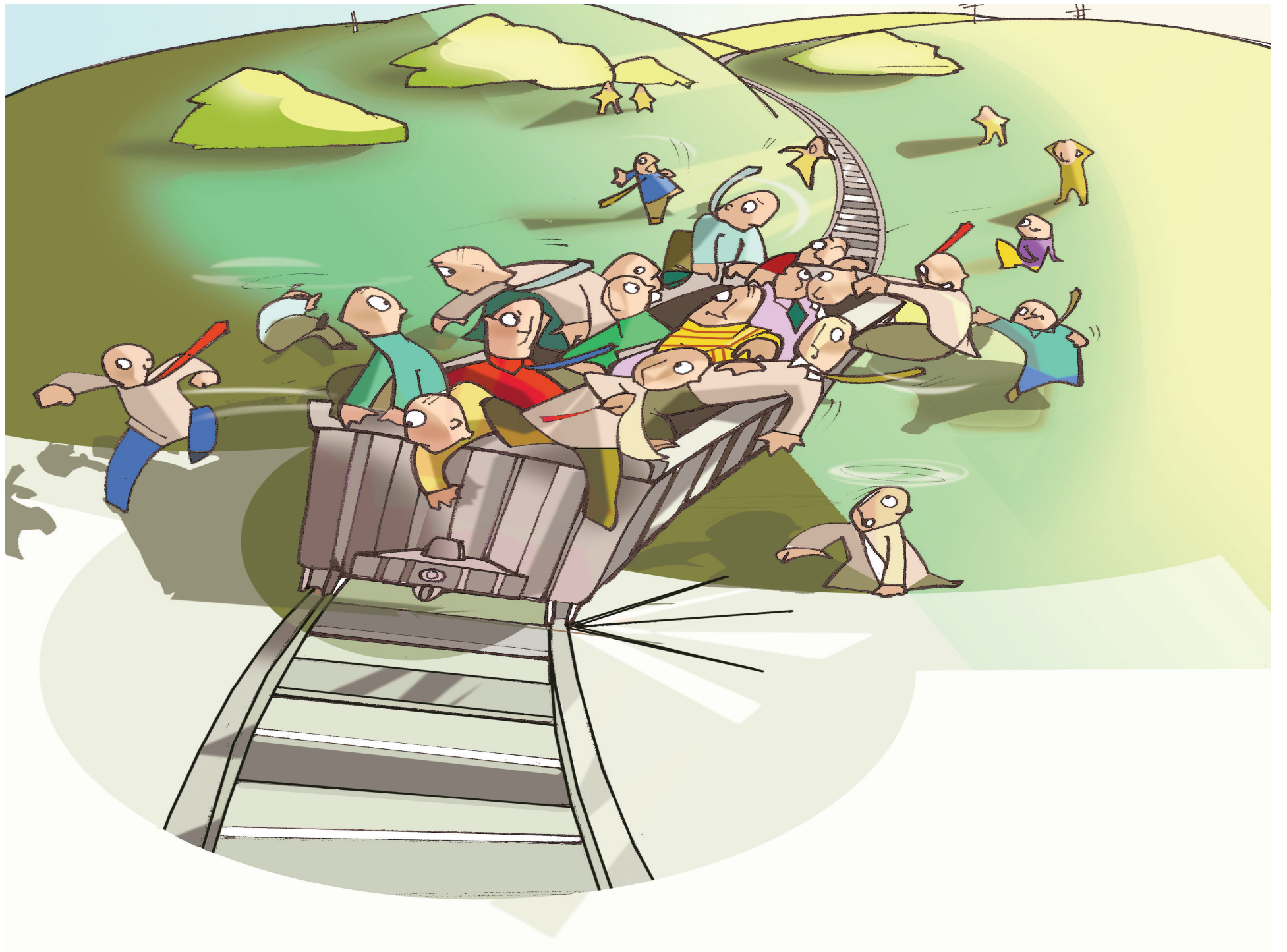
Project – statistical update

September 1996: MEC/ British Council agreement

- 44 state schools
- 44 “special” project teachers
- 1,880 3 & 4 year-olds
- 6-8 sessions per week

September 2011

- 80 Primary schools
- 42 secondary schools
- 40,000 pupils between 3 & 16
- 200 “special” project teachers & more than 1,000 Spanish teachers involved
- 7-10 sessions THROUGH English per week



Features of the project

- Two or more languages present in the curriculum
- Project begins at age three, through to age 16
- Whole school project
- Languages taught through the curriculum: science, art, geography
- Up to 50% of time dedicated to curriculum based teaching in English
- Balance of 4 skills in both/third languages
- Focus on academic competence
- Emphasis on “biliteracy”

Challenges

➤ Political buy-in:

- continuity
- resources and results
- recognition

➤ Immediate stakeholders:

- Schools
- Teachers
- Parents

Tools for Success

- **Integrated Curriculum**
- **Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**
- **Assessment FOR Learning strategy**
- **External Evaluation**

Achievements – Teacher Development

- How can we reach the level of language competence to be able to teach subjects confidently in English?
- How can we teach more effectively in English?
- Where can we find resources & help?
- How do we know it works.. that we're doing the right thing?
- How do we encourage our colleagues to become involved?

CPD: Challenge and Achievement

- Literacy & Language
- Science & Geography
- Study visits to UK
- Focus on assessment for learning
- Curriculum encounters
- Focus on transition
- Focus on continuity, challenge & progression
- Opportunities to participate in teacher development
- Opportunities for learning about classroom observation
- Website management training
- How to develop UK/ Spain projects – contact seminars
- Hand –in –hand magazine
- The curriculum itself

Achievements – Cultural & Educational

- Teachers & pupils exchange visits to set up joint projects – *Give Us back our Planet / Our Grandparents and Us*
- Schools organising 6^o UK visits to schools
- Teachers Forum for sharing practice, resources, concerns
- Secondary: curriculum development - *UN project*
- Re-assessing assessment
- External Evaluation interim report

Observed Benefits

The children show increased:

- **Concentration levels**
- **Lateral thinking skills**
- **Awareness that life is not “black & white”**
- **Independent learning skills**
- **Personal confidence**
- **Ability & willingness to confront a challenge**
- **Knowledge that they are part of an expanding world**

References:

[Bilingual curriculum: infant and primary: undergoing revision and update. Available on-line as from January 2012.](#)

Evaluation report:

www.britishcouncil.org/spain-education-bilingual-project-evaluation.htm

Hand in Hand:

www.britishcouncil.org/spain-education-bilingual-project-hand-in-hand-9

Being Bilingual...

Means I can say and write twice as much!

(Juan, age 9)

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