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# **English-only language policy: The road to provincialism?**

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BENGT-ARNE WICKSTRÖM

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# English-only language policy: The road to provincialism? \*

BENGT-ARNE WICKSTRÖM<sup>†</sup>

## Abstract

In this note we outline various possible long-run effects of an English-only acquisition policy in the European Union. The point of departure is how individual behavior adapts to constraints in the environment. This leads to changes in collective behavior, which becomes part of the environment, again influencing individual behavior. Possible equilibria of this feed-back mechanism are discussed. It is argued that domain loss and diglossia may result. The process is further characterized by external effects. Looking at language knowledge as a merit good, path dependencies and multiple stable equilibria can be explained.

*Keywords:* acquisition planning, adaptive individual behavior, diglossia, domain loss, external effects, language dynamics, language policy, merit good, path dependencies

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<sup>†</sup>Andrássy-Universität Budapest  
Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language” (REAL)  
Email: [bengt-arne.wickstroem@andrassyuni.hu](mailto:bengt-arne.wickstroem@andrassyuni.hu)