

NEWS

Bulletin



Important news

The General Assembly, on 9 December, approved the following new members to the ECSPM-CURUM:

- CDL (Centre for Diversity & Learning), Ghent University, BE
- CEM (Centre of Excellence for Multilingualism and Language Policy) University of Athens, GR
- GEO (Groupe d'Études orientales, slaves et néo-helléniques / Centre for Research in Greek, Slavic, and Oriental Studies), Université de Strasbourg, FR
- GS/FL (Research Group), Katolische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, DE
- LiLPa (linguistique, langue, parole), Université de Strasbourg, FR
- MIRCo (Center of Multilingualism, Discourse and Communication), Autonomous University of Madrid, ES
- MRN (Multilingualism Research Network), University of Cardiff, UK

We welcome them!

The Europa / Funding & Tenders Portal notified us that our organisation has been validated as LEGAL PERSON, PRIVATE, Legal Non Profit, in connection with our partnership to ELE.

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2020 Symposium decisions

Given the expressed interest of the symposium participants, we will be setting up fora for the discussion of:

- School education and multilingual / plurilingual pedagogies
- Advocacy of education policies for multilingualism at supra-state and state level
- preparing teachers for the multilingual turn in education
- Moving toward greater linguistic justice in education and society

Interesting projects for migrants and refugees carried out by our members we will show-cased under the title “Education and practices for the social inclusion of migrants and refugees”

Among other events that we will be organising in 2021, we will be holding a series of online exhibitions, under the title “Multilingualism and the Arts”



Shedding light on the ELE

The European Language Equality project, to which ECSPM has achieved partnership, aims at developing a strategic research, innovation, and implementation agenda, as well as a roadmap to achieve full digital language equality in Europe by 2030 – digital equality for the official, regional, minority and community languages of Europe. The latter stand to gain most from language technologies (LT), tools and resources to be developed, as these are scarce or non-existent for some languages. In fact, today there is a widening technology gap between the ‘big’, well-resourced languages and the ‘small’ under-resourced languages.

As has been pointed out in the [STOA report](#) of the European Parliament, while LT may be a real solution to overcoming language barriers in Europe and its individual member states, it has become evident that the enormous potential LT can offer us remains largely untapped. More than 20 European languages are in danger of digital extinction and several other languages, important for our multilingual societies, have very limited or no LT support. This is due to a number of challenges, the aforementioned report explains, including the fragmentation of the European LT landscape. This problem, however, is on its way to being resolved to a certain extent, given that as of 2020 the [European Language Grid](#) is operational.

The ELE project can help all our languages have a single virtual home. The ECSPM will use all means and human resources available to contribute to the success of the project. **This then is a call for representatives of our members who wish to join our efforts.**

The EC Education Summit

The Summit on “Digital education transformation: Building resilience in the European education area” was an online event introduced by the European Commission (EC) president and Vice-President, involving high level officials from the EC and the European Parliament, as well as Ministers of Education from several Member-States. The Commissioner of DG Education and Culture presided, emphasizing the significance of creating a green, digital ecosystem and a more inclusive education through funding on the basis of a Digital Education Action Plan.

During the event, the significance of creating an integrated, cohesive European Education Area was stressed and it was pointed out that it is of critical importance to develop European university alliances so as to build knowledge ecosystems, with help of the new Erasmus programme, which will be launched in June 2021. In this context our CURUM alliance has a crucial role to play.

The budget cycle of the new Erasmus will span from 2021 to 2027 and the EC has proposed a total programme budget increase to €30 billion. Besides mobility grants, it will cover new research and university alliances, while for the first time it will fund Erasmus Teacher Academies and a European Education Hub.

Even though much concern was expressed about creating educational opportunities for all, in a more inclusive education, there was no mention of languages and linguistic inequalities. It was the ECSPM that put related questions on the table.