



LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL (SUPER)DIVERSITY AT WORK: FROM THEORY AND POLICY TO ACTION AND (DIGITAL) PRACTICES

On the past, present and future of the ECSPM

Prof. Bessie Dendrinou, ECSPM President

What we learnt from our past experience

- To become a *congregation* of organisations and institutions that joins forces and works as a team to define common goals, rather than each unit working to advance its own ambitions
- To develop a bi-annual plan of research and social action, on the basis of a shared understanding of ‘multilingualism’ viewed as does our symposium host (Blommaert 2010:102), “not as a collection of languages that the speaker controls, but rather as a complex of specific semiotic resources, some of which belong to a conventionally defined ‘language’, while others belong to another ‘language’” (the resources being language varieties, genres, modes of communication).
- To make constructive proposals regarding the involvement of each organisation / institution
- To contribute to common projects
- To understand our organisations’s ‘identity’ as a *civil society* and as a *platform* (with declared policies)
- To act as a political action group for interventions at national and supranational levels.


- We have 17 members – most of which are networks – through which we represent about 50 organisations/institutions and about 200 languages (official/national, minority, heritage and community languages)
- We have 4 partners: (a research centre from Ottawa university, a federation of European projects working with multilingual technologies, the ECML, and another European Civil Society: for Education – the Life Long Learning Platform - LLLP) and we are considering partnership with two more – an academic unit in the US and one in Asia.
- Eight (8) of the member institutions (research centres) are also members of the CURUM constituency, and seven (7) more are members-to-be
- As an NGO, we function independently rather than through a mandate from the EC, but we are enrolled in the European Commission Transparency Registry (leaflet)

Actually, their membership was considered at the General Assembly which took place during the days of the symposium, and the ECSPM-CURUM constituency, as of 10 December 2021, has a total of fifteen (15) members.

Important events and actions

- We have an annual symposium, on a theme that is of common concern, hosted by a different member organisation/institution each year and the work presented is documented on our website before and after the event.
- Our members are informed of our actions and interesting events through our news feed, as well as at GAs and ExCom meetings and more recently through our Newsletters.

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- Participated in the 2nd European Education Summit and discussed multilingualism policy priorities of the Commission
 - Participated in the event of the European Parliament Interest Group of LLLP, organized to discuss “Skills for Life, Skills for the Future” with Members of the European Parliament, reps of the European Commission, and the European Council
 - Supported an attempt for a Horizon 2020 grant on “Diversity for educational equality” initiated by an ECSPM/CURUM member
 - Supported the approved by the ECML 2020-2022 project on “Mediation in Teaching, Testing and Assessment”
 - Have began working toward expanding the CURUM
 - The CURUM project of the ECSPM was nominated and we submitted candidacy for the “The Jean Monnet Prize for European Integration”

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- We are participating in the 3rd European Education Summit on “Digital Transformation Education”
 - Through CURUM, we have been forming a research alliance, a communal space for research, so as to contribute to the development of a European Education Area by 2025, taking forward the European Council's mandate, comprising of proposals including the improvement of the teaching/learning of languages to ensure Europeans’ multilingual habitus and awareness raising regarding Europe's shared heritage.
 - We have compiled information about the CURUM members: the centres’ missions, research projects, activities, publications and future plans.
 - We have upgraded and reorganised our website to be jointly apprised, on an ongoing basis.
 - We have become a partner of the European Language Equality project, which involves the development of a strategic agenda and roadmap to develop full digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

- The Thematic Section entitled “Multilingualism in Flux” was proposed by a consortium of ECSPM-CURUM members and accepted as part the International Symposium on “Bilingualism in Flux”, to take place 9-14 July 2021, organised by the University of Warsaw, Poland. Three of our affiliates will speak at this Symposium and others will take part in a Round Table on “Policy and Practice in EMI”
- ECSPM-CURUM members will be collaborating to create an Action Plan (2021-2023) with synergies that will promote dialogue between the CURUM constituents and stimulate creative thinking, innovative teaching and the design of common projects, events, and other activities.
- Links between multilingualism and creativity (the arts) are being encouraged and a call for events will be organised by the ECSPM
- Call for [position papers/statements](#) for online dialogue/debate
- Sharing our news feed and the 4 areas of concentration (EU languages & language policy; Language education & equality; Research and project work; Multilingualism and digital technology)
- Sharing ideas for online resources for courses on multilingualism
- Announcing the 2021 Symposium to be hosted by the University of Konstanz, Germany.

Through the languages represented in this symposium...

Bedankt en welkom

Ευχαριστούμε και καλώς ήλθατε

Grazie e benvenuto

Gracias y bienvenida

Merci et bienvenue

Danke und willkommen

Köszönöm és üdvözlöm

Thank you and welcome

Obrigado e bem-vindo

хвала и добродошли

Благодаря ви и добре дошли

Þakka þér fyrir og vertu velkomin

Gràcies i benvinguts

Diolch a chroeso

Takk og velkommen

Go raibh maith agat agus fáilte