Panel 2: Multilingual policies and practices of European university alliances

*Is multilingualism a commitment in the CIVIS alliance?*

Kia Karavas, Associate Professor, NKUA Departmental representative of CIVIS
CIVIS: European Civic University

formed by the alliance of nine leading research higher education institutions across Europe:

- Aix Marseille Université (France),
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece),
- Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium),
- Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (Spain),
- Stockholms Universitet (Sweden),
- Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany),
- Sapienza Università di Roma (Italia),
- University of Bucharest (Romania),
- University of Glasgow (UK)

Mission

“CIVIS aims to create a truly unique European interuniversity campus where students, academics, researchers and staff will move and collaborate as freely as within their institution of origin. We will develop a deep level of European integration, involving joint learning pathways, development of complementary research facilities and diverse degree pathways. CIVIS will unite efforts and experiences to develop a European University with strong links to its local social and geographical environment and an orientation toward global challenges. It will contribute to the social, cultural and economic dynamism at both a local and global scale”.
Phases of implementation

2019-2022
“CIVIS Fabric” to test, evaluate and adjust the different dimensions of the alliance. During the third year, an overall assessment will take place to plan the next phase of the joint construction.

2022-2025
CIVIS construction.

2025-2030
CIVIS consolidation.

Goals

- sharing a long-term strategy on education, research, and innovation
- creating a European inter-university campus
- designing new pedagogical and mobility models
- improving social inclusiveness and geographical balance
- preparing new generations to future changes with ambitious and European recognised joint educational programmes at BA, MA and PhD level
- developing research and innovative projects in response to local, regional and global challenges
- increasing student mobility: 10% by 2022, 50% by 2025
- becoming a legal entity by 2022; participative, inclusive, civic university by 2030
CIVIS HUBS

CIVIS Hubs will support academics and involve respective staff, faculty and researchers of the 9 member universities to work in multidisciplinary teams to develop joint degrees, educational programs and research projects, using innovative pedagogies.

CIVIS Hubs are “academic collaboration spaces” to develop multinational and multidisciplinary educational and research efforts.

Proposed activities can, for example, include courses, summer schools, workshops, semesters, project supervision and research exchanges. The activities could include training & research projects with students as well as workshops/meetings of academic staff to develop future joint activities.

During the first phase of the CIVIS Alliance, Hubs will be developing a network of collaborations, which will be strategized during the consolidation.

Health

Cities, Territories, Mobility

Climate Environment Energy

Digital & Technological Transformations

Society, Culture, Heritage
CIVIS and Multilingualism

The goal

“With seven major languages spoken in the alliance and English as lingua franca, CIVIS will invest in linguistic diversity, a key issue in the globalization process. We set the objective for ourselves to enable by 2025 most of our students, researchers and staff to master at least two foreign languages beside their mother tongue after completing their training at a CIVIS university. To achieve this goal, the alliance will develop a multidisciplinary methodology and use innovative pedagogies and frontline technologies. In parallel, CIVIS will train its mobile students and researchers in order to secure their fluency in the native language of the country they are moving to. Through these linguistic exchanges, we will encourage cultural exchanges and the promotion of both our specificities and the values that bring us together.”

The reality

Most of the CIVIS Universities are francophone

English is considered a lingua franca and most joint activities (courses, summer schools, e-lectures, workshops etc.) on offer are in English
Actions for the promotion of multilingualism

Addressed to students and administrative staff

The Department of Language Education of Stockholm University organises Language Cafe sessions where students and university staff from a CIVIS member university get the opportunity to practise languages in an informal setting, together with other students and native speakers.

Addressed to academic and research staff

The Universidad Autonoma de Madrid is organising an online Language Teaching Staff Training Week. The Training Week will help map the different language levels taught across CIVIS universities in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, and it will provide a space to share expertise and best practice among the academic staff that belong to the network.
Scholars from four CIVIS universities involved in interdisciplinary research on multilingualism and language policy, wishing to stimulate interest in this area to foster collaborative projects, to develop joint undergraduate courses and postgraduate programmes and to engage in collective action leading to an alternative ethos of communication within the consortium. The scholars involved in the development of this proposal are specialists in the social, cultural, educational and/or political dimensions of multilingualism.

Our motivations are:

- To consolidate a synergic network that brings together colleagues from the different CIVIS universities who, so far, have been working in the field in an atomized way, to co-create knowledge on multilingualism and language policies with CIVIS students and to disseminate it within the consortium.
- To bring to the fore the role of language and language policies in educational, social, cultural and political processes, in order to raise awareness among all members of the university community and to advance policy recommendations for an increasingly multilingual CIVIS.
- To make visible the linguistic diversity of the CIVIS community by turning CIVIS students and staff into active agents of their linguistic heritage / environment and fostering learning with hands-on activities inspired by citizen science.

The Universidad Autonoma de Madrid is the leading institution in this initiative which is included in the Society, Culture, Heritage HUB.
CMN- Who we are

*Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM):*
- Professor Luisa Martín Rojo, Department of Linguistics, Head of the Research Centre in Multilingualism, Discourse & Communication (MIRCO)
- Associate Professor Clara Molina, English Philology Department
- Associate Professor Ana Llinares, English Philology Department
- Visiting lecturer Anna Tudela, Department of Linguistics

*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA):*
- Professor Emerita Bessie Dendrinos, RCeL Director Head of Centre for Excellence for Multilingualism and Language Policy
- Professor Rea Delveroudi, Department of French Language and Literature, School of Philosophy
- Associate Professor Evdokia Karava, Department of English Language and Literature, School of Philosophy

*Stockholm University (SU):*
- Professor Christina Hedman, Department of Language Education

*University of Glasgow (GU):*
- Professor Bernadette O’Rourke, Sociolinguistics and Hispanic Studies, School of Modern Language and Cultures
CIVIS Multilingualism Network (CMN): Planned activities

**Online Multilingualism and Language Policy Workshop**

*October 2021 to May 2022* - the first of an online workshop series open to students and junior researchers, lecturers, professors and professional staff from (or associated to) CIVIS universities

**Aims:**
(i) raise awareness about the relevance of multilingualism and its implications, (ii) promote self-learning of innovative techniques for the acquisition of introductory theoretical, methodological and analytical disciplinary knowledge; (iii) focus on the locus of teaching/learning on the academic and campus life of students; (iv) make visible all the languages used by the CIVIS community -- including students’ heritage languages.

**Developing a strategic agenda**

**A face-to-face meeting (June 2022)** with three main objectives 1) to engage in effective internal evaluation of our initiative for improvement of similar actions in future; 2) to set an agenda for developing in the close future joint study programmes, research projects and dissemination actions 3) to develop language policy recommendations, based on the collected images posted in the collective map of CIVIS campuses, and on the exchanges and debates carried out during the workshop series.

**MA Multilingualism and Language Policy in the European Context**

**2 year joint international master's program** - (120 ECTS) a partnership among 4 universities within the CIVIS alliance: UAM, AMU, SU, ULB and NKUA. The MA focuses on multilingualism and policy development in society and education in a transdisciplinary fashion but, more importantly, we hope that multilingualism will be a central part of the programme itself – in communication among students and staff, and in the use of languages for the building of knowledge. As a result of intense activity during the 2020-2021 academic year, the academic outline of the MA program is mostly complete.
THANK YOU