



European Multilingualism as an enabler & FOREU Subgroup on Multilingualism

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EPiCUR
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

Anouk Tso, Director of International Affairs,
University of Amsterdam (UvA)

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The EPICUR Alliance

8 pioneers

Adam-Mickiewicz University of Poznań
(Poland)

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Austria)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany)

University of Haute-Alsace (France)

University of Freiburg (Germany)

University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

University of Strasbourg (France)



307,000

STUDENTS

40,000

STAFF, INCLUDING
21,000 ACADEMIC
STAFF/
RESEARCHERS

118

FACULTIES

156

RESEARCH
GROUPS



WHY: EPICUR's focus on European languages | Backdrop in 2019

Political and societal context

- Achieving the EC ambition that future generations of Europeans will speak at least two European languages in addition to their mother tongue
- Language governance subject to heated debates in European countries

Academic context at EPICUR universities

- Viability and sustainability of Modern Language Programmes challenged
- Improving accessibility to higher education for young, talented Europeans



Fostering Multilingualism & Inclusive Governance | original aims

WHAT: Middle-long term goal

- Creating a **joint vision** and **approach** concerning multilingualism and language training in an academic context for EPICUR

Language & Culture offerings

- Pilots European Languages & Cultures
- Learning Pathways for European Languages
- Novel Mobility Strategy for Languages
- Creating Incentives for Learning Languages
- Language Support: Tandem training

Model Language Policy

- EPICUR Statement on Multilingualism
- Letter of Intent on Language Policy
- Model Language Policy Framework
- 4 Institutional pilots Language Policy
- Language-related Admissions Criteria

European Language Offerings | Roadmap & Results to date

Spring 2020: Mapping Exercise European Language & Culture Programmes

Completed: wealth of offerings across EPICUR partner institutions

Main question: where can we add value at the level of the alliance?



Spring 2021: EPICUR Language & Culture Spring Semester pilot

Now running: three pilots in European Languages & Cultures

Main goal: create proof-of-principle for EPICUR language & culture mobilities



Academic Year 2021-2022: Testing Learning Pathways for Languages as new mobility formats

Ultimate goal: consolidate European Language & Culture pilots into Mobility Strategy

DELIVERED 1
YEAR AHEAD!

OPPORTUNITY
TO IMPROVE!

Thematic focus EPICUR pilots

Scoping criteria for set-up of first pilot run:

- 1) Courses from language programmes in the **EPICUR languages** (Modern Greek, Polish, French, German and Dutch)
- 2) Programmes with a **regional European focus** either including EPICUR Language(s) and/or building on long-standing collaborations between EPICUR partners
- 3) *Collaboration between the **Language Centres** based at EPICUR universities (for Academic Year 2021-2022)*



Modern Greek



Nordic languages



Slavonic languages





Academic Year 2021-2022

Language &
Culture
Learning Pathways

Learning Pathways: Context & Guiding Principles

+ New strand
'language learning for mobility'

Context – EPICUR and the surrounding landscape

- **Bottom-up:** we gained insight into student interests and demands
- **Top-down:** we know the broad strokes of the EUI full-roll out phase

Guiding principles

- **Student-friendliness**
- **Expanding & enhancing the learning options**
- **Competency-based**, with a view to micro-credentialing

Testing 3 approaches across 3 pilots

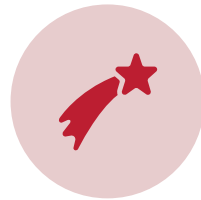
- *Accumulating* language skills – **Modern Greek**
- *Geographical:* pursuing the (sub)regional approach – **Slavonic languages**
- *Thematic immersion:* deepening the academic stock of knowledge – **Nordic languages**



Languages & Cultures | Academic Year '21-'22 | Key Figures



8 Modular Learning Pathways



3 pilots & 1 experimental strand



7 EPICUR universities offering courses



Collaborative teaching in different forms



Co-creation with students, lecturers and staff



Fully deploying the EPICUR Inter-University Campus



Model Language Policy | Roadmap & Results

June 2020: Commitment by all EPICUR partners on foundation for Language Policy

Completed: Statement on Multilingualism & Letter of Intent on Model Language Policy Signed

Next step: Defining the Main Components of a model Language Policy for universities and alliances



December 2020: EPICUR Model Language Policy as enabler for institutional transformation

Completed: Model Language Policy approved and available to all EPICUR partners

Next step: Set-up of 4 parallel institutional pilots for testing the Model Language Policy at institutional level



Academic Year 2021-2022: laying the foundation for systemic impact at European level

Next steps: Public launch of the Language Policy & continuous improvement of the model

Spill-over: Interest shown by other alliances to test the Model Language Policy at alliance level

EPICUR European Model Language Policy

Two levels

Institutional level

European Universities alliance level

Four core areas

Teaching & Learning

Research

Governance

Communication

Three components

Must-haves

Decision-making

Modular options

Flexibility and differentiation are key

Includes recommendations for implementation and examples based on decision-making processes such as main language(s) used, governance issues, language(s) of instruction and communication issues

FOREU

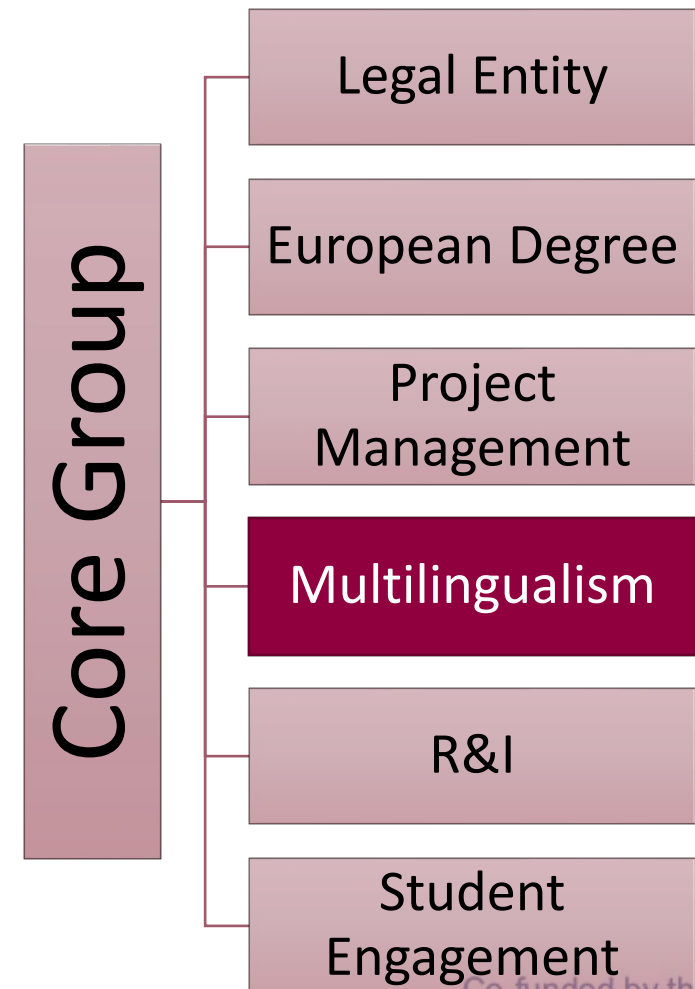
SUBGROUP ON MULTILINGUALISM



Forum of European Universities

Established by the 17 alliances of the 1st generation, the Forum is an **informal** group, established to work together where of added value, e.g. to:

- **Share** information
- **Benchmark** the process of our projects
- **Collaborate** on project activities
- **Monitor** the process of the initiative as a whole
- **Join lobby efforts** and coordinate lobby at the European and national level



FOREU Subgroup on Multilingualism

Subgroup composition: 14 alliances, co-chaired by EPICUR & FORTHEM

Focus: Language-related themes and challenges of first-generation European Universities Alliances

Main converging thematic areas

- Language teaching & learning: course offerings at European level
- Language support: sharing good practices
- Language policy and advocacy
- Communication, promotion and dissemination in a multilingual fashion

Summary & Concluding Statements

EPICUR

- ...successfully **developed** new Learning Pathways for European languages
- ... and hence, deploys **multilingualism** as **enabler for mobility**
- ...created **a Model Language Policy Model** for universities and alliances
- ...and hence, offers a **language policy** as **enabler for inclusive governance**

European Universities alliances in FOREU

- ...are **promoting European multilingualism** in a variety of ways
- ... should **create more visibility** for multilingualism as **key enabler**



Be EPICURious!

EPICUR European University website

<https://epicur.education/>

EPICUR Learning Pathways Course Catalogue

<https://register.epicur.auth.gr/assets/courses/catalogue/>

