European Multilingualism as an enabler & FOREU Subgroup on Multilingualism

ECSPM Symposium
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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

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union
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

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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)
### Learning Pathways: Context & Guiding Principles

#### 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**

+ New strand ‘language learning for mobility’
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 MULTILINGALISM
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/