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# **MULTILINGUALISM AND DISCIPLINARY TEACHING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG**

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**I. THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG'S  
COMMITMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.  
POLICY, FIGURES AND ACTIONS**

- Strategic orientation document adopted in January 2020 entitled *University of Strasbourg 2030*
- Official document published in 2020, entitled *International Relations at Université de Strasbourg*

## ***I. THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG'S COMMITMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. POLICY, FIGURES AND ACTIONS***

- 735 partner institutions in 75 countries all around the world.
- Member of major European and global research and education networks.
- 20 % international students from 156 European and non-European countries.
- 123 International partnership degrees
- Founding member of EUCOR- The European Campus and the European University EPICUR.
- 26 overseas training programs in 10 countries.
- 12 short term programs per year

## **II. THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM**

- **1480 disciplinary courses** taught in foreign languages
- **560 foreign language courses**
- 31% of Faculties/Schools/Institutes offer **both** disciplinary courses **taught in foreign languages** and **foreign language courses**
- 38% of Faculties/Schools/Institutes offer disciplinary courses **taught in foreign languages**
- 22% of Faculties/Schools/Institutes offer **foreign language courses**;
- 9% Faculties/Schools/Institutes do not offer disciplinary courses taught in foreign languages or foreign language courses.

## **II. THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM**

### **a. 1480 disciplinary courses in foreign language**

- **Languages, other than French, chosen for disciplinary courses are:**

English 77% in three disciplinary fields

German 10% in three disciplinary fields

Spanish 3% in one disciplinary field

Italian 2%, Arabic 0,6 %, Turkish 0,5%, Portuguese 0,5%,

Greek, 0,4 %, Japanese 0,3% , Russian 0,2% , Hebrew 0,15% in one disciplinary field

## ***II. THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM***

### **b. 35 International degrees built independently of formalized partnership agreements**

- 22 International degrees (bachelor's, master's, or equivalent degrees)
- 11 university degrees
- 1 trilingual Bachelor's Degree Languages and cross-cultural studies
- 1 bilingual Bachelor's Degree of applied foreign languages.

## **II. THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF MULTILINGUALISM**

### **c. International Partnership degrees and programs : double and multiple degrees, overseas degrees, short term programs**

- 123 International partnership degrees: 83 Social Sciences and Humanities; 39 Sciences and Technologies; 1 Life Sciences.
  - 39 Franco-German double/multiple bachelor's and master's degrees
  - 2 Erasmus Mundus master's degrees
  - 82 Other double or multiple degrees
- Overseas training programs
- Short term programs

### **III. REMARKS ON THE LANGUAGES' CHOICE FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF DISCIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE**

- *Franco-German degrees*, both German and French are used as languages of instruction. English is used as a third language of instruction.
- In *double or multiple degrees other than Franco-German ones*, partners' languages, often belonging to lesser taught languages, are used in combination with French.
- *Erasmus Mundus master degrees* are offered both in English (Euroculture) or in French (CLE) and in the partner's languages (often lesser used languages)



### III. REMARKS ON THE LANGUAGES' CHOICE FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF DISCIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

- **French** refers both to its status as the official language of a French university and to its international dimension (francophonie)
- **German** a singular status as a language “anchored in a regional, cross-border and, at most, European context” (Bothorel & Tsamadou-Jacobberger: 2009; 2013).
- **English** refers to its international and global status, its status as the world language with its associated representations of functionality, modernity, large communicative value, as well as *lingua franca/lingua academica*.

## IV. AN EXPLICIT LANGUAGE POLICY TO BUILD UP THE TRANSMISSION OF DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### Recent sociolinguistic research

- rethinking the concepts of *multilingualism*, *lingua franca/lingua academica*
- “an institutional language policy which can work with the complexity and diversity of languages” (Berthoud A.-C. & Gajo L, 2020: 113)
- “*multilingualism* is not viewed in terms of separate languages, but rather in terms of linguistic resources and interacting speakers’ repertoires” (Weber J.-J. & Horner K. 2013; Beacco J.-C. 2019)
- “developing multilingualism does not simply mean adding a global language to the initial repertoire of students, teachers and researchers.”
- A multilingual model where “(...) *monolingual and multilingual strategies are no longer to be seen in terms of contrast but as a continuum, on a scale from the most monolingual to the most multilingual, and the ‘lingua franca’ can be seen as a special case of multilingualism*” (Berthoud A.-C. & Gajo L., 2020: 119)

## ***IV. AN EXPLICIT LANGUAGE POLICY TO BUILD UP THE TRANSMISSION OF DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES***

### **PROPOSALS**

**I. Setting up working groups** to raise awareness on communicative and cognitive languages' functions in relation to different disciplines as well as on their impact on the creation, transmission and reception of disciplinary knowledge.

**II. Organizing surveys,** in particular through 'participant observation' to identify approaches concerning multilingualism models.

**III. Creating experimental tailor-made courses and programs** to valorize the linguistic repertoires of Strasbourg university students and professors, including both widely as well as lesser taught languages.

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**Thank you for your attention!**