

## General Assembly 2019 Minutes

The General Assembly (GA) in Reading, based on an agenda which was sent to ECSPM members prior to 21 and 22 March. The member organisations and prospective member organisation represented were the following:

- ALTE: Association of Language Testers in Europe represented by Graham Seed
- Babylon, Centre for the Study of Superdiversity of the University of Tilburg represented by Max Spotti
- Cambridge Language Sciences (prospective member organisation) represented by Linda Fischer
- CeLM: Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism, University of Reading represented by Ludovica Serratrice
- Centre for Greek and Multilingualism of the University of Thessaly represented by George Androulakis
- EDiLiC: Éducation et Diversité Linguistique et Culturelle (prospective member organisation) represented by Andrea Young
- EFNIL: European Federation of National Institutions for Language represented by Julia Vrablova
- EFNIL: European Federation of National Institutions for Language represented by Bessie Dendrinis
- European Artists' Rights represented by Guðrún Gísladóttir
- ICC (prospective member organisation): The International Language Association represented by Ellinor Haase
- The Multilingualism Centre, Department of German Linguistics, University of Tübingen represented by Tanja Rinker
- CCERBAL, Canadian Centre for Studies and Research in Bilingualism and Language Planning (prospective partner organisation) represented by Nikolay Slavkov

The issues listed below were discussed at the end of the first day of the symposium, 21 March, from 17.00-19.00, and at the end of the second day of the symposium, 22 March, from 18.00-20.00.

While the main issue discussed on both days was to consider developing a mediation project proposal, the members were also informed about the ECSPM's recent activities, which were later recorded in the 2019 ECSPM Newsletter:

1. Participation in the European Education Summit in the context of which the multilingualism policy priorities of were discussed.
2. Participation in the event of the European Parliament Interest Group of the ECSPM Partner organisation "Lifelong learning European Civil Society for Education". The event was organized to discuss "Skills for Life, Skills for the Future" with Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, Finnish Presidency of the European Council, and stakeholders from all sectors of education, training and beyond.
3. Interview about the ECSPM at the European Parliament, where an event organized by the Directorate General of Translation commemorated the 2019 European Day of Languages and International Translation Day.

4. Supporting Horizon 2020 project on “Diversity for educational equality: Integration of children who recently migrated to Europe by boosting family literacy, multilingualism, gender and cultural identities” initiated by an ECSPM/CURUM member.
5. Supporting the approved by the ECML 2020-2013 project on “Mediation in Teaching, Learning and Assessment”.
6. Developing the CURUM constituency as a project of the ECSPM, in line with the Commission’s plans to build a European Education Area by 2025, and the collaboration of European universities (aiming at funding by Erasmus+).
7. The CURUM project of the ECSPM has been nominated and we submitted candidacy for the “The Jean Monnet Prize for European Integration”.
8. Considering focusing on:
  - Life-long learning of languages and multiliteracies education – with a special interest in new technologies
  - Multimodal communication – with special interest in verbal and visual expression
  - The development of a plurilingual habitus through plurilingual pedagogies – with a special interest in cross- lingual mediation
  - Social practices and attitudes with different national, regional, minority and community languages
  - Translation of texts of a variety of genres and discourses and automatic translation
  - Multilingual technologies in education, society, personal communication.
9. Two new university centres having shown interest in joining the ECSPM, Jönköping (Sweden) and Ghent (Belgium).
10. Appraisal of the ECSPM annual symposia so far and exploring the possibility of setting up discussion for a.
11. The theme of the symposium has inspired pursuit of doing an edited collection on linguistic mediation. The president, Emerita Professor Bessie Dendrinou promised to write a draft proposal to send to the symposium participants and submit it to Routledge and Multilingual Matters.
12. Discussion regarding the venue of the 2021 symposium. The Babylon Centre for Superdiversity of the University of Tilburg has been proposed as a host and Dr Max Spotti reported that he had conferred with Prof. Jan Blommaert, Director of the Centre, and that the answer is positive.
13. The theme of the symposium is proposed to be Multilingualism and digitalisation. The exact title and when the symposium will be held will be decided with the hosting institution at a later date.
14. Discussion on the language policy work that the member institutions are drafting
15. Discussion on how each of the member organisations can help to make the ECSPM more visible in the European Commission, educational institutions and the civil society concerned with languages and multilingualism.

ECSPM General Secretary  
Guðrún Gísladóttir

ECSPM President  
Bessie Dendrinou (Vasiliki Dendrinou)