STATUTES OF THE EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM FOR MULTILINGUALISM

ARTICLE 1: NAME, PLACE, DURATION, AND LEGAL STATUS

1.1 A European non-profit organisation is established. The name is: "The European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism" or "ECSPM" in its abbreviated form.

1.2 This organisation moves beyond the work started by the "Civil Society Platform to Promote Multilingualism" which was launched by the European Commission, with the support of the Directorate of Education and Culture in 2009, and re-launched in 2012, involving 29 European networks working to support languages and/or organisations that were mandated to work together to develop: (a) coherent plans to raise Europeans' awareness regarding the value of and the opportunities that Europe's linguistic diversity provides, (b) effective strategies which might make it possible for Europeans to learn at least two languages in addition to their mother tongue, starting from an early age, and (c) proposals with which to facilitate the mainstreaming of multilingualism in relevant programmes and policies of the European Union.

1.3 The organisation's registered office is established in Denmark: Lyngbyvej 32D, 2.t.h., DK-2100 Copenhagen. Therefore, the procedures, responsibilities, and rules of the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (henceforth ECSPM) shall be interpreted under Danish Law. If the ECSPM office is transferred to another address in Denmark, the members are notified, and the new address is announced on the ECSPM website. If it is relocated to another jurisdiction, ECSPM procedures must be reviewed and made amenable to the law in the new jurisdiction.

1.4 The ECSPM is an independent international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation, which is registered according to Danish Law: Registration No. CVR 37116866 and its Statutes are published on the ECSPM website.

ARTICLE 2: AIM

The ECSPM aspires to be a strong voice of Europe's civil society promoting research-based language policies in education and advocating multilingualism in all aspects of social life by way of focusing on people, on their ability to use a variety of semiotic resources to access knowledge, social and cultural information, to participate as active citizens in Europe, shaping its making, to benefit from better communication, wider employment and study opportunities.

Understanding that languages are among Europe's most important assets, given that they are an integral part of identity and the most direct expression of culture, multilingualism is viewed by the ECSPM as a prerequisite for European integration and conviviality. It is also viewed as particularly important for Europe's socioeconomic development and participatory citizenry, for quality education, for mobility and employability in the EU and beyond.

The ECSPM is envisaged as a platform for social action but also for research-based discussions, the drafting of language and language education policy documents, the development of research proposals and the execution of project work in groups composed of people with shared interests and expertise.

Having functioned in the past in an advisory capacity to the European Commission, and especially to the Directorate General of Education and Culture, it intends to continue offering its advice to DG EAC, but will also be in communication with other Directorates of the European Commission, and especially DG of Translation, DG for Communication Networks, Content & Technology, DG for Informatics, DG of Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, to ensure that Europe's linguistic and cultural wealth is viewed and treated as an asset for Europe, that research in related fields is funded and that education for plurilingual and intercultural competences is available for everyone.

ARTICLE 3: MISSION STATEMENT

3.1 The ECSPM is a coalition of institutions collaborating:

3.1.1 to support the official, regional, minority, and heritage languages spoken in Europe,

3.1.2 to encourage the learning of languages at all levels of education, advocating learners' right to use their mother tongue in educational institutions and to acquire literacies in their own plus in additional languages, as well as promote language learning as a life-long learning project,

3.1.3 to conduct scholarly and action research, language (education) policies, practices of/for multilingualism and plurilingual pedagogies, making possible the cooperation between European, national, and inter-/transnational institutions which view multilingualism as an asset for European political, economic, social, and cultural development, as well as a facilitator for intellectual growth, social, and personal development,

3.1.4 to raise further awareness, collect data on Europe's linguistic resources (digital and non-digital), and facilitate intercultural dialogue. It will continue drafting policy documents with which to advise the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and individual European countries, providing counsel on how to implement relevant policies effectively.

ARTICLE 4: ROLES AND ACTIVITIES

4.1 The ECSPM sets out:

4.1.1 to enter into dialogue with European institutions in order to ensure that the principles of multilingualism and the interest in the work carried out by ECSPM members and partners are taken into account,

4.1.2 to promote the organisation's forum discussions and research by ECSPM members and partners and encourage joint projects,

4.1.3 to provide members and partners with information relating to their area of interest and activity, but also to provide other European institutions and social groups with information and news about the activities of the ECSPM as a whole and of its individual members,

4.1.4 to organise or partner with conferences, seminars, or symposia on key thematic topics that are of interest to ECSPM's members and partners,

4.1.5 to oversee the promotion of relevant research and practices taking place in Europe and internationally,

4.1.6 to ensure that the role of multiple language acquisition, as well as the role of plurilingual and intercultural competences are recognised as fundamental for international relations academic studies, employment, social mobility, and social cohesion in a Europe that understands that its pluralistic societies are likely to prosper best when tolerance, solidarity and comradeship are cultivated and when people from diverse linguistic, social, and cultural backgrounds are integrated,

4.1.7 engage in activities which serve the purposes of the ECSPM, conveying its viewpoints to European organizations, institutions, and countries.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERS

5.1 The ECSPM, open to non-governmental bodies of civil society only, is comprised of networks, federations, platforms, and organisations concerned with the promotion of the official, minority, regional and heritage languages spoken in the EU; intercultural dialogue through translation, literature and the arts in general; bi-/multilingualism in education and society at large, as well language teaching, learning, testing and assessment.

5.2 It is also made up of a cluster of research units at universities and academies in Europe

and beyond, each one of which is active in carrying out research and various types of projects that offer opportunities for researchers, educators, and practitioners in different areas of language studies and communication to collaborate for the benefit of society. These units make up a distinct constituency of the ECSPM, known as CURUM – an abbreviation of "cluster of university units for research into multilingualism", as described in detail in Article 6 of this document

5.3 Membership is open to all European and international organisations actively working to: (a) advocate a more inclusive language policy in Europe; (b) manage the linguistic diversity of the EU and member states; European countries; (c) promote multilingualism and plurilingualism in educational and other social institutions, as well as in the public space, the arts and the media; (d) support human translation in all languages spoken in the European countries; (e) encourage research into bi-, tri-, and multilingualism; e) develop language technology tools and applications as they are imminently important for European (digital) language equality.

5.4 Members must meet the following criteria:

5.4.1 They must be made up of and/or be working for the benefit of European (and non-European) countries or socialgroups, not for the benefit of natural persons

5.4.2 They must carry out non-profit-making activities

5.4.3 They must be structured according to the principles of democratic governance

5.4.4 They must be engaged in furthering the public interest, contributing to process of a multilingual communication in education, the arts, cultural life and/or the public sphere; contributing to furthering the cause of multilingualism and language learning in formal and informal education; to the development of intercultural and plurilingual competences, as well as in facilitating the process of conveying the needs of the population, and taking these needs into consideration.

5.5 Rights and obligations of members:

5.5.1 They may determine the ECSPM's priorities and courses of action, while they may also contribute towards its activities on a permanent basis,

5.5.2 they must nominate a representative, a natural person, who shall be the "contact" point with the "Executive Committee" (henceforth ExCom) and the other members of the ECSPM, and it is the representatives' responsibility to keep their organisation informed about the work of the ECSPM and to request that, where possible and appropriate, their organisation becomes engaged in research and project work carried out by the ECSPM or by its members and partners through involving people who are qualified for each task. Where applicable, any change in representative must also be brought to the attention of the Secretariat as soon as possible,

5.5.3 they shall be informed on a regular basis of the activities underway and be invited to involve qualified people to take part in ECSPM activities.

5.6 Resignation–Exclusion of a member:

5.6.1 Any member may decide to withdraw from the organisation with immediate effect provided that the Secretariat has been notified of the resignation,

5.6.2 Any member that contravenes or is no longer consistent with the provisions of the statutes or that acts in such a way that is detrimental to the organisation or its members may be excluded from the organization on the basis of a majority vote of the annual or an extraordinary General Assembly.

5.7 Membership fees:

5.7.1 The amount of the annual contribution made by members is determined annually, on the basis of the cost for the maintenance and further development of the ECSPM website, as

well as of the planning and execution of various activities that the ECSPM undertakes, upon approval of the General Assembly.

5.7.2 The general secretary keeps a record of all expenditure and informs the ExCom regularly. S/he also handles the organisation's bank account, always consulting the president about each transaction.

ARTICLE 6: THE CURUM

Honouring the interrelationship between civil society and the academic community, the ECSPM has made possible the generation of a **C**luster of **U**niversity **R**esearch **U**nits focusing on **M**ultilingualism (CURUM) and issues related to linguistic and cultural diversity in social life and social institutions, including education.

The CURUM is a dynamic alliance which serves the purpose of creating a communal space for scholarly work by research units at universities and academies in Europe and beyond, each one of which is active in carrying out research projects and various type of exciting endeavors which offer a platform for researchers, educators and practitioners in the wider field of bi-/multilingualism, in language and discourse studies. It brings together research related to many different areas regarding language and society/culture, language and the mind/cognition, language education, language and the media.

Under the aegis of ECSPM, which aims to strengthen the European Education Area and provide support to the activities each unit performs on its own, CURUM units can collaborate on project work, collection of data on issues of common concern, share research methodologies and outcomes, organize common academic and social events, and to take joint action for evidence-based language and language education policies. Together, with the sponsorship of the ECSPM, CURUM members can provide advice to institutions on a European and national level and offer counsel on policy implementation.

Building a European Education Area is a target shared with the European Commission, which is taking initiatives so that the first decisive steps to reinforce the cultural dimension of the European Union will have been made, while monitoring educational attainment cross-nationally. These steps take forward the European Council's mandate, comprising of proposals including the improvement of the teaching/learning of languages to ensure Europeans' multilingual habitus and awareness-raising regarding Europe's shared heritage. The mandate also highlights the importance of collaborative work in the academic sector by networks of existing universities to boost cross-border cooperation through long-term institutional strategies.

ARTICLE 7: PARTNERS

7.1 The members may decide with a majority vote to sign a partnership agreement with European, national or international organisations, which are not members of the ECSPM. The motion is brought forth to or by the ExCom.

7.2 The partnership agreement may be signed with an organisation which is concerned with language issues and the promotion of multilingualism, even though these may not be their principal fields of activity. This organisation must share the basic aims and objectives of the ECSPM and demonstrate its commitment to the organisation.

7.3 The partnership agreement may be temporary and signed for a specified period, after which the partnership will either be renewed or automatically lapse. Alternatively, it may be signed as a permanent partnership, announced on the ECSPM website. In either case, the members may decide with a two thirds majority vote to terminate a permanent or temporary partnership agreement if they consider that the agreement is not being respected by the partner. If the partnership is terminated, the partner organisation shall receive notification

in writing and will have the right of reply.

7.4 Rights and obligations of partners

7.4.1 Partners may suggest courses of action, projects, events, and they contribute to them,

7.4.2 it is suggested that they nominate one or two representatives, natural persons, who function as "contact" points with the ExCom and the other members of the ECSPM, and it is their responsibility to keep their own institution informed about the work of the ECSMP and to request that their institution becomes engaged in research and project work carried out by the ECSPM by involving individual members who are qualified for each task. Where applicable, any change in representative must also be brought to the attention of the General Secretary as soon as possible,

7.4.3 partners are informed on a regular basis of the activities underway and are invited to involve qualified people to take part in ECSPM activities.

ARTICLE 8: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8.1 The organisation's Executive Committee (ExCom) has a consultancy and advisory role, it assists in daily administration of the organisation, and facilitates the implementation of the decisions made by the General Assembly. It is equipped with all of the powers that do not fall within the sphere of competence of the General Assembly, and it represents the organisation in administrative, financial, judicial and extra judicial acts.

8.2 The ExCom is made up of a minimum of five (5) individuals who represent ECSPM members. They are nominated by members and partners, on the basis of what they have offered the organization in the past years and they are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term on the basis of a majority vote. All or some of these administrators may be re-elected for another three-year term, but after six years of term no one has the right to run for office again, unless the General Assembly makes a special motion to this effect.

8.3 The ExCom fellows occupy the positions of President, ExCom member and General Secretary who is also in charge of the organisation's finances. If funding becomes available through project work, donations, etc., and there is a need for the position of Treasurer, the General Assembly decides whether (a) to select a member of the ExCom to take on this role, or (b) to elect or hire a new administrator. It is noted that administrator functions are terminated upon death, resignation, civil disability, or dismissal. Dismissal is decided upon by the ExCom or upon a proposal by the General Assembly.

8.4 The ExCom meets face-to-face or online as required. They are convened by the President, through the Secretariat each time the interests of the organisation render a committee meeting necessary.

8.5 The minutes of ExCom meetings must be retained by the Secretariat, and they are made available, upon official request to active members, if there is 'justified personal interest'.

8.6 Representation of the organisation with regard to third parties and in legal proceedings:

8.6.1 All acts which commit the ECSPM, except where special powers have been granted, are signed by two administrators or by the President who will not have to justify to third parties the powers conferred upon them for this purpose,

8.6.2 the ECSPM shall be represented legally either as an applicant or a defendant by two administrators or by the President alone, or by a single administrator who has been specifically appointed for this purpose by the ExCom.

ARTICLE 9: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9.1 The general management body of the organisation is called "The General Assembly". This is

the highest level of authority within the organisation, and it has all the powers necessary for achieving the organisation's objectives. The General Assembly consists of all the active members of the organisation in good standing, and they all have one vote.

9.2 The General Assembly cannot delegate the following:
- Amendments of the statutes
- Election and/or removal of ExCom members
- Discharging of duties to the ExCom members
- Approval of budgets and accounts
- Setting the annual fee to be paid by the members
- Ratifying and/or excluding members
- Dissolving the organisation

9.3   Convening and agenda

9.3.1   The General Assembly is held at least once a year, in person or by means of virtual participation,

9.3.2   the purpose of the annual General Assembly is to discuss issues that have been of concern to the members, as outlined in the by the President and approved by the ExCom,

9.3.3   extraordinary General Assemblies can take place at the initiative of the ExCom members, or the President,

9.3.4   in the event where the General Assembly calls for a face-to-face meeting, the convocation will be sent by the Secretariat at least two months before the date of the General Assembly. This notification will be sent to the active members by e-mail or any other electronic means, and the notice will indicate the date, place and the agenda of the meeting proposed,

9.3.5   the people who may attend the General Assembly are the organisation's active members, i.e., those who are up to date with their membership fees for the year in question. It is these members who have the right to vote,

9.3.6   each full member organisation must nominate a representative, who is a natural person, in order to participate in the General Assembly (with funding for travel and accommodation from his/her organisation) and be able to vote on the organisation's behalf,

9.3.7   an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly can be called on the request of the ExCom as many times as is deemed necessary. Such a meeting must be organised when one fifth of the members of the General Assembly introduces a written request, indicating the item(s) to be put on the agenda,

9.3.8   letters of notification for the General Assembly, including the agenda, must be sent via email to those who will be participating three to four weeks before the meeting. The General Assembly can only discuss items on the agenda, items introduced by the ExCom during the meeting because of their urgency, or items requested by one fifth of the members present or represented**,**

9.3.9   the President or, in the President's absence, a presiding officer selected by a ¾ majority vote, shall chair the General Assembly. The person chairing the General Assembly shall declare the sessions open and closed, outline the agenda, lead the discussions, ensure that the rules are respected, give the floor to speakers, and announce any decisions that have been made,

9.3.10 with the exception of amendments to the statutes, and/or to the objectives and the dissolution of the organisation, all decisions of the General Assembly are taken by simple majority of the valid votes of the members present or represented (50%+1). Each member is entitled to cast one vote plus maximum two proxies. Members can be represented at the General Assembly by any other member of their choice belonging to the same size of membership (individual or institutional membership as reflected by the

amount of membership fee paid),

9.3.11 the General Assembly can only discuss or decide validly on amendments of the statutes if those are on the agenda and mentioned in the message of notification. Each proposal to amend the statutes must proceed from the ExCom or from one fifth of the members who have paid their membership fee,

9.3.12 meeting quorum: The total number of members present or represented must cover at least two thirds of all members having a right to vote at the decision-making moment. Voting quorum: Decisions to amend the statutes can only be taken by a two-third majority of the votes of the members present or represented,

9.3.13 the General Assembly may only discuss or decide validly on amendments of the objectives, or dissolution of the organisation if those are on the agenda and mentioned in the letter of notification. Each proposal to amend the objectives must be initiated by the ExCom or from one fifth of the members who have paid their membership fee,

9.3.14 the minutes of the General Assembly must be retained by the Secretariat and made available to active members through hard copy or electronic means.

ARTICLE 10: THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The organisation's financial year runs from the first of January to the thirty first of December each year.

ARTICLE 11: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

Any amendments to the statutes must be made at the organisation's Annual General Assembly, by a two thirds majority and if the Assembly has the two thirds quorum of members present or represented.

ARTICLE 12: DISSOLUTION

If the organisation is dissolved, the General Assembly must nominate two liquidators, full members or otherwise, and determine their powers. The General Assembly must determine the end to which the organisation's assets must be used. This must correspond with the objectives set by the organisation.