

Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment Reform Action Plan by the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism

1. Presentation of the ECSPM and its CURUM Constituency

The ECSPM, which is a leading European social and academic platform, is structured as an umbrella organisation for the following members: 4 European and international networks for the teaching, learning and testing of languages ([ALTE](#), [EDiLiC](#), [ICC-Languages](#), [FIPLV](#)) which include hundreds of individual and institutional members; 4 European networks for the promotion and support of European national, regional and minority languages ([EFNIL](#), [FUEN](#), [NPLD](#), [SLC](#)); 2 European associations related to the arts (literary translation [LAF](#), and one for visual arts [EARights](#)); 22 university centres researching and supporting bi-/multilingualism in education – one of these ([BM](#)) being a community of organisations with over 30 branches in Europe, Asia and North America. Altogether, ECSPM members represent more than 200 institutions that are concerned with covering all issues concerned with language rights, the use of languages in society, language in education, research and publishing. Our members reach out to thousands of beneficiaries, making it possible to share of ideas, policies, research, and good practices with stakeholders across Europe. The ECSPM is an independent organization – initially launched as a civil society platform by the DG EAC of the European Commission - responsible for engaging with European Union institutions and other strategic stakeholders to promote synergies, internationalization, scientific cooperation and evidence-based policies.

The aforementioned 22 centres make up a special academic community within ECSPM, i.e. the [CURUM](#) which involves dynamic 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 endeavors which offer a platform to researchers, educators and practitioners in different areas of language studies and communication to collaborate for the benefit of society.

Under the aegis of the ECSPM, which aims to strengthen the European Education Area and provide support to the activities each unit performs on its own, these units collaborate to investigate and collect data on issues of common concern, to share research methodologies and outcomes, to 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, they advise institutions on a European and national level and provide counsel on policy implementation.

The CURUM is an alliance which has created a communal space for academic work, contributing further to European Education Area. The very issue of multilingualism, which is at the heart of the work of each CURUM constituent, emphatically serves the purpose of

European integration, while preserving diversity: the rich cultural wealth of European states and the many national/official, minority, heritage, and the languages of immigrant populations. Multilingualism is an instrument for 'unity in diversity', the preservation of democracy, transparency and accountability (EPRS, 2019). The raison d'être of CURUM is working conjointly to build upon Europe's linguistic and cultural resources for a more inclusive and fairer supranational state. The overriding goal is to bring together European and international research in different languages leading to cross-fertilisation of ideas fronting social action.

2. ECSPM's response to CoARA commitments

2.1 Current status and involvement

ECSPM members are diverse across several dimensions, e.g., age, seniority (early stage as well as senior researchers), profession (e.g., educators in schools, language centres, higher education, professional organisations, NGOs), discipline (e.g., linguistics, education, psychology). ECSPM recognises the diversity of its members to, and careers in research according to the needs and nature of the research.

ECSPM accepts new members based on qualitative evaluation of their mission and activities related to multilingualism and does not use Journal Impact Factor (JIF), h-index, and rankings to decide on their membership.

ECSPM actively joined CoARA in March 2022 and signed "The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment", while also encouraging universities with which it is associated to sign the Agreement.

Having contributed to a tender for the creation of a workgroup (WG) on multilingualism and language biases in research assessment, the proposal was approved and, in 2023, the ECSPM became an active member of this WG – one of 13 consortia whose mission is to enable systemic reform of research assessment, operating as 'communities of practice', providing mutual learning and collaboration on specific thematic areas. As a participating member of the Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment WG, the ECSPM and especially members of the CURUM constituency – consisting of academics with expertise in multilingualism research and studies – has committed resources to offer counsel and advice, but also facilitate the exchange knowledge, discuss and develop outputs to advance research assessment.

On 4-5 April 2024, the ECSPM organized a Seminar and Workshop on "Multilingualism in Research and Assessment in HEIs". The event was hosted by the Centre for Multilingualism, University of Konstanz, Germany. On Thursday 4 April scholars working in multilingualism studies and academics and researchers from other fields, as well as technology and publishing professionals came together to discuss issues related to: 1) The generation of valid and reliable criteria for the assessment of multi-/plurilingual teaching and learning, research, and

academic publishing, 2) Best practices and the development of tools, guidelines, and models for recognizing, monitoring, and supporting multi-/plurilingual practices in HEIs. On April 5 members of the CoARA Multilingualism WG collaborated to compose a project proposal on multilingualism and language bias in scientific research, publications, and communication to be submitted for EU funding. For more information click [here](#).

Over the summer of 2024, WG members conducted three surveys about the use of languages and language biases. One of these surveys was organized and conducted by the ECSPM, which sent a survey to its members concerning language use in science communication and citizen science. Preliminary results from this survey were presented in a public webinar organized by the WG in late. For the ppt presentation of the survey and results (in English and German) click [here](#).

2.2 ECSPM's 2024-2027 action plan: focus and priorities

Given the large number of ECSPM member organisations which conduct, evaluate, disseminate and communicating research, research assessment is very high on the ECSPM agenda, and it commits itself to the following actions:

- 1) To continue collaborating with the WG 'Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment' by sharing knowledge and best practices on research assessment of ECSPM member organisations with the CoARA WG and inform ECSPM members about developments within this CoARA WG. Communicate progress made on adherence to the CoARA principles and implementation of the commitments and evaluate practices, criteria and tools through the multilingualism WG and CoARA action plans.
- 2) To build on the survey concerning language use in science communication and citizen science and rerun the survey beyond the ECSPM members in order to generate representative findings about language use in science communication and citizen science across disciplines in Europe.
- 3) To raise awareness about CoARA's mission and activities and motivate ECSPM members to sign the CoARA agreement and engage with CoARA towards reforming research assessment. Towards that aim, each ECSPM symposium will include one session on research assessment for awareness raising and to exchange practices and experiences on research assessment across the ECSPM members. ECSPM will communicate developments within CoARA to ECSPM members through our website and social media.
- 4) To continue the academic work which promotes multilingualism in higher education in the name of inclusion and social justice, which is linked to the role of multilingualism in research assessment.
- 5) To continue engaging with European University Alliances on the development of language policies for the alliances that are in line with the COARA aims.

- 6) To continue engaging with academic institutions, individuals and other stakeholders, in order to get further support for the [ECSPM Declaration for Multilingualism in Higher Education](#), which appears on the ECSPM website in 30 European language plus Esperanto.
- 7) To create conditions for ECSPM member institutions which are involved with initial and continuing teacher training to collaboratively work in support of the European Education Area with projects and programmes that aim at multilingualism and plurilingual pedagogies.
- 8) In the context of the “Knowledge Hub for Translation, Interpretation and Cross-lingual Communication” that ECSPM is generating, to provide its members and the academic and professional community with information on cutting-edge research and publications in these areas and on translation services and tools.