



ECSPM

European Civil Society Platform
for Multilingualism
<https://ecspm.org>

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NEWS

Bulletin

Important events in 2024

New ECSPM-CURUM members

ECSPM welcomed five new members into CURUM, which is now composed of 22 academic units researching multilingualism. The new members are [LiDS](#) (Literacy in Diversity Settings, University of Hamburg), [DyMe](#) (The Dynamics of Multilingualism with English, University of Innsbruck), [DLCM](#) (Research Unit for the Study of Linguistic Diversity and Multimodality, Sapienza Università di Roma), [CLUSS](#) (Linguistic Research Centre, Università per Stranieri di Siena), and [INN](#) (Language Teaching and Learning in Multilingual Contexts Research Group, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences).

ECSPM in the CoARA Multilingualism WG

In honouring its role as a member of the [CoARA Multilingualism WG](#), ECSPM organised a seminar and workshop on “Multilingualism in Research and Higher Education Institutions” on 4-5 April 2024. It was hosted by the Centre for Multilingualism of the University of Konstanz, Germany. More information [here](#).

Also, as a member of this WG, ECSPM developed and carried out the “Survey on language use in science communication and citizen science projects”. More information [here](#).

The 2024 Symposium in Ghent

The [symposium pamphlet](#) contains the names and CVs of the keynote and invited speakers as well as the programme of the event, hosted by Ghent University and co-organised by its Centre of Learning and Diversity. The theme of the successful symposium was “Plurilinguaging in Multilingual Educational Spaces”. The ppt presentations of those who spoke are accessible from the symposium webpage, [here](#).

The Declaration for Multilingualism in HE

The ECSPM composed a Declaration calling for explicit policies in universities and other HEIs supporting multilingualism in teaching, learning, research and publishing, as well as in governance and communication. Prepared in English, the Declaration was translated in 30 languages (see [here](#)) and uploaded it as a petition which has received more than 1,600 signatures from members of the academic community. Please help increase its visibility and sign [here](#).

Looking forward to 2025

• FORUM ON LINGUISTIC MEDIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The first ECSPM event taking place in 2025 is the Forum on “Linguistic mediation for higher education language instructors and students”. Speakers from Canada, Germany and Greece will speak to and with instructors teaching languages in the Ukraine. The Faculty of Linguistics at the National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute” are the hosts and co-organisers of the Forum.

• ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON ACTIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN MULTILINGUAL SOCIETIES

The symposium is hosted by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) on 15 and 16 of May, 2025 and it is co-organised by the [MIRCo](#) Research Centre of the same university. Keynote and invited speakers are to move beyond a critical analysis of how the management of multilingualism in education exacerbates social inequality, and explore collaborative perspectives, methods, and strategies for transforming social and linguistic reality in schools and universities. More info [here](#).

This symposium is also an occasion for engaged dialogue about the issues the ECSPM is dealing with through project work related to multi-/plurilingualism at all levels of education, research and publishing, as well as to cross-linguistic communication, translation and interpretation.

The programme, venue, speakers and the work to be presented is announced on the ECSPM website, [here](#).

Case study on Linguistic Mediation in Higher Education

Action 2 of “Le multi-/plurilinguisme dynamique, terreau de l’excellence inclusive dans l’enseignement supérieur” (MUDExI), a project completed in 2024, funded by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and directed by Prof. Irini Tsmadou-Jacoberger of the University of Strasbourg, this Case Study set out to investigate how university students mediate intra- and cross-linguistically.

The study was carried out in two phases. During Phase 1, a survey was conducted through an online questionnaire to (a) establish the multilingual profile of a sample of 291 students from eight different academic institutions from Europe, South America and Africa, (b) discover what type of mediation tasks they perform, for what communicative and educational purpose, on which occasions, how they perform them and what is required of them to be able to do so efficiently. During Phase 2 of the Case Study, a smaller sample of those who participated in the survey-questionnaire took part as junior researchers. They were asked to perform intra- and cross-linguistic mediation tasks with their peers, in the context of their university studies, and to prepare Verbal Protocols for each mediation instance they were involved in, so as to provide information regarding the type of task they performed in which situational context, how they performed it, and what was required of them to do so efficiently.

The findings have been reported in two extensive reports available through the University of Strasbourg.

For a brief report of the project, please click [here](#).

For a presentation of the study with conclusions and implications, please click [here](#).

News Bulletin

2014-2024 ECSPM Achievements

When 2024 came to a close, ECSPM celebrated 10 years of autonomy from the European Commission, by which it was launched in 2009. In 2014 it was reconstituted, structured as an umbrella organisation, with a secretariat in Copenhagen, for the following institutions:

- Twenty (22) are academic/university centres, researching and supporting bi-/multilingualism in education mainly in Europe one of these being a community of organisations with over 30 branches in Europe, Asia and North America. These centres form ECSPM’s CURUM constituency.
- Four (4) are European and international networks for the teaching, learning and testing of languages (ALTE, EDiLiC, ICC-Languages, FIPLV) with hundreds of members each of them.
- Four (4) are European networks for the promotion and support of European national, regional and minority languages (EFNIL, FUEN, NPLD, Sprachenrat Saar).
- Two are European associations related to the arts (LAF and EARights).

ECSPM has also signed partnerships with: CCERBAL at the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa; the European Centre of Modern Languages of the Council of Europe and became an active member of their Professional Network Forum (PNF); CRACKER (a federation of European projects and organisations working on technologies for a multilingual Europe); LLLP - Lifelong Learning Platform: European Civil Society Platform for Education.

ECSPM works for greater linguistic justice and language equality, driving for change in attitudes towards languages and the monolingual ethos of communication in society and in its institutions – especially education.

Currently, its members and partners represent more than 200 institutions which reach out to thousands of beneficiaries, concerned with covering all issues concerned with language rights, language education, cross-lingual communication, translation, interpretation and the use of languages in society.