



ECSPM

European Civil Society Platform
for Multilingualism
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○ JANUARY | ○ 2026

NEWS Bulletin

2025 highlights

✿ Actions for social justice in multilingual societies

The 2025 symposium, 15-16 May 2025, hosted and co-organised with MIRCo of the Universidad de Madrid (UAM), was successful because of its high-quality content, expert speakers (whose PPT presentations are [here](#)), strong attendee engagement and knowledge exchange. The memorable event was held at La Cristalera, a centre for conferences, summer courses and cultural activities of UAM, in the municipality of Miraflores de la Sierra in a building surrounded by a lush forest of oaks and the Gargantón River.

✿ Linguistic mediation for Higher Education

The professional development forum on linguistic mediation, held on 4-5 February 2025, was hosted and co-organised by the Faculty of Linguistics of the National Technical University of Ukraine (NTUK), known as "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". The speakers were online (their PPT presentations are [here](#)), while the participants – university professors and language instructors, as well as a small number of postgraduate students from NTUK and other Ukrainian HEIs – were both onsite and online.

✿ Renewed collaboration with ECML

ECSPM is delighted to have endorsed the agreement with the European Centre of Modern Languages ([ECML](#)) to "encourage and promote creative synergies at institutional level in the pursuit of common goals" including:

- information exchange among our networks about relevant events, opportunities, resources, services for language education professionals offered by the other
- exchange of consultation concerning online information provision and the establishment of appropriate links between websites, newsletters etc.
- sharing expert advice and other inputs at project, programme or institutional level on specific matters
- attendance at workshops / courses / conferences will be open by mutual consent to personnel/designated experts from the partner organisation on a non-fee-paying basis.

2026 highlights

✿ Internationalisation of higher education, multilingualism and translation

The 2026 ECSPM Symposium, to be held 19-20 March, is hosted and co-organised by the Saarland Language Council, supported by Saarland University of Applied Sciences and sponsored by the University of Strasbourg. Thematically, it concentrates on the internationalisation of higher education, as well as on translation of academic knowledge, deeply intertwined with the internationalisation of universities. Venue: Adult Education Centre, Saarbrücken Castle, in the city of Saarbrücken, Saarland, Germany. For more information: [here](#).

✿ Language(s) and the Cultural Politics & Policies for Scholarly Translation

This academic forum, a follow up of the 2026 Symposium, is hosted and co-organised by the GEO Research Group of the University of Strasbourg. It turns attention to the challenges of adapting knowledge, ideas, and perspectives across cultures and contexts, of transferring and sharing knowledge and research findings across borders. For more information: [here](#).

✿ New actions

The Knowledge Hub

The two events above reflect ECSPM's aspiration to build a Translation and Interpretation Knowledge e-Hub, offering amenities, assistance and sharing information remotely with experienced and aspiring professionals, amateur translators and interpreters or mediators, academics and emerging researchers.

Initiating an internship programme

Pleased to initiate an Internship Programme, our first intern is an MA student at the University of Montpellier. With a background in Law and Languages, she has been accepted to a 60-hour observational internship as part of her studies. Her professional objective is to pursue a career in language policy in the field of education at the European Union level.



Update on collaborators' achievements and members' news

OUR COLLABORATORS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Professor **Theodoros Marinis**, Director of the Centre of Multilingualism at the University of Konstanz gave a talk at the European Parliament (see [here](#)), to sensitise parliamentarians about the difficulties in diagnosing DLD in multilingual children, to inform them of the role of speech, of language therapists and linguists, and to stress the importance of developing multilingual tools.
- Professor **Andrea Young**, representing LiLPa and Assoc. Professor **Maria Zerva** representing the GEO research group of the University of Strasbourg took part in a round table about "l'importance du plurilinguisme, tant à l'échelle européenne que locale" on 20-11-2025 organised by the Council of Europe as part of their- « Mercredis du Conseil de l'Europe » and held at the Collectivité européenne d'Alsace (the regional Council buildings) in Strasbourg.
- Professor **Britta Hufeisen**, Head of the Division of Multilingualism, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Technische Universität Darmstadt, collaborated with her colleagues Constanze Bradlaw and Stefanie Nölle-Becker to develop the official language policy based on Functional Multilingualism of her university (see [here](#)). They have also published related papers. Prof. Hufeisen has also been invited to Mälardalen University in Sweden to support them in the development of their language policy, also built around the idea of functional multi-lingualism.

OUR MEMBERS' NEWS

The mission of the [Mercator European Research Centre](#), hosted by the Fryske Akademy (Frisian Academy) and part of the European Mercator Network is the acquisition and inventory, research and study, dissemination and application of knowledge in the field of language learning at school, at home and through cultural participation. its work is focused on the regional and minority languages in Europe, but immigrant languages and smaller state languages are also topics of study. If interested in the activities of the mercator network, and receive the latest news on minority languages and education, sign up ([here](#)) to receive their newsletter.

The international Federation of Language Teachers

The [Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes](#), founded in Paris in 1931, an international multilingual association of teachers of languages, is an NGO which has a consultative status with UNESCO and has representation with the Council of Europe. They have informed us of the publication of their most recent Newsletter (link [here](#)).

Key Events Organised by CLS

For its annual symposium, Cambridge Language Sciences (CLS) brought together language scientists of all disciplines from the University of Cambridge. The theme of the symposium was 'Ambitions for Language Science in 2050'. More info: [here](#).

CLS also organised a one-day event on 'Critical Frontiers in Hate Speech and AI Research' bringing together scholars working across linguistics, media, AI, and platform governance to explore how hate speech is defined, detected, and normalised in digital spaces. More info: [here](#).

In April 2026, CLS and the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics of the University of Cambridge are holding a one-day conference on 'Translating conflict and refuge: language, displacement, and the politics of representation'. The event brings together translators, interpreters, scholars, NGO representatives, and volunteers to develop a deeper understanding of the complex demands and realities involved in translating conflict and refuge. More info: [here](#).

CCERBAL's activities and initiatives

In 2025, the Canadian Centre for Studies and Research in Bilingualism and Language Planning (CCERBAL) at the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa, organized its biennial international conference. The event was entitled "Bilingualism and multilingualism: Diverse perspectives from diverse contexts".

The centre also organized 7 invited lectures, published a new volume of its English French bilingual open-access journal *Cahiers de l'ILOB*, hosted two visiting scholars (Rahat Zaidi and Sílvia Melo Pfeifer), and continued to support its four research chairs in Language Acquisition, Technology & AI, Language Assessment, and Language Policy.

In 2026 the CCERBAL, in partnership with Carleton University, will organize an international conference entitled "Language policy and planning: From talk to action" and, in partnership with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Education, will organize a bilingual Summer Institute to support Emerging Scholars Through Black-Affirming Inquiry.



The MultiDiverse Erasmus Mundus

The Centre for Multilingualism at the University of Konstanz has been successful in their Erasmus Mundus application for a Joint Master's degree programme in Multilingualism and Cultural Diversity (MultiDiverse). This is a multi-disciplinary highly integrated transnational programme that brings together expertise from three EU universities and four disciplines in a complementary way. The programme is offered jointly by the University of Konstanz, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, with contributions by 16 associated partners from academic and non-academic organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The programme aims to train young talented people with a background in linguistics, education, psychology, or sociology on multilingualism and cultural diversity across disciplines. Students are to become part of an international network and develop key competencies that may improve their employability. Training in digital skills and science communication may enable them to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of multilingualism and cultural diversity at national and local levels, leading to a better understanding of multilingualism and cultural diversity by policymakers, as well as the general public. It may also result in a better understanding and implementation of policies on multilingualism and cultural diversity in Europe and beyond. Admissions start soon and the first cohort of students enter the programme in late 2026.

MIRCo Research, Projects, Public Engagement

The Interdisciplinary Research Center on Multilingualism, Discourse, and Communication (MIRCo) of the Autonomous University of Madrid participated in the seminar 'Atado y Bien Atado', on the 50 years of Free Spain, and in the international congress "The End of Dictatorships in Southern Europe", joined by numerous other experts in the topic. MIRCo has also released numerous publications, highlighting the monograph "*In search of sociolinguistic justice: Mobilizing transformative agency through action research*", which presents the results of the [EquiLing](#) project completed in 2025. In 2026, they will begin working on the MEMOLAND project, which is publicly funded and aims to gather information on mass graves during Francoism in Spain. They will also be completing the FARO European project, on human patrimony and its protection. Check their web and socials at: www.mircouam.com!

Actualités MIRCo en español

Durante el año 2025, destacamos nuestra participación en las jornadas Atado y Bien Atado, para conmemorar los 50 años de España en Libertad, y el congreso internacional El fin de las dictaduras en el sur de Europa, con la presencia de numerosos expertos en la materia. Asimismo, hemos realizado numerosas publicaciones, destacando el monográfico *In search of sociolinguistic justice: Mobilizing transformative agency through action research*, donde expusimos los resultados del proyecto EquiLing junto a nuestras compañeras.

Durante el año 2026 iniciaremos el proyecto MEMOLAND, con financiación pública, que permitirá recoger información ubicada sobre fosas comunes de la Dictadura en España, además de concluir en abril el proyecto europeo FARO, sobre el patrimonio humano y su protección.

¡Estad atentxs a nuestras redes y a nuestra web www.mircouam.com

ICC-The International Language Association

In 2025, the ICC focused on the intersection of cognition and technology. Following its annual conference in Cyprus, themed "*Redefining Language Education – Technology, Accessibility and Empowerment*" (see [here](#)), they celebrated the European Day of Languages last September with a special webinar featuring Prof. Thomas H. Bak (University of Edinburgh). Co-hosted with the Language Council of Saarland, the session "*Why Our Brains and Our World Need Languages*" explored the vital cognitive and social benefits of multilingualism and attracted participants from around the globe.

Moving into 2026, the ICC is shifting its focus to the vital role of language in social inclusion. The theme of the next conference is "*Multilingualism and Migrant Integration in Adult Language Education: Practices, Challenges and Opportunities*", 8-10 May 2026, at the Swiss National Museum in Zürich, Switzerland.

The ICC has also officially launched the updated EUOLTA (European Certificate in Language Teaching to Adults) framework (more info [here](#)). To meet the demands of the modern classroom, the course has been streamlined to 6 modules and now includes dedicated training on AI and Mediation Skills, fully aligning with the latest CEFR companion volume.