

ECSPM Annual General Assembly Report

The Annual General Assembly (AGA), based on the **Agenda** (appended here as **Addendum**), sent to all ECSPM members prior to the AGA which was held online, had quorum¹. Announcements, information delivered and discussion on the issues below lasted from 16:00-17:30 CEST.

PROCEEDINGS

1. The meeting commenced with Report 1, concerning ECSPM's 2025 events & actions, which was item nr. 1 on the Agenda, and focused on three issues:
 - a) Informed AGA members that the SYNERGO project consortium, coordinated by ECSPM, is planning to resubmit a proposal in 2027, when there is an Erasmus+ call for Teacher Academies, given the positive evaluation of the 2025 proposal (which had been sent to members prior to the AGA, along with the proposal itself). Those who wish to contribute to the new effort were asked to contact the president.
 - b) Announced that ECSPM intends to recruit experts from among our member institutions to form a Special Interest Group (SIG), intent on developing a Translation and Interpretation Knowledge Hub, as has been envisioned and described in the document sent to members prior to the AGA).
 - c) Asked members of the AGA to sanction the 2025 accounts presented in a document which had been sent to members in advance.

¹ Those who took part in the AGA were:

- The members of the Executive Committee (ExCom): **Bessie Dendrinis**, President (representing the Research Centre for Multilingualism and Language Policy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); **Guðrún Gísladóttir**, General Secretary (representing European Artists' Rights); **Monica Barni** (representing the Research Unit for the Study of Linguistic Diversity and Multimodality, Sapienza University); **Linda Fisher** (representing Cambridge Language Sciences, University of Cambridge); **Jos Swanenberg** (representing the Department of Culture Studies, Tilburg University); **Theodoros Marinis** (representing the Centre for Multilingualism, University of Konstanz)
- Representatives of the following member organisations: **Kristin Vold Lexander** (representing the Language Teaching and Learning in Multilingual Context Research Group, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences), **Wendelien Vantieghem** (representing CDL, Centre for Diversity & Learning, Ghent University), **Carla Bagna** (representing Centro Linguistico, Università per Stranieri di Siena), **Ildikó Lőrincz** (representing EdLiC, Éducation et Diversité Linguistique et Culturelle), **Waldemar Martyniuk** (representing ALTE, Association of Language Testers in Europe), **Bessie Mitsikopoulou** (representing the Research Centre for Multilingualism and Language Policy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); **Antonella Sorace** (representing Bilingualism Matters), **Janoš Ježovnik** (representing the European Federation of National Institutions for Language), **Thomas Tinnefeld** (representing Saarland Language Council and also the International Language Association), **Irini Tsamadou Jacobberger** (representing GEO: Groupe d'Études orientales, slaves et néo-helléniques, University of Strasbourg); **Tanja Rinker** (representing the German as a Second-Foreign Language, Research Group of the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), **Silvia Melo Pfeifer** and **Ingrid Gogolin** (representing the Literacy in Diversity Settings Research Centre of the University of Hamburg); **Jelske Dijkstra** (representing the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning); **Maria Zerva** (representing the Linguistique, Langues, Parole Research Group, University of Strasbourg).
- Representatives of the following member organisation had sent a proxy: **Britta Hufeisen**, representing the Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Division of Multilingualism, Technische Universität Darmstadt, **Alexandra Buchler**, representing Literature Across Frontiers; **Terry Lamb**, representing the International Federation of Language Teacher Associations, **Ulrike Jessner-Schmid**, representing the DyME research group of the University of Innsbruck, and **Wendelien Vantieghem**, representing the Centre for Diversity & Learning of Ghent University.

2. The meeting continued with Report 2 about 2026 events & actions, which was item nr. 2 on the Agenda, and focused on the following issues:
- a) Presented the budget for 2026, which had been sent to members prior to the AGA) and asked them if there were questions regarding revenues. Also, members were asked to make suggestions about how to use budget surplus. There were no questions but there were two suggestions: 1) to help young researchers associated with our member institutions to participate in ECSPM events, 2) to compensate ECSPM interns willing to help out with ECSPM tasks.
 - b) Proposed that an internship programme that began this year (the description of which was sent to members prior to the AGA) be institutionalised. The proposal was unanimously approved, and members are to suggest how this programme will be realised in the future.
 - c) Proposed that the 2027 symposium be hosted and co-organised by the Research Center "Literacy in Diversity Settings" (LiDS), of the University of Hamburg, in late March or beginning of April. The proposal was accepted and it was decided that, while the exact theme of the symposium and the programme will be decided by the ExCom of the ECSPM and LiDS researchers, the focal point of the symposium will be the path to valorising a 'plurilingual habitus' in multilingual educational settings and to doing away with 'monolingual habitus' – the concept developed in the 90s by Ingrid Gogolin, to whom this symposium will pay tribute in view of her retirement.
 - d) Proposed that we co-organising an online forum in 2027 with our member organisation "Literature Across the Frontiers" so that the Director and colleagues from LAF present to us the European collaboration project "Literary Multilingualism and Social Transformation in Superdiverse Societies". The proposal was accepted.
 - e) Announced that ECSPM has been invited by two different consortia to participate in two different proposals being prepared for submission in the 2026–2027 Horizon Europe call (Pillar II, Safeguarding Linguistic Diversity) and that, once details have been explained during meetings that have been arranged, a call for participation in these projects will be put forth for our members.
 - The first of the two projects, PERFORM-LD, led by the University of Amsterdam, focuses on Europe's full linguistic spectrum – including sign languages and non-Western migrant and minority languages – and aims to remap linguistic diversity by integrating performance (from theatre and education, social media, to everyday community practices) into linguistic cartographies and policy frameworks. The meeting will take place on May 5th, at 16.00 CET.
 - The second project, VOICES (Creating Visibility, Ownership and Inclusive Cartographies of Europe's Multilingual Societies), led by the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities (ACDH), aims to safeguard Europe's linguistic diversity by making the full range of its languages visible, valued, and sustainably supported. To this effect it seeks to identify effective models for promoting multilingualism; empower citizens and communities to take ownership of their linguistic heritage; and establish a coherent, evidence-based framework for translating documented practices into actionable policy recommendations at European and national levels. The meeting will take place on the 29th of April, 11:00-12:00 CET.

- f) Suggested to expand the Executive Committee by one person and have President, General Secretary and 7 members in all. The person proposed was Silvia Melo-Pfeifer, Professor at the University of Hamburg and member of LiDS (research center "Literacy in Diversity Settings"), which will most likely be hosting and co-organising our next symposium. Her areas of expertise are Didactics, Educational Policy and Language Education. The suggestion was approved enthusiastically.
3. The meeting ended with AGA members announcing events and actions that their organisations have or will be organising:
- Bessie Mitikopoulou announced that, our member organization EIPOL along with the Department of English of the NKUA is organizing an International Conference on "Next-Gen Learning: Multimodality, AI & Multilingualism" to be held in Athens, 26-28 Nov 2026. More information [here](#).
 - Sílvia Melo-Pfeifer announced that LiDS, University of Hamburg, is offering a summer school on the topic of "Literacies for Social Participation". Interested young researchers can attend lectures and workshops led by international experts and network with them. They can also contribute their own expertise, deepen their knowledge of the latest research findings, and develop their methodological and academic skills. More information about the summer school and how to apply can be found [here](#).
 - Ingrid Gogolin announced that:
 - the MARE Assessment Tool which LiDS has created (in different languages) is ready for anyone interested in discovering their linguistic potential for free. We can access the tool from [here](#).
 - the book produced by Ingrid Piller et al. (2024) *Life in a New language*, was published by OUP. It is available at <https://academic.oup.com/book/57356>
 - Janoš Ježovnik announced EFNIL's annual conference which will take place in Florence, Italy on 21-23 October 2026. The theme is "The role of media in the use of languages of Europe". More information is [here](#).
 - Nikolay Slavkov announced:
 - "The Multidisciplinary Approaches in Language Policy and Planning" (LPP) conference, to be held in Ottawa on 17-18 June 2026. More information [here](#)
 - a new project that has been initiated by his institution, and in which he is involved. It is a project on providing counsel and advice to parents, teachers, guardians of multilingual youngsters.
 - Thomas Tinnefelt announced:
 - the next ICC Conference, to be held in Zürich on 8-10 May 2026, entitled "Multilingualism and Migrant Integration in Adult Language Education: Practices, Challenges and Opportunities". More information is [here](#).
 - that the ICC-Languages (<https://icc-languages.eu/>) has put a call for qualified people who might wish to apply for the position of ICC-Languages president.
 - Ildikó Lorincz, EDiLiC is celebrating its 25th anniversary at the MILE conference 2026. The theme is "Cultivating Plurilingual Education Across Different Learning Contexts, through the Arts and Museums. It will take place in Venice, 15-16 October 2026. More information [here](#).



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 April 2026, 15:00 CEST, 16:00EEST, 14:00BST

Agenda

- 1) The Report on 2025 events & actions, and the 2025 accounts (attachments 1, 3 & 4)
- 2) Report on ongoing events and events planned for 2026, including the 2026 budget (Attachments 2 & 6)
- 3) The Internship Initiative (attachment no. 5)
- 4) The 2027 Symposium (place and theme)
- 5) A 2027 forum, co-organised with our member organisation LAF
- 6) Partaking in a 2026-2027 Horizon Europe Proposal (Pillar II, Safeguarding Linguistic Diversity)
- 7) Expanding the Executive Committee with one new member
- 8) Any other matters the membership would like to discuss

A blue ink signature of Guðrún Gísladóttir, written in a cursive style.

Guðrún Gísladóttir
ECSPM General Secretary

A blue ink signature of Bessie Dendrinou, written in a cursive style.

Bessie Dendrinou
ECSPM President