

2024 CEL/ELC CONFERENCE
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY (UBB), CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA
28TH-29TH NOVEMBER 2024

MULTILINGUALISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION
-current perspectives and emergent issues-

Call for Papers

The various social, cultural, and economic impacts of globalisation on the European Higher Education landscape echo stakeholders' dual concern for the opportunities, as well as for the challenges that a commodified understanding of languages and of *internationalisation* triggers. Traditionally associated with larger social reach or economic leverage, the preference for a certain *lingua academica* – as the working language in an (internationalised) academic setting – is indicative of the perceptions that Higher Education Institutions and their stakeholders share about communicative success. Supporters of linguistic globalisation seek to point out the perceived benefits of science communication practices promoting the use of the more “prestigious” language(s), as illustrated by current editorial or publishing policies. Conversely, critical perspectives warning against the perils of cultural injustice, homogenisation and the negligence of local languages are gaining momentum in emerging debates about language policies at macro, meso, micro and nano levels.

This calls into question the need to reconsider the position of a dominant contact language within the multilingual matrix of an internationalised higher education context, so as to ensure a genuinely fair distribution of linguistic resources to (linguistically, ethnically, culturally) diverse groups of beneficiaries. Particularly interesting, therefore, is the investigation of *multilingual competence* pointing to the dynamic co-existence of *several* languages used in the negotiation of meaning or in the process of communication, knowledge building and sharing. Seen as a condition for acknowledging linguistic and cultural diversity, multilingualism is further complimented by the relatively recent preoccupation for the development of *pluri-/multiliteracies* and for *multimodal* modes of communication in higher education. Oftentimes, effective communication among individuals with different cultural or linguistic profiles can be achieved through linguistic and non-linguistic means alike, partially due to the affordances of mobile / digital technology. Challenging the monolingualism of phenomena such as the “Englishisation” of academic practice worldwide, multilingualism addresses the poignant matters stemming from power shifts between local language(s), home language(s), contact language(s), language(s) of schooling and a *lingua franca*.

The critical awareness of a demand for reconsidering multilingualism from a sustainable viewpoint disputes a monolithic version of successful academic communication which, in turn, should involve more than the competent use of a *lingua academica*. Both individual and institutional *beliefs* about regional / national language(s) *and* additional languages that currently underpin communication practices in Higher Education are essential for a better understanding of a morphing linguistic reality.

This CEL/ELC event welcomes not only contributions about current perspectives linked to the aspects mentioned above, but also emergent issues about languages and language policies in Higher Education that accommodate new approaches to language diversity and equity.

Proposals for 15-20-minute presentations, delivered in **English** or **French**, may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Language policies and the strategic development of higher education institutions
- Comprehensive internationalisation of HE - linguistic implications
- The working language(s) of Internationalisation at Home (IaH)
- Language(s) in the internal and external communication of domestic HE learning environments
- The role of language(s) in cross-border mobility and exchange programmes
- The role of language(s) in cross-border partnerships, networks and mutual capacity building
- Linguistic, cultural and institutional diversity as vehicles for internationalisation
- Inclusiveness and diversity in language-equitable policies in HE institutions
- Multilingualism in the negotiation of meaning and co-creation of knowledge
- (Re)considering multilingualism in the global competition among HE institutions and / or in global ranking systems
- Democratisation of knowledge access, research publication practices, multilingualism and science communication

Abstracts (max. 350 words) should be sent to celelc@unicatt.it by **30th May 2024**

Notification of acceptance/rejection: 30th June 2024

Registration deadline: in-presence attendance 30th October 2024, remote attendance 15th November 2024

Registration fee

For CEL/ELC member institutions with up-to-date membership fees, all conference fees are waived.

Otherwise, if your institution has not paid this year membership, attendance fees are set as follows:

Conference fee for presenters: **€ 100**

Conference fee for participants (simple attendants): **€ 50**

Conference fee for PhD students: **€ 30**

Payment must be made by bank transfer no later than **20th November 2024**. You will find the bank details below:

KBC Bank Belgium (Antwerp)

IBAN: BE91 7340 4873 9576

BIC: KREDBEBB

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We kindly ask you to send a copy of the payment receipt at celelc@unicatt.it once the payment has been made. Upon request, certificates of attendance will be sent soon after the event.



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