EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES AS ACTORS IN MULTILINGUALISM

CIRCLE U. THINK AND DO TANK ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Université Paris Cité (and online)

6 October 2023

2 pm CEST

Circle U.
European University Alliance

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THE STAKE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN EUROPE

The European University Circle U. brings together Aarhus Universitet, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, King's College London, Универзитет у Београду / Univerzitet u Beogradu, Universitetet i Oslo, Université catholique de Louvain, Université Paris Cité, Universität Wien and Università di Pisa. The "European Universities" initiative, which promotes cutting-edge teaching and research in Europe, is supported by the European Commission. Our goal is to build an inter-university ecosystem and make Circle U. an inclusive, research-intensive and interdisciplinary European university where students, staff and partners from civil society, businesses and the public sector collaborate to jointly develop competencies and solutions.

Language competencies are at the heart of building the European Education Area. They are indispensable for mobility, cooperation and mutual understanding across borders. The High Level Group o Multilingualism of the European Commission (2007) defined multilingualism as "the ability of societies, institutions, groups and individuals to engage, on a regular basis, with more than one language in their day-to-day lives". Importantly, **multilingualism is not a state, it's an action**. Just like any language, multilingualism is something that has to be done. Because language, like multilingualism, only exists when it is used in communication by speakers. Multilingualism thus requires, on the one hand, that individuals master two or more languages to a certain degree. On the other hand, multilingualism means the actual use of several languages within social structures (institutions, groups, societies). This means that multilingual individuals must be in an environment where they can and want to communicate with other individuals in different languages.

MULTILINGUALISM IN CIRCLE U. AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

As stated in the White Paper "Shaping the Future of Higher Education in a Changing World", Circle U. will increase awareness of multilingualism as a resource, involving the languages that European citizens already know, in addition to learning new ones. During the three years of the pilot phase of Circle U. (2020-2023), a group on multilingualism within its Think and Do Tank worked at three levels:

1. At the individual level, by building networks between students and teachers involved in multilingualism and intercultural competencies training,
2. At the local and institutional levels, by connecting the language centres of partner universities, and creating opportunities to learn languages and develop intercultural communication skills outside the physical university context such as the development of blended or online learning initiatives,
3. More broadly, at the national and international levels, by sharing good practices and creating synergies with other European alliances.

At the end of the pilot phase, the members of the Think and Do Tank involved in these initiatives have been working on the design of a common strategy for the alliance and a set of recommendations with the aim of producing a Circle U. Language Policy in the next phase of the project from November 2023. This group advocate for European Higher Education Alliances to become places of plurilingualism at all levels. They argue that institutional multilingualism is inextricably linked to individual multilingualism: speakers do not develop multilingual practices unless the (self-chosen or given) environment is itself multilingual to some degree. At the same time, institutions can only perform multilingually if their members are themselves multilingual and willing to put this ability into practice in everyday life.

Their approach starts precisely at the interface between the individual and the institution. They suggest that in order to enable multilingual practices, it is not only necessary to have active users of different languages who communicate in languages of their own choosing. Rather, for reasons of communicative efficiency and social norms, it is equally important that the institutional environment tolerates these language choices and that indirect participants are able to follow the discourse passively.

Their aim is to encourage university members **to make full use of their existing linguistic resources, thereby enabling plurilingual practices**. In doing so, we assume that multilingualism is to a large extent already present among European citizens, be it in the context of certain sociolinguistic constellations (linguistic minorities, migrant groups), through schooling or other histories of acquisition. This vast potential should be integrated into the future universities' development.

The strategy aims of the group in the Think and Do Tank of Circle U. is to promote receptive multilingualism by addressing this competence in its three components. First, promoting *knowledge* about multilingualism and language in general. They will thus initiate reflections on people's own multifaceted language competencies, standard language ideologies and ideas of purity. As a result, speakers should be able to deal more self-confidently with the various modalities of their own linguistic resources.

Secondly, addressing the *attitudes* of university members towards multilingualism in general and their personal resources and skills in particular. They want to advocate openness to the use of any existing language competencies - regardless of how pronounced they are, whether they are productive or receptive, or in which modes they are available. To this end, universities should enable and promote non-normative communicative practices such as translanguaging or non-reciprocal multilingual practices. Speakers should develop leadership and build a self-image as an actor with an impact on the way to a plurilingual society.

Thirdly, they want to promote *skills and practices* that mobilise hidden resources for broader receptive multilingualism. This includes training in intercomprehension strategies, increased recognition of non-formal language acquisition, the introduction of multilingual routines and inviting plurilingual micro-provocations.

Thus, this approach does not insist on producing new linguistic competencies, but on capitalising on existing knowledge by acknowledging it and promoting its receptive use to enable multilingual practices.

CIRCLE U. THINK AND DO TANK EVENT

"EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES AS ACTORS IN MULTILINGUALISM"

The aim of this conference is twofold: we will provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Circle U. multilingualism group, and we will discuss the group's recommendations concerning language learning, multilingualism and intercultural understanding in higher education with other experts and policy-makers. The focus will be on Circle U. operating as a multilingual alliance, developing its capacity for conducting administrative and teaching activities in multiple languages.

This event works in conjunction with another event on intercomprehension organised by the European University UNITA in Chambéry (France) on the 12th and 13th of October.

Date: Friday 6th of October 2023.

Time: 14:00 – 19:00 (CEST)

Place: Université Paris Cité - Site Necker. 160 rue Vaugirard 75015 Paris.

The conference will be live-streamed on the YouTube channel of Université Paris Cité.

Room: Amphithéâtre 2 (floor -1)

Target audience: Open to the Circle U. community including professors, students and both academic and administrative/technical staff. Other external stakeholders -experts on multilingualism and policymakers working in this field at the national or European level.

Speakers:

- Sara Thornton, Scientific Advisor at the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.
- Adina Revol, Spokesperson of the European Commission in France.
- Elisa Corino, Professor at the Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature straniere e Culture moderne, Università di Torino. Coordinator of the intercomprehension courses of UNITA.
- Jo Angouri, University-level Academic Director for Education and Internationalisation and Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick, Lead of the EUTOPIA Learning Community on Multilingualism and Diversity.
- Theo Marinis, Professor of Multilingualism at the University of Konstanz – a member of ERUA (European Reform University Alliance). Lead of the FOREU2 group on multilingualism. Coordinator of the project MultiMind.
- Aliyah Morgenstern, Professor of linguistics. Vice-President Europe and President of the Committee on Research Ethics, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle.

Speakers from the group on multilingualism in the Circle U. Think and Do Tank

- Ana de Medeiros, Director of the King's Language Center. Lead of the Think and Do Tank and its Task Force on Multilingualism at King's College London.
- Silvia Bruti, Director of the University Language Centre (Cli). Full Professor of English Language and Translation. Lead of the Task Force on Multilingualism at Università di Pisa.
- Stephan Breidback, Director of the Professional School of Education (PSE). Lead of the network on Teacher Education in Circle U. Member of the Think and Do Tank and its Task Force on Multilingualism at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- Nataša Janković, Professor at the Faculty of Philology. Member of the Task Force on Multilingualism at the Универзитет у Београду / Univerzitet u Beogradu.
- Philipp Wasserscheidt, Professor at the Department of Slavic and Hungarian Studies. Lead of the Think and Do Tank at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.
- Dominique François, Director at the Institut des langues vivantes. Member of the Task Force on Multilingualism and Coordinator of the forthcoming CU.mil at Université catholique de Louvain.
- Susana Silvia Fernandez, Professor at the School of Communication and Culture – Spanish. Lead of the Task Force on Multilingualism at Aarhus Universitet.
- Natalie Kübler, Director of the CLILLAC-ARP research lab, Université Paris Cité. Member of the Task Force Multilingualism at Université Paris Cité.

Programme

14:00 Institutional welcoming by **Antoine Kouchner**, Vice-President International at Université Paris Cité.

14:10 Introduction to the topic

- *Making diversity happen: European Alliances and the language-effect* **Sara Thornton.**
- *How the representation of the European Commission in France promotes the Francophonie?* **Adina Revol.**
- *The development of intercomprehension methods by UNITA* **Elisa Corino**
- *The EUTOPIA Community of Learning on Multilingualism and Diversity* **Jo Angouri**
- *Sharing good practices among alliances: The FOREU2 sub-group on Multilingualism* **Theodoros Marinis**

15:00 Presentation of the work on multilingualism in Circle U.

- *Overview of the Task Force Multilingualism in the Think and Do Tank* **Ana de Medeiros, Silvia Bruti and Stephan Breidbach**
- *The notion of 'receptive multilingualism'* **Philipp Wasserscheidt**
- *Considering students' opinions: Conception, implementation and results of the survey on language learning.* **Nataša Janković**
- *The network between Circle U. Languages Centres and the future CU.mil* **Dominique François**

15:40 Coffee break

16:10 Key recommendations for the next phase of Circle U. **Susana Fernandez**

16:20 Panel discussion on the recommendations

Moderator: **Aliyah Morgenstern**

Speakers: **Ana de Medeiros. Elisa Corino. Jo Angouri. Natalie Kübler. Theodoros Marinis.**

17:50 Break

18:00 Open Q&A session with the audience

18:30 Closing remarks. **Kevin Guillaume**, Secretary-General Circle U.

18:40 Cocktail/buffet

Registration

Please complete the registration form following this link: https://sondage.app.u-paris.fr/712959?lang=en

You will not receive any message confirming your registration, but your answers will be automatically registered once you arrive at the final message of the form ("Thank you very much for having completed this form"). If you encounter any difficulty in this process or have any other questions or comments, you can write to the contact below.

Contact

ana-elvira.garcia-lopez@u-paris.fr

Practical information

- Hotels nearby

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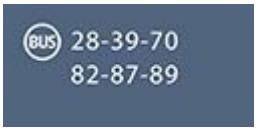
Ibis Paris Maine Montparnasse 14ème

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- How to get to the conference room at 160 rue Vaugirard.

Google Maps location: https://goo.gl/maps/kgFapPWZQs5Qm4je8





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