LINGUISTIC POLICIES AND NATIVE LANGUAGES OF 
TEACHING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU-27)

International conference
(Paris, 28-30 June 2012)

Université Paris Diderot – Paris 7
UFR Études Interculturelles de Langues Appliquées
CLILLAC-ARP

The EILA Department and the CLILLAC-ARP research team is organising an international conference entitled ‘Linguistic policies and native languages of teaching in the European Union (EU-27)’. This conference, which will take place at the Université Paris Diderot–Paris 7 from 28 to 30 June 2012, is being organised under the direction of José Carlos Herreras.

The European Union is composed today of twenty-seven countries. Its current composition is the result of six successive enlargements, which took place from a central core of six founding counties, which signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957 (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). The first enlargement, which occurred in 1973, allowed three countries (Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom) to join the Community; a new country (Greece) joined in 1981, and in 1986 two others (Spain and Portugal) would also become part of the Community. In 1995, under its new name, the European Union welcomed three countries (Austria, Finland and Sweden) and in January 2004, ten other new countries joined the Union (Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia). These were finally followed, in 2007, by two other countries – Bulgaria and Romania.

From the linguistic point of view, the enlargement of the European Union involved an increase in the number of official languages, from four at the start, to twenty-three languages today. At the same time, one must underline that however numerous the official languages of the European Union are, still more numerous are the languages spoken on the territory of the Union, which do not have the status of official languages. In fact, in many countries of the Union, linguistic diversity is the rule and, besides the twenty-three aforementioned official languages (with the exception of the languages of migrants), there are more than fifty other languages still spoken on the territory of the Union. These latter, depending on the country, may not have any official status or may have official status in a more or less extensive part of the territory or country. On the other hand, as linguistic borders do not correspond to administrative borders, in the case of languages which are common to several countries, the same language can have a different status on one side of the border and the other.

The status of a language in a given country often plays a determining role when laying out the place which is reserved for it within the educational system. In this system it can be either a taught language or a language of teaching, or can be excluded from the system.
In most countries in Europe, throughout the twentieth century, the languages of teaching have generally been state languages. It is true that texts exist - particularly the Unesco Convention of 14/12/1960 (inspired by Article 2 of the ‘Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, which was adopted and proclaimed by a General Assembly of the United Nations on 10/12/1948) – which concern the struggle against the discrimination of minorities and in favour off the teaching of their languages, but it would be necessary to wait for the last quarter of the century for Governments to become aware of the problem. Under the dynamism of the European Union and especially the Council of Europe which formulated the ‘Charter of Regional or Minority Languages’ (5 November 1992), linguistic minorities would see their rights being recognised – particularly in the area of education – though unequally throughout Europe because not all countries signed the Charter or they signed it but did not ratify it. Still more, those who signed it and ratified it did not all apply it in the same way.

The conference is organised around two themes:

1. A first axis concerns languages and normalisation of linguistic systems, which can facilitate or, on the contrary, complicate the introduction of regional languages into the educational system. In fact, when one wants to teach a language, a preliminary phase to the teaching of the language is in general necessary - its linguistic system needs to be normalised so as to be able to teach a common language model, that is a language model which conforms to a certain number of rules and a grammar, over all of the concerned territory.

2. The second axis is devoted to countries of the Union which present complex linguistic situations. We aim to analyse and evaluate the solutions envisaged in the countries for assuring that languages spoken on their territories are present in the different levels of the educational system (pre-elementary, primary, secondary, higher).

The questions under this second axis can relate to, for example, the status of regional languages in relation to state languages in the educational system, the spread of subjects taught in a regional language/state language, the character of teaching in a regional language (compulsory, optional, applying to all of the country, a particular region…), the repercussions of the introduction of regional languages in the educational system (reactions of the population: acceptance, refusal…), the perspectives for the future of teaching in the regional language, etc.

Working languages: French, Spanish, English and German.

Pre-registration and abstracts: before 15 December 2011

Participants are requested to send their pre-registration forms and their paper (or poster) proposals electronically before 15 December 2011 to José Carlos Herreras <jch+colloque@eila.univ-paris-diderot.fr> AND, depending on the language of the paper, ALSO to:

- French: Elisabeth Navarro <Elisabeth.Navarro@eila.univ-paris-diderot.fr>;
- Spanish: Ariadna Barroso Calderón <abarroso@eila.univ-paris-diderot.fr>;
Abstracts should not be longer than one A4 page (Times New Roman 12). Each abstract should carry the title of the paper or the poster, the name(s) of the speaker/speakers, the institution and a contact address.

Participants will be informed of the acceptance of their contribution towards mid-January. The second circular will be sent at the beginning of January to those who answered ‘yes’ to the first circular.

Definitive registration and registration fees: before 30 March 2012.

Definitive registrations and the payment of registration fees should be completed before 30 March 2012.

Registration fees:
Teacher or lecturer: 150 € (price includes the conference proceedings)
Person accompanying a participant: 100 €
Student (under 25 years old): 100 €
Person attending independently: 100 €
Institution /business: 250 €

Information concerning the methods of payment of the registration fees will be communicated in the second circular.

Calender:
Pre-registration and abstracts: before 15 December 2011
Notification of acceptance: 15 January 2012
Second circular: January 2012
Payment of registration fees: Before 30 March 2012

Academic Committee:
Stamatis BEIS, Academy of Athens
Philippe BLANCHET, Université Rennes 2
Jean-Michel BENAYOUN, Université Paris Diderot
Denis COSTAOUEC, Université Paris Descartes
José Carlos HERRERAS, Université Paris Diderot
John HUMBLEY, Université Paris Diderot
Marilena KARYOLEMOU, University of Cyprus
Jean-Marie KLINKENBERG, Université de Liège
Natalie KÜBLER, Université Paris Diderot
José Ramón MORALA, University of León
Claude TRUCHOT, Université de Strasbourg
Alain WALLON, Commission européenne, Direction générale de la Traduction
Henriette WALTER, Université Rennes 2
Organisation Committee:
Under the academic direction of José Carlos HERRERAS
Jean-Michel BENAYOUN, Head of Department
Pascal CABAUD, Technical Coordinator
Ariadna BARROSO CALDERÓN, Linguistic coordinator (Spanish)
Lucrèce FRIESS, Linguistic coordinator (German)
Ann-Marie KILGALLON, Linguistic coordinator (English)
Elisabeth NAVARRO, Linguistic coordinator (French)
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
LINGUISTIC POLICIES AND NATIVE LANGUAGES OF TEACHING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU-27)

Paris, 28-30 June 2012

Pre-registration form
(to return before 15 December 2011)

Ms □ Mr □

Surname:………………………………………………….. First Name:…………………………

Address of institution:……………………………………………………………………

Position occupied:………………………………………………………………………………

Contact address:………………………………………………………………………………

Telephone:………………………………………… Fax:……………………………………

Email:…………………………………………………………………………………………

I would like to participate in the conference:
- I will present a paper: Yes □ No □
- I will present a poster: Yes □ No □

Theme 1 □ Theme 2 □

Provisional title of the contribution:
……………………………………………………………………………………………………

I can follow papers in: French □ Spanish □ English □ German □.

I will be accompanied by.........person(s)