



ANNOUNCEMENT

MULTILINGUALISM IN EUROPE: PROSPECTS AND PRACTICES IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Research Centre for Multilingualism of the Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.nytud.hu/eng/index.html>) under the auspices of the Hungarian EU presidency is pleased to announce the first international conference titled "**Multilingualism in Europe: Prospects and Practices in East-Central Europe**". The conference will be held on **25th–26th March, 2011**, in **Budapest**. The venue is Hotel Benczúr (<http://www.hotelbenczur.hu/en>).

In the era of globalisation, transnationalism and new communication technologies, permanent mobility, economic instability and changes in the socioeconomic status and qualification of citizens, rapid changes in international and national legislation, the advancing role of civil society, the functional decline of smaller or lesser used languages is faster than it has ever been, while new forms and meanings of multilingualism and linguistic diversity have emerged. In contempt of EU, EC and EP recommendations, language policies, their implementations, practices, and legal regulations vary greatly from country to country in Europe. The accession of the new Central and Eastern European member states opened up new prospects, at the same time creating new problems for the enlarged EU with regard to protection of linguistic diversity and otherness maintaining and enriching smaller or lesser used languages with "minority", "regional", "immigrant", "community", "other" or "additional" labels. In the new member states after the fall of the communist regime subsequent governments worked on implementing fundamental changes in the political, economic and educational system, however, main themes of language policy (e.g. minority education, the teaching and learning of foreign languages etc.) are issues still rich in controversies.

It seems indispensable to rethink the concepts, theories and practices of multilingualism as well as approaches to linguistic diversity in Europe, initiating a new international platform where researchers, language educators, policy-makers and other actors can evaluate the progress and future needs in the area of protection of smaller or lesser used spoken and signed languages, the role of mother tongues and the development of new multilingual skills at local and regional levels. Main themes of the conference are closely related to the principles of the framework strategy on multilingualism (cf. OM(2005) 596, SEC(2008) 2443, COM(2008) 566), and objectives of EU 2020 under the auspices of the Hungarian EU presidency.

Keynotes, paper sessions, workshops and roundtables in eight thematic panels will cover the most critical questions of linguistic, educational, legal, economic, ideological and policy issues associated with language diversity and multilingualism by means of multidisciplinary and comparability:

- 1) Multilingualism and linguistic diversity: language ideologies, discourses and policies in Europe
- 2) Legal provisions of minority/regional languages: the ECRML regime in theory and practice
- 3) Bi-/multilingual education and Europe's small and lesser used languages: examples of good practice
- 4) Sign language planning and policies: Sign language communities and the case for linguistic human rights and citizenship
- 5) Researching multilingual communities
- 6) Language Rich Europe: multilingualism for stable and prosperous societies
- 7) Roma communities and their languages in Europe
- 8) Migration and the multilingual economy

The two-day conference provides an excellent opportunity for real-life dialogues between researchers, citizens, civil sector representatives and politicians at national, regional and EU level, contributing to the integration of regional developments into a common European Research Area, thus increasing effective use of discourse and deliberation in policy formulation and research.

Registration is free but obligatory (limited to 200 people). Registration for the conference can be done by filling in the electronic conference registration form: <http://www.nytud.hu/mconf/>.

The form can be printed then sent by fax as well:
+ 36 1 322-9297.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In order to increase exchanges between actors involved in different domains of multilingualism, conference committee welcomes contributions from the academic, practitioner, political, civil sphere, business and media. Proposals are invited in two main formats: individual papers and posters. Exhibitions and product demonstrations based on the main themes are also invited.

Proposals for individual papers, posters

Please submit by e-mail a one-page 450-word abstract of your paper or poster. All abstracts will be reviewed anonymously by the members of the Academic Committee. Please include the following details with your submission: full name and title; professional affiliation; e-mail address; title of the presentation; specific requirements for presentation. At the time of submission you will be asked whether you would like your abstract to be considered for a poster, a paper, or both. Oral papers will be allotted 20 minutes. Posters will be on display for a full day with two attended sessions during the day.

The deadline to submit proposals for individual papers and posters is February 10, 2011. All abstracts should be sent to: info@multiling.eu. Acknowledgment of receipt of the abstract will be sent by email as soon as possible after receipt. Notification will be given by February 20, 2011.

Proposals for exhibition, product demonstration

If you would like to exhibit and/or demonstrate a product or new technology at the conference, for more detailed information please contact directly info@multiling.eu

Publication opportunity

Papers accepted for the conference will be published in the conference proceedings.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details will be available soon at the conference website (<http://www.nytud.hu/mconf/>). Please visit the website periodically for regular updates.

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERS

