

Invitation to a participative debate: “What kind of role can languages play in globalized societies within a weakened Europe?”



Event initiated by three organisations

Acedle (Association des chercheurs et enseignants didacticiens des langues étrangères)

Asdifle (Association de didactique du français langue étrangère)

Transit-Lingua (Association Travaux en Réseaux, Approches Nouvelles en Situations Interculturelles et Transnationales)

PARIS, 14th & 15th JUNE 2019

Maison de la Recherche – Sorbonne Nouvelle, 4 Rue des Irlandais, 75005 Paris

Or available on line (via streaming)

Why this debate?

Today, considering the evolutions and the re-assessment of the common European political project, there is a need for a reflection which questions the role of all languages, their transmission and their appropriation in contemporary European societies.

Closure on one's cultural and even national identity, disputes on the issues of democracy and European solidarity; rise of a policy based on security; domination of a liberal and technocratic managerial “governance” ... Contemporary Europe has to face these new challenges together with contradictory interpretations of its own history. Consequently, the very idea of a common political project is seriously endangered.

Historically, languages and the different values attached to their learning and teaching have played a key role in the reflection on the European project and its construction (see the role of languages in the actions of the European Union and the European Council, the mobility programmes such as Erasmus, etc.) Consequently, the field of languages finds itself questioned on different levels: its purpose, its history, its responsibilities and ends, both as a field of research and a field of intervention. It also depends on the status of the languages in question, on their geographic and sociolinguistic contexts as well as on the history and the representations they convey, their mode of transmission, of appropriation and evaluation.

Building a common view implies to work from a wide variety of positions (including the potential divergences implied), linked to a diversity of experiences, of choices of societal values, of language conceptions, of intervention dynamics, of willingness to participate (or not). This idea is set at the core of the participative debate.

Our approach

At a critical turning point for Europe and for the issue of languages in Europe, our three organisations have planned an event aiming at participative democracy and allowing for the development of a collective reflection based on varied and contrasted experiences and projects. Hence the proposition of a debate (not a conference), as a collective framework in which diverse positions, including contradictory ones, may be heard and discussed, a debate that brings together professionals actively involved in the field of languages who do not necessarily communicate regularly.

To initiate and nourish our exchanges, we have invited “debate launchers” as witnesses of the variety of issues, histories and linguistic, geographic, cultural and political situations in a European continent connected to the rest of the world. The debate is reflection and action-oriented. Its potential continuation will be discussed at the end of the event.

**You are actively involved in the field of languages?
Take part in this collective prospective reflection.**

Organisation

✓ Framework

- 15 professionals involved in the field of languages will initiate various discussions, based on short texts written on the basis of the launching question. The texts have been written individually or collectively. They will be available on line before the event.
- Participants (present or on line) will be invited to react to these positions.
- The organisations will host the different parts of the debate.

✓ Languages

Following the collaborative spirit of these two days of participative debate, we will not use a formal translation device, but we will rely on the participants’ linguistic skills (debate launchers and participants) to translate or facilitate intercomprehension between the different languages used.

What to do to take part?

✓ Participants

These two days are open to everyone concerned with the issue of languages in Europe: organisation coordinators, teachers, trainers, publishers, IT engineers, lecturers and researchers, etc.

**To take part, you have to register.
You will be asked to read the 15 short texts produced ahead of the event.**

✓ **Practical information for taking part**

Two ways of taking part are available:

- ◆ ***Physical participation***

Seating capacity of the debate venue: 45 places

For those wishing to be present, a contribution of 30 euros to cover catering costs will have to be paid (at the venue).

- ◆ ***On line participation***

The debate will be accessible live on line, thanks to the distance-learning platform of University Sorbonne nouvelle – Paris 3. It will also be possible to intervene in the debate via a chat forum.

To register (to take part physically or on line)

On the [debate web page](#).

Other information

List of the “debate launchers” (and their co-writers), texts to be read, official programme, access plan, etc., to access on the [debate web page](#)

NB: this page will be updated regularly until June.

Any questions?

Contact: debparticipatif@gmail.com



Debate launchers (may be modified)

Giovanni Agresti

With the support of DORIF-Università (*Centro di documentazione e di ricerca per la didattica della lingua francese nell'Università italiana*), of the international network POCLANDE (*Populations, Cultures, Languages and Development*), of H el ene Velasco Graciet, principal of University Bordeaux-Montaigne and of Urtzi Etxeberria, director of IKER (UMR 5478), Bayonne

Mathilde Anquetil

On the basis of discussions with university lecturers working on intercomprehension.

Michel Candelier

Text written with the following members of CARAP / CELV: Jean-Fran ois de Pietro; Brigitte Gerber; Ildik o L orincz; Anna Schr oder-Sura.

Stefania Cavagnoli

With the support of Centre for Interdisciplinary Research *Gender in legislative languages*.

Daniel Coste

Individual text.

Martine Derivry and Tony Liddicoat

Text written on behalf of the Research network "Intercultural mediation in language and culture teaching and learning".

Veronica Hagi

Text written with Monica Vlad.

Claire Kramsch, Noah Katznelson et Jessica Adams

Collective contribution.

Aleksandra Ljalikova

On the basis of discussions with a network of language teachers of the University of Tallinn.

Emilie Lebreton

Text written with Marc Debono and Eric Mercier (with the participation of V. Castellotti), on the basis of exchanges with lecturers of the University of Tours and professionals involved in the social field and the linguistic training of migrants.

Isabelle Mordellet-Roggenbuck

Text written with Michel Tremblay, on behalf of Observatoire Europ een du plurilinguisme.

Angela Scarino and Michelle Kohler

Collective contribution.

Jonathan Szajman

For the organisation Proforal (Belgium).

Alessandra Tomaselli

With the support of the European programme AThEME (Advancing the European Multilingual Experience).

Daniel V eronique

Individual text.



Provisional programme

Friday 14th June 2019

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| 9am | Registration |
| 9.30am | Welcome and presentation of the participative debate (history, principles, aims) Organisations: Acedle – Asdifle – Transit-Lingua |
| 10am | Discussions 1 Europe facing the choice of its values: which social projects? Debate launchers: Daniel Coste, Giovanni Agresti, Daniel Véronique, Veronica Hagi |
| 12pm | Lunch |
| 1.30pm | Discussions 2 Re-interrogating “language”: power, action, experience? Debate launchers: Claire Kramsch with Noah Katznelson and Jessica Adams, Isabelle Mordellet-Roggenbuck, Stefania Cavagnoli |
| 3.30pm | Coffee break |
| 4-6pm | Discussions 3 Intervention processes: networks, exchanges and communication Debate launchers: Martine Derivry and Tony Liddicoat, Alessandra Tomaselli, Michel Candelier, Mathilde Anquetil |

Saturday 15th June 2019

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| 8.30am | Registrations |
| 9am | Discussions 4 Intervention: tensions, latitudes for action, responsibilities Debate launchers: Jonathan Sajzman, Aleksandra Ljalikova, Emilie Lebreton, Angela Scarino and Michelle Kohler |
| 11am | Coffee break |
| 11.15am | Synthesis of discussions |
| 1.30-3.30pm | And beyond Snack meal and informal exchanges: post-debate perspectives? |