

ELC Workshop, Berlin 28.11.2013

Multilingualism, Internationalisation and the Quality of Language Provision in Higher Education

While the baseline of mother tongue plus two foreign languages is still an official goal that has not been reached everywhere in Europe, recent years have made it abundantly clear that, with 400+ languages spoken in Europe, languages are learnt in many different contexts outside the formal educational systems. However, this does not necessarily mean that students in higher education have adequate academic literacy and academic writing skills in their language of study, or that graduates have the language and intercultural communication skills required in their professions.

In Europe, the internationalisation of higher education is a key priority for almost all higher education institutions; however, this strategic priority is not necessarily followed by the necessary and sufficient language provision for students and academic staff. Moreover, an increasing number of higher education programmes is now being offered through English, and this has created an unfortunate dichotomy between multilingualism and English Medium Instruction (EMI). However, the EMI programmes are a reality in European higher education today, and it is therefore necessary to address issues of individual multilingualism on the one hand as well as English, including EMI, on the other.

In this workshop we will address the quality of individual language and intercultural communication skills as well as the quality of language provision or language support measures in the internationalisation of higher education. The purpose of the workshop is to take stock of the situation and discuss the need for (joint) developments in future.

In order to spark the discussion among the participants, we have invited the following colleagues to share their experience and the results of their work in this field:

Introduction to the workshop

Karen M. Lauridsen, Aarhus University (DK) & Coordinator of the IntlUni Academic Network

Institution-Wide Language Programmes in the UK Higher Education context: challenges for accreditation of language competences

Jocelyn Wyburd, Director, Language Centre, Cambridge University (UK) & Vice Chair of the University Council of Modern Languages (UK)

Language Provision and Language Competences Required at the End of First, Second and Third cycles

Jolanta Urbanikowa, University of Warsaw (PL)

Language Provision Offered at the University of Minho

Joanne Paisana, University of Minho (PT)

The International Classroom and English Medium Instruction

Kevin Haines, University of Groningen (NL)

These short presentations will be followed by a participant activity and a Q&A session with the panel (the presenters in the first part of the workshop).