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*Multilingual Research Unit &  
European Language Council*

# Issues and Challenges of Multilingualism in HE and Beyond....

## Some questions and suggestions...

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# The role of the ELC...

Up to now, if anything, the ELC has been ***implementing European policies*** and it has been a ***think tank*** where issues of language and ***(higher) education and language policies*** in the broadest sense have been addressed...





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# The role of the ELC...

**Often by bringing together members via projects...**

**Impressive list:**

CELAN, DIALANG, EBCL, ENLU, MAGICC, MOLAN, MULTICOM, SIGMA, TNP'S, VALE!, LANQUA, LINCQ, OPTIMALE, SPEAQ, ...

**Also:** INTL UNI, DYLAN & MIME...

See ELC website for more information...





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## The role of the ELC...

Today, many ELC members feel that a number of ideas should change status and that ***efforts should be undertaken to pass from the drawing board to prototypes and even beyond...***





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# Towards rethinking multilingualism...

The conference theme is...

***Engaging languages, sciences,  
cultures, societies...***

To engage in the sense of ***active involvement***  
with the idea ***to bring about change...***

**Needless to say that this is a challenge...**





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# Towards rethinking multilingualism...

It challenges our *natural inclination to resist change and the difficulty to implement it...*

In 1996 Delors wrote *'[the commission] regretted the inadequacy of results and stressed the need for reform [...] to make their action more effective'* (Unesco 1996:33)





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# Towards rethinking multilingualism...

This conference is successful when we can come up with ***blueprints, plans, outlines, actions and / or guidelines aiming at change...***

The issues to be addressed are those we are discussing today and tomorrow...





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# Towards rethinking multilingualism...

These blueprints etc. should constitute an  
***action plan for the future...***

These plans will undoubtedly have to be  
***comprehensive*** as the theme of the conference  
is indicating...

A number of directions are pointed out in the  
following...







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# Towards rethinking multilingualism...

- The recognition of ***multilingualism as a key issue*** for all universities next to internationalisation and globalisation...
- The recognition of a hierarchy within languages reaching from ***international ones over national ones to regional ones and new exogeneous ones...***
- The recognition that ***languages are part of any study programme...***
- The recognition that ***the study of languages cannot begin at university level...***
- The recognition of the ***cognitive value of languages*** and its contribution to the ***development of knowledge...***





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# Towards rethinking multilingualism...

- The recognition of the importance of a ***new European language policies...***
- The recognition of ***educational traditions*** within these new policies...
- The recognition that ***some approaches work better than others***, when it comes to ***learning...***
- The recognition that the ***involvement of other non-educational stakeholders*** is important for education...
- The recognition that ***regular processes of evaluation*** ensure real progress in education and the implementation of policies...





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***Thank you for your attention***

***Merci de votre attention***

***Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit***

