



CONSEIL EUROPEEN POUR LES LANGUES /  
EUROPEAN LANGUAGE COUNCIL



**SIG 1:**  
**Languages and intercultural careers**  
**Langues et carrières interculturelles**

**Interim report**



# Situation in Europe

- With the difficult evolution of the political situation in the European countries in 2015, especially the question of refugees and migrants, the importance of the subject and the responsibility of our work as teachers of language and culture, two pillars for societal cohesion and for mutual understanding within different cultures, gained visibility.



# Task

The task we defined for the SIG was to “propose ways in which language programmes in European universities can better equip students to undertake careers that require intercultural competences, including a range of multilingual and multicultural strategies.”



# 2015 Activities

- Group members from more than 20 universities from all over Europe
- Two meetings:
  - a physical one in June in Brussels
  - a virtual one (skype meeting) in September



# Intercultural Careers

<b>Language and Culture Studies</b>	<b>„plus“ intercultural competence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• knowledge (cognitive)</li><li>• abilities (affective)</li><li>• skills (behavioral)</li></ul>	<b>„plus“ profession-oriented capabilities</b>	<b>„equals“</b> (determined also by other factors like for example personality, interests, internships, trainee programmes, social environment ...)	<b>Career outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mediation</li><li>• Human resources</li><li>• Management consulting</li><li>• Foreign language teacher</li><li>• International relations</li><li>• Cultural management</li><li>• International marketing</li><li>• Public relations</li><li>• ...</li></ul>
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# Results

- We mapped the landscape of already existing study courses including languages and intercultural studies in different European countries
- We identified careers with linguistic and cultural knowledge; table of career outcomes
- We identified benchmarks we considered useful to build a basis for defining learning outcomes
- We established a bibliography of useful materials



# Next steps

## 1. Degree programmes and careers

- Do we have a common understanding of intercultural competence within language and culture degrees?
- How to adapt study courses to match societal needs? Is there a framework to answer this question on a European level?
- Closer look at learning and career outcomes: define examples of good practice



# Next steps

## 2. Role of the teacher

Rethinking teacher training and professional development:

- How to stretch the importance of linking language education and cultural studies?
- How to teach intercultural competence as a language teacher? Which models?
- In which way the role of language teachers can be reinforced?





# Future Questions

- How to define culture(s) in today's European project proposals?
- Should we update the CEFR to a European understanding of multilingualism and interculturalism?
- How to include intercultural dimensions in structured mobility programmes for intercultural careers?



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Thank you for your attention!  
Merci pour votre attention!

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