

Editorial

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[Table of contents](#)
[en français](#)

The lead article in this edition focuses once again on issues relating to quality in language studies in higher education, clearly an area in which important developments are taking place in a number of European countries. Following on from Mike Kelly's account in the fourth Bulletin of quality initiatives in the British system, Ian Tudor provides an overview of the factors which have an important role to play in a QM-based approach to the assessment of programmes in language studies. As a task force on quality management in higher education language programmes has recently been created within the ELC, it is clear that this area will continue to a focus of attention in future issues.

The other articles deal with matters relating to the European Language Council, such as the activities of the sub-project on bilingual education and the sub-project on intercultural communication within the Thematic Network Project in the Area of Languages. Information on the second conference of the association, which took place in Jyväskylä, Finland, on 1-3 July, 1999, as well as progress on other ELC activities, is included in the President's report. In addition the Bulletin includes a report on the MALTED Project, a major innovation in multimedia, in which a number of ELC members are leading participants. The identity which is emerging for the Bulletin is thus one in which it serves as a means of disseminating information on ELC activities as well as on other major international projects in which the members are active. To enable the Bulletin to continue to fulfil this double mission, members are encouraged to provide reports on progress in ELC and other international projects in which they participate.

An important step forward in the short history of the Bulletin is that this edition is available on the Internet. As membership of the association is institutional, only one member of each institution receives a copy, with the result that the effectiveness of the Bulletin as a means of disseminating information has been limited until now. It is hoped that the web-based version will lead to much greater feedback from members on their activities, as well as their views on the content of the current and future bulletins.

Information for inclusion in future editions, feedback forms, proposals for lead articles and progress reports on ELC projects should be sent to:

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