E-bulletin

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Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the June 2025 edition of the CercleS e-bulletin, we are excited to share our most recent news and developments.

This issue announces the venue for the XIX CercleS International Conference, to be held in the inspiring setting of Rome in 2026, so mark your calendars and get ready for a gathering that promises an opportunity to encourage discussion and the sharing of ideas with colleagues from all over our network.

We also revisit the second edition of the Ranacles/CercleS Teacher Training Week, where colleagues explored the intersections of language teaching and artificial intelligence in a collaborative environment and surrounded by the beautiful views of Marseille.

Following the success of this second edition, we are pleased to announce that the event will become a permanent fixture in the CercleS calendar. With Erasmus+ funding available to support participation, the initiative promotes ongoing professional development across the CercleS community.

As CercleS continues to grow both within Europe and internationally, we proudly introduce some of our new Associate Members, whose profiles illustrate the shared values that unite our community.

This issue also features the launch of a new Focus Group on Plurilingualism, and we invite members to read about their focus and activities, and to join this dynamic international group.

And, finally, don´t miss the regular updates from the General Secretariat, Presidency, and Treasury, along with news about ongoing projects, recent webinars, and further opportunities to connect and contribute.

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to shaping the future of CercleS together.

Best wishes,

Julia Zabala Delgado

CercleS President

Andiamo a Roma!

We are thrilled to confirm the venue for the XIX CercleS Conference in 2026: The University of Rome 'Foro Italico'.

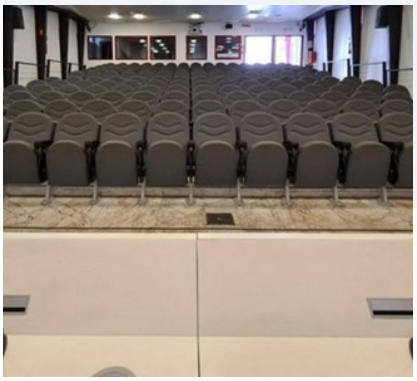
Date: 10-12 September 2026
Title: The Role of Language Centres in a Fast-Changing World: Responding to Emerging Needs in Society, Communication and Learning

We are living in a transformative era, characterised by technological innovation, global uncertainty and social change. In this context, language centres are confronted with an increasing number of demands, such as providing learners with the necessary communication tools, supporting inclusive education and fostering intercultural understanding.

What role can language centres play in responding to emerging needs and supporting global understanding? How can they address the challenges arising from digital acceleration, changing modes of communication, and evolving learner identities while preserving linguistic and cultural diversity? This theme invites reflection on the role of language centres in a world of complexity and change.

More information and details, including the conference website, will be announced in the coming weeks.

Video introduction of The University of Rome 'Foro Italico'
University website
Location of the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo









Feedback from our Teacher Training week

The second edition of Teacher Training Week, organised by Ranacles and CercleS in collaboration with the Service Universitaire des Langues of Aix-Marseille University (amU), was held in Marseille. From 11 to 14 June 2025, 26 participants and 13 contributors gathered on the luxurious St Charles campus to update their knowledge on the use of AI in language teaching. Ten countries were represented: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and France.

The opening conference-workshop, led by Colin De La Higuera (Université de Nantes), provided insight into the current state of AI technology, enabling participants to engage with the topic through practical examples. The three subsequent conferences explored various aspects of the topic. Nicolas Molle and Guillaume Nassau (University of Lorraine), shared the results of their study of over 4,000 students, providing insight into thoughtful and reflective approaches to learning in the AI era. Nuria Gala (amU), provided an overview of how technologies have transformed computer-assisted language learning to date. Finally, Jane Mahoney (University of Groningen), explored tools that enhance teaching effectiveness and support student learning.

The workshops added a practical touch, enabling all participants to experience, try out and discuss various tools presented by the workshop hosts*. These sessions covered everything from hands-on tools to AI policy, exploring the role of AI in language learning and writing and offering solutions for its ethical integration, even in assessment.

Just like last year, the participants were given the opportunity to comment on the daily plenary feedback. The quality of their shared feelings was a good indication of the richness and usefulness of the exchanges. The comprehensive programme enabled them to ask and get answers to challenging questions, expand their knowledge and understanding of AI.

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Throughout the week, participants discussed ethics, critical thinking, pedagogical implications, best practices in the learning environment, and knowledge-sharing about Gen AI, enriching their ability to apply these elements to their future practices.

During their stay, the group also took the opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Marseille, enjoy the stunning view over the Calanques, and sample delicious local cuisine at dinner.

Overall, this second edition has proved to be an excellent follow-up to last year's event in Nancy, providing an opportunity to update knowledge and expertise in a brilliant ambience.

No doubt the next edition will take a different path, given that Gen AI is constantly and rapidly evolving. For now, participants, hosts and organisers will disseminate their findings in their workplace, thus prolonging the effects of this event.

* Linda Mous & Eric Van Luijt (Tilburg University), Leonie Van Lierop & Sara Rymenams (Leuven University), Paul Pouzergues & Christelle Combe (amU), Jim Fuller (Cambridge University) and Sophie Othman (Université de Besançon)

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The Ranacles/CercleS Teacher Training Week organising committee:

Back, from left to right: Paul Pouzergues (Aix Marseille Université - amU), Gérard Rouzies (Université de Toulouse), Marc Schirès (Université de Lorraine), Tom Grainger (amU)

Front, from left to right: Souhila Grifi (amU), Catherine David (amU)

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From 11 to 14 June, thirty language teachers from different universities in Europe exchanged knowledge and opinions on today's hot topic in language teaching: how do we responsibly surf the wave of Gen AI? And is there a better place to do so than the vibrant metropolis of the south: Marseille? The programme was full, the variety wide: In three talks, six workshops and a daily roundtable discussion, we came to deeper insights about integrating AI into our lesson preparations, learning objectives, learning activities and assessment formats, taking into account the many ethical questions that arise. During the generous coffee breaks, lunches and dinners, there was time to exchange experiences across languages. In addition, the cultural framing provided by the hosts was just fantastic: the best conversations sparkled up during a sunset picnic in the Calanques… A perfect illustration of the biggest takeaway from this congress: what machines will never be able to replace, is human connection and passion.

Many thanks to the University of Aix-Marseille and the organising team behind this (both literally and metaphorically) warm event, Tom Grainger, Marc Schirès, Souhila Grifi, Catherine David, Gérard Rouzies and Paul Pouzergues!

Sara Rymenams & Leonie Van Lierop
ILT KU Leuven, Belgium



Teacher Training Week v Marseille byl pro mě velmi inspirativní a obohacující zážitek. Během čtyř dnů jsme se s kolegy z různých evropských univerzit věnovali využití umělé inteligence ve výuce jazyků. Workshopy byly prakticky zaměřené a otevřely mi nové možnosti, jak AI začlenit do vlastní výuky. Navíc panovala přátelská a otevřená atmosféra, která přispěla k výměně zkušeností i navázání nových kontaktů. Odjížděla jsem s hlavou plnou nápadů, s chutí je vyzkoušet, a zároveň s krásnými vzpomínkami na společně strávený čas. Doufám, že dostanu příležitost účastnit se i příští rok.

Eva Komínková
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Palacký University Olomouc Czech Republic

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We were lucky to take part in the inspiring 2025 Ranacles/CercleS Teacher Training Workshop in Marseille—a vibrant four-day event dedicated to exploring and reflecting on the use of Generative AI in language teaching. The programme combined hands-on workshops with thought-provoking talks, all delivered by knowledgeable and engaging speakers. Every aspect of the event was flawlessly coordinated, reflecting a high level of professionalism and care. What truly stood out, however, was the friendly and collaborative spirit among participants, which fostered a genuine sense of connection and shared purpose. It was a thoroughly uplifting and valuable experience that we would enthusiastically recommend to fellow language educators.

Ha sido una maravilla compartir estos días de talleres y comunicaciones sobre el uso y aplicación de IA en la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de lenguas. Excelente organización por parte del equipo de la universidad de Aix Marseille, un auténtico placer haber conocido a Catherine, Souhila, Tom, Marc y Gerard, y a todos los participantes y asistentes. Muchas gracias por compartir todo vuestro conocimiento.

Un grand merci à Tom et toute l'équipe organisatrice de cette semaine de formation ! Tout était au top, des intervenants aux participants, en passant par les activités sociales et bien sur, la grande star Marseille qui nous a si bien accueillis.

Teresa Garcia & Magali Allary
King's Language Centre - King's College London, UK



Die Teacher Training Week bot eine exzellente Gelegenheit, mich mit Kolleginnen und Kollegen aus verschiedenen Ländern über Chancen und Herausforderungen von KI in der universitären Sprachlehre auszutauschen. Besonders gelungen fand ich den konsequent anwendungsorientierten Ansatz der Workshops, der es uns ermöglichte, neben konzeptionellen Fragestellungen auch konkrete Einsatzszenarien zu skizzieren und zu reflektieren. Eine rundum gelungene Veranstaltung!

Yannick Müllender
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

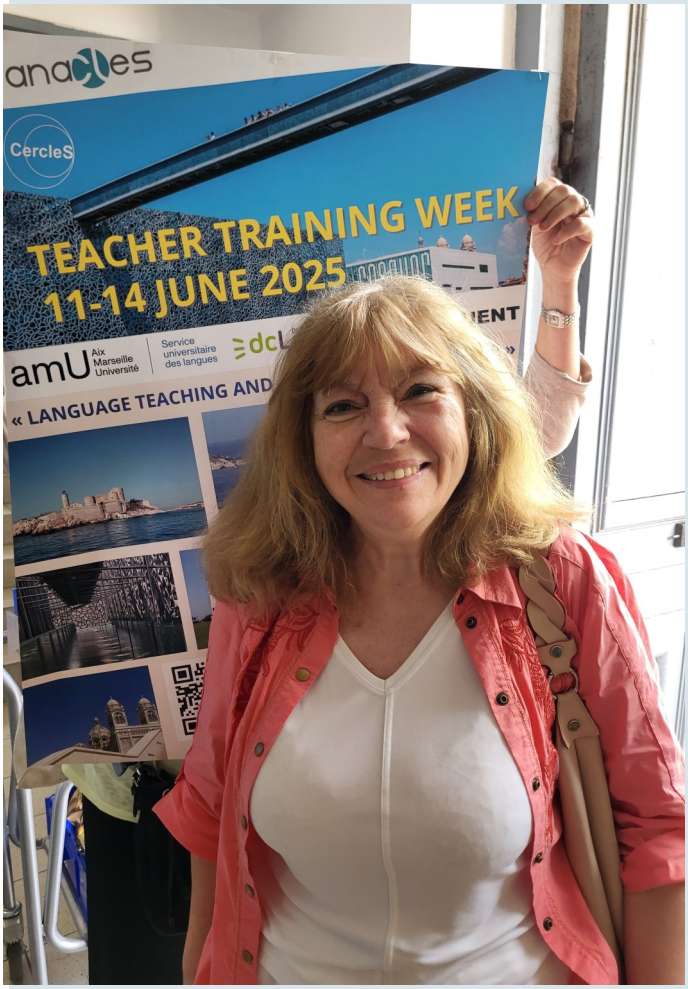
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Quel bonheur de pouvoir partager avec des collègues européens nos expériences d'enseignants de langues, apprendre pour rendre nos contenus plus pertinents, découvrir de nouveaux outils et de nouvelles stratégies, le tout dans une ambiance chaleureuse, dynamique et bienveillante. On repart la tête pleine d'idées avec la perspective de partage avec les collègues de langues de notre Université, un vrai plaisir qui donne envie de revenir !



Amélie Vivet
Université de Rouen Normandie, France



Είμαι πολύ χαρούμενη που είχα την ευκαιρία της συμμετοχής στην συναρπαστική και διδακτική εκπαιδευτική εβδομάδα περί Τεχνητής Νοημοσύνης για καθηγητές, που διεξάχθηκε στην Μασσαλία.
Σας ευχαριστώ όλους πολύ! Τους διοργανωτές για τον χρόνο τους και την αφοσίωση να γίνουν τα πάντα τέλεια και τους συναδέλφους για την καλοσύνη τους να μοιραστούν μαζί μας τις εμπειρίες τους.

Ελπίζω να ξανασυναντηθούμε σύντομα!
Να έχετε ένα υπέροχο καλοκαίρι!

I'm so happy to have had the oppurtunity to attend the inspiring and educational AI Teacher Training Week in Marseille, a week of learning, thinking, and having a great time! Thank everyone so much! The organisers, for their time and kindness in making everything so perfect and the colleagues for their kindness in sharing their experiences with us.

I hope we meet again soon!
Have a great summer!

Panagiota Popoti
Foreign Language Centre, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki

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This was my first time participating in the Ranacles/CercleS Teacher Training week and it was a privilege to be included among such a supportive and generous group during that wonderful week in sunny Marseille. I really had no idea I'd have that much fun and learn so many things! In addition to all the super cool extra activities, the event was extremely well organised, with a good mix of theoretical insights, critical perspectives and practical workshops. I'm coming home with tools that I cannot wait to include in my courses, fresh ideas on AI, new references to read, and new questions to explore.



Leslie De Bont
Université de Nantes, France

One of the best things about the Teacher Training Workshop is that you get almost a week to entirely focus and work on one topic; AI in this case. It's getting inspiration from the keynotes and other workshops, but mostly from discussing with other language enthusiasts and working on materials together. I appreciated how eagerly the people in my workshop discussed in what way they could create their own AI course policies being both constructively critical and appreciative. Of course, it does not hurt to be in a gorgeous environment with good food and better conversation.



Een van de beste dingen aan de Teacher Training Workshop is dat je bijna een week de tijd hebt om je volledig te concentreren op één onderwerp, in dit geval AI. Je haalt inspiratie uit de keynotes en andere workshops, maar vooral uit discussies met andere taalmensen en het samen werken aan materiaal. Ik waardeerde het enorm hoe enthousiast de deelnemers aan mijn workshop discussieerden over hoe ze hun eigen AI-cursusbeleid konden opstellen, waarbij ze zowel constructief kritisch meedachten als waardering toonden. Het helpt natuurlijk ook dat je in een prachtige omgeving bent, met lekker eten en goede gesprekken.

Linda Mous
Tilburg University Language Center, Netherlands

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This year's Ranacles/CercleS teacher training school was a great example of thought leaders coming together and engaging in critical discussions around the topic on everyone's mind: Artificial Intelligence. It was a real pleasure to engage in these insightful and thought-provoking interactions with colleagues from around Europe. It is clear that this event has provided practical ideas relating to classroom practice and pedagogy for many, whilst also giving insights into how language teaching organisations might engage in AI policy creation and assessment using AI. I look forward to future Ranacles/CercleS events that extend on the learning and insights from this amazing experience. Thanks to all those who contributed, and especially to the organisers!

Jim Fuller
Cambridge University, UK



L'incontro di formazione "l'intelligenza artificiale & l'insegnamento delle lingue" si è appena concluso, è quindi il momento opportuno per valutarne l'impatto sulla mia vita professionale. Come un naufrago, sono approdata sulle sponde di Marsiglia alla ricerca di un porto sicuro che mi permettesse di riprendermi dall'onda travolgente dei nuovi sistemi di LLM. Quest'aspettativa è stata pienamente soddisfatta dalle quattro giornate di formazione. L'alternarsi di interventi di ricercatori, workshop specifici e riflessioni in plenaria ha permesso di affrontare questo tema che ci sgomenta tutti da varie prospettive, suggerendo circoli virtuosi in cui la ricerca influenza positivamente la didattica, diffondendo buone pratiche e fornendo un quadro complesso, ma incoraggiante dello status quo e delle auspicabili prospettive future. Il confronto con colleghi provenienti da tutta Europa ha aggiunto una dimensione ancora più stimolante e variegata alla formazione, ribadendo che il fattore umano continua ad essere determinante. Dopo quattro mitici giorni passati tra l'AMU, le calanques e le spiagge di Marsiglia, non mi sento più un naufrago, ho recuperate le forze e sono pronta ad intraprendere una nuova avventura che integri il potenziale positivo dell'IA nella mia realtà didattica, consentendomi di rimanere un docente utile e prezioso per i miei studenti.

Daniela Ceroni
Sprachenzentrum, Hochschule Geisenheim University

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Le mot de la fin !

Once again, the organisers of the Ranacles/CercleS teacher training summer school have proven that collaboration elevates us all. In the fast-evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence, having the opportunity to pause, reflect, and explore its deeper implications—especially in the context of our Language Centres—is a rare privilege. Even more enriching was the chance to do so alongside colleagues from across Europe, whose diverse backgrounds, expertise, and professional perspectives added immense value to the experience.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Catherine David and her dedicated team at the Service Universitaire des Langues, Aix-Marseille University, for their exceptional efforts. This gathering is just the beginning of many successful collaborations to come.

Tom Grainger
President of Ranacles and Treasurer of CercleS













Introducing some of our new associate members

Over the last several months, CercleS has welcomed a number of new associate members, from countries within Europe and beyond: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Ukraine, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates. We will introduce some of these new members in our upcoming e-bulletins, and hope to highlight shared interests, encourage collaboration, promote shared projects, and support other forms of cooperation between our institutional members and associate members.

Department of Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics at the Technical University of Sofia (Bulgaria)

The Technical University of Sofia (TU – Sofia), founded in 1945, is Bulgaria's largest technological university and a member of the European University of Technology alliance (EUt+). It offers high-quality education across 17 faculties, with programmes in Bulgarian, English, German, and French, enrolling over 11,600 students, 9% of whom are international from 45+ countries.

TU – Sofia maintains strong ties with industry and research, ensuring graduates fill key roles in engineering, R&D, and management. The university is a leading research institution supported by the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Bulgarian higher education.



Foreign language education is a core element of TU – Sofia's curriculum, essential for preparing competitive professionals. Since its establishment as a centre in 1989 and as a department since 1999, the Department of Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics has taught thousands of students, offering courses through two sections: English Language, and Western and Slavic Languages.

The Department provides language instruction for all first-year students, doctoral candidates, academic and administrative staff, and partners within the EUt+ network. It organises seminars, Erasmus+ programmes, and an annual international pedagogical conference involving participants from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.



Department members author teaching materials and publish annual academic volumes on language education. Currently, they lead a project establishing an Innovative Pedagogical Laboratory for applied research and VR-based training in inclusive higher education.



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University Language Center of the Catholic University 'Our Lady of Good Counsel' (Tirana, Albania)

The University Language Center of the Catholic University 'Our Lady of Good Counsel' (Tirana, Albania) was established on December 17, 2014. Our instructors are around 50 across four languages: Italian, English, German, and Albanian, and the benefitting students are more than 1500. Its activities are separated into two main areas: the didactic offer area and that of study and research.



The didactic offer area includes the coordination of courses in the aforementioned languages and respective cultures. We also act as testing centers for two international exam certifications—Telc for German, and PLIDA for Italian. We are direct partners for both and provide examinations across all levels. We also offer language consultancy services, such as translation, interpreting, and linguistic and cultural mediation.

The study and research area includes study paths and new methodologies and study techniques to facilitate English, German and Albanian language learning – as a Second and Foreign Language. We provide refresher courses for instructors of Second and Foreign Languages too. CLA instructors are licensed by the Ministry of Education to offer training courses for language teachers of middle schools and high schools. In the past, we have offered trainings such as "Pedagogy of the literary text", "The use of TIK in the professional development of the Second Language teacher", "Digital tools in language teaching and learning". The University Language Center staff is also active in research, particularly regarding innovative methodologies and techniques in the fields of language teaching and linguistic research. We participate in national and international conferences to disseminate our research results, and in projects on the promotion of education and training in plurilingualism and multiculturalism. Moreover, we also publish original teaching materials.



Beyond research dissemination, we organize conferences and conventions, such as the symposium Linguistic sustainability in an international context (2023), Alessandro Manzoni and *The Betrothed* in Albania (2023), and the X DILLE Congress: Languages, Territories, and Contexts: Linguistic-educational policies today (2025).

We collaborate with other Universities, institutions, and national and international associations. We are associated members of CISVA (Centro Interuniversitario di Studi sul Viaggio Adriatico – Interuniversity Center of Studies on the Adriatic Journey) and CercleS.



In the way of training and orientation internships, we collaborate with the Faculty of Foreign Languages, University of Tirana (Master's in Translation and Interpreting), accepting interns in the field of translation, and with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan (Master's in Teaching Italian as a Second Language), accepting interns in the field of Italian didactics.

The University Language Center collaborates with all the structures of the University itself, by managing language tests and language admissions exams, providing the necessary attendance for language courses, and the recognition of language certificates.

Création d'un Groupe de discussion sur le Plurilinguisme au sein de CercleS

Nous avons le plaisir d'annoncer la création d'un Groupe de discussion dédié au plurilinguisme au sein de CercleS. Cette initiative s'inscrit dans la continuité des travaux du FlexiLingua Groupe, un collectif interuniversitaire (Université Masaryk, Université libre de Bruxelles, Université de Fribourg) actif depuis 2019 dans des projets à portée internationale.
Nos réalisations incluent des publications (CASALC Review, ouvrages collectifs), des colloques internationaux (Brno, 2022 et 2024) et des programmes collaboratifs Erasmus+ et Movetia.
La création du Groupe vise à élargir ce réseau, à partager des bonnes pratiques et à renforcer les synergies autour du plurilinguisme dans l'enseignement supérieur. Nous invitons les membres intéressés à nous rejoindre pour contribuer à cette dynamique collaborative. Nous préparons actuellement un ouvrage collectif consacré aux pratiques plurilingues et invitons les chercheurs et praticiens intéressés à y contribuer. (Veuillez consulter l'encadré à la page suivante.)

Pour plus d'informations, visitez : https://www.cjv.muni.cz/en/about-us/pluri

Coordinatrices du groupe de discussion

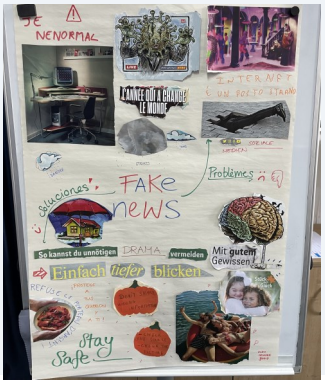
Kateřina Sedláčková est directrice adjointe pour la recherche et maîtresse de conférences en français au Centre de Langues de l'Université Masaryk à Brno. Docteure en philologie romane, ses recherches se concentrent sur le plurilinguisme et la médiation. Elle est autrice d'articles de recherche, coéditrice de plusieurs ouvrages collectifs, et membre de l'équipe de traductrices en tchèque du *Volume complémentaire du CECR 2020*, où elle a notamment traduit des chapitres et appendices portant sur la médiation et la compétence plurilingue. Par ailleurs, elle coordonne le projet Erasmus+ BIP sur la compétence plurilingue ainsi que le groupe interuniversitaire *FlexiLingua*, dédié à la recherche sur le plurilinguisme, et organise régulièrement des colloques internationaux.
(katerina.sedlackova@cjv.muni.cz)

Notice Biographique Beatriz Calvo Martín

Titulaire d'un doctorat en Langues et Lettres de l'Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) et de l'Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), elle travaille aujourd'hui comme Première Maître de Langues en langue espagnole, didactique et études hispaniques à l'Université libre de Bruxelles. Licenciée en Droit à Madrid (UAM) et en Langues et Littératures Romanes à Bruxelles (ULB), elle a également collaboré avec l'Instituto Cervantes de Bruxelles. Actuellement, elle est coordinatrice pour l'espagnol du projet Tandem d'échanges linguistiques, responsable du programme de formation des enseignants BrusELE, co-créatrice de *ROMA*, revue digitale multilingue des langues romanes, et membre du groupe interuniversitaire FlexiLingua consacré à la recherche sur le plurilinguisme. Ses recherches portent sur la linguistique appliquée, le pluri/multilinguisme, la motivation en L2, la créativité et les émotions dans l'apprentissage des langues, ainsi que sur la littérature espagnole, francophone et comparée. (beatriz.calvo.martin@ulb.be)

Nous invitons tous les membres intéressés par ce sujet à contacter les coordinatrices et à rejoindre ce nouveau groupe de discussion !







Creation of a Focus Group on Plurilingualism within CercleS

We are pleased to announce the creation of a Focus Group dedicated to plurilingualism within CercleS. This initiative builds on the work of the FlexiLingua Group, an inter-university collective (Masaryk University, Université libre de Bruxelles, University of Fribourg) that has been active since 2019 in internationally oriented projects. Our accomplishments include publications (CASALC Review, edited volumes), international conferences (Brno, 2022 and 2024), and collaborative Erasmus+ and Movetia programmes.

The aim of the Focus Group is to expand this network, share good practices, and strengthen synergies around plurilingualism in higher education. We invite interested members to join us and contribute to this collaborative initiative.

We are currently preparing an edited volume dedicated to plurilingual practices and warmly invite researchers and practitioners who are interested to contribute. (See box below)

For more information, visit: https://www.cjv.muni.cz/en/about-us/pluri

Focus Group Coordinators

Kateřina Sedláčková is the Deputy Director for Research and an Assistant Professor in French at the Masaryk University Language Centre in Brno. She holds a PhD in Romance Philology; her research focuses on plurilingualism and mediation. She is the author of research articles, co-editor of several collective volumes, and a member of the Czech translation team for the CEFR Companion Volume 2020, where she contributed translations of chapters and appendices on mediation and plurilingual competence. She coordinates the Erasmus+ BIP project on plurilingual competence as well as the inter-university group FlexiLingua, which is dedicated to research on plurilingualism. She also regularly organizes international conferences. (katerina.sedlackova@cjv.muni.cz)

Beatriz Calvo Martín is an Associate Professor of Spanish Language, Culture, and Didactics at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB, Belgium), where she also coordinates the Tandem Student Language Exchange Project in Spanish. She holds a PhD in Languages and Literature. She has implemented innovative teaching projects such as short film creation (finalist in the Socrate Pedagogy Prize 2021) and creative writing workshops. She is also responsible for the Spanish section of the multilingual digital journal *ROMA*. She is a co-founder of the BrusELE teacher training program and the FlexiLingua interuniversity research group on plurilingualism. Her research interests include applied linguistics, multilingualism, second language motivation, creativity and emotions in language learning, as well as Spanish, Francophone, and Comparative literature. (beatriz.calvo.martin@ulb.be)

We invite all members who are interested in this topic to contact the coordinators and join this new focus group!

Open Call for Papers
Masaryk University Press
Thinking, Practising and Living Plurilingualism, Vol. 2 (March 2026)

We invite submissions for an open-access e-book published by Masaryk University Press. The volume seeks research papers and analyses of experimental or best practices in plurilingualism.

Deadline for submission of full text: 31 August 2025
Languages: English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish
Length: 15,000-20,000 characters (incl. spaces)

Detailed information is available at: https://www.cjv.muni.cz/en/about-us/pluri

The FlexiLingua Group—an inter-university collective (Masaryk University, Université libre de Bruxelles, University of Fribourg)—has been active since 2019 in internationally oriented projects. Below are some pictures of their recent activities. We know that they will bring the same energy and collaboration to the new Focus Group!













CercleS on the web & social media

Website cercles.org

Instagram @cerclesgeneralsecretariat

YouTube CercleS organisation

LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/cercles-europe/

CercleS now has a LinkedIn page

CercleS now has a LinkedIn page. Those of you who have profiles on this platform are invited to follow us there. And if you would like CercleS to follow your LinkedIn profile, please let us know.

Webinars available on our YouTube page

• Webinar: Using a Learning-Oriented Assessment Approach to Measure 21st Century Language Competencies by Means of Scenarios (14 May 2025)

The webinar by James Purpura, Professor Emeritus of Language and Education and Director of the Scenario-Based Language Assessment Lab at Teachers College of Columbia University, New York City, was attended by around 150 members. However, we are aware that some members were unable to participate. Prof Purpura kindly agreed to let us record the webinar and share it on our YouTube page. You can watch the recording of the webinar here.

• LLHE Webinar: In conversation with the authors (17 June 2025)

On 17 June we once again hosted a webinar where we interview the authors of articles that appeared in our journal, *Language Learning in Higher Education*. You can watch a recording of the webinar on our YouTube channel. We also remind members that you have free access to the LLHE journal via the website. For instructions about how to log in and access the articles for free, please see this news post on our website. LLHE Issue 15.1 is available now.



Update from the General Secretariat

Dear members,

As we move into the summer months, we're pleased to reflect on an active and engaging spring. The current Executive Committee is especially glad to see that several initiatives launched in the past have continued with strong engagement and participation. Among these, three Teachers' Meetups and three Leadership Meetups have taken place, bringing together language educators and directors from a wide range of linguistic backgrounds.

Webinars and workshops continue to be organized as regularly as possible. By the time you read this, five webinars will have been organized, and two recent events will have just taken place: the *Webinar on scenario-based assessment* organized by the FG Assessment and testing in mid-May (154 registrations!) and the *LLHE webinar* on 17 June. The recording of some webinars and talks are available on the CercleS YouTube channel ("CercleS organisation").

Currently, CercleS counts 385 institutional members across 13 Full Members, along with 24 associate members. Since the launch of our new website, 1128 staff members have subscribed to the site — a number that continues to grow. Our primary method of communication with members is through our monthly newsletter (and special editions, such as this one), which is sent via the website to registered individuals. If you know of colleagues in your department or Centre who do not receive our newsletter, please invite them to register at this link.

Recent updates have been made to the CercleS website to present the confederation's members in a more accessible and organized way. You can now find a complete list of all institutional members under the section *Members > Institutional Members.* We hope this improved overview will help members connect more easily and find suitable partners for projects, collaborations, and other initiatives.

We'd like to remind all our members that CercleS offers financial support in the form of scholarships for those wishing to attend conferences hosted by our National Associations in 2025. Full details are available in the members' area of our website, under the section *Documents and Agreements > Scholarships*.

CercleS remains committed to promoting and supporting research by its members, as well as encouraging the sharing of results through conferences and workshops. The *Research* page on our website highlights projects initiated by the association and serves as a platform for members to share the outcomes of their own research.

The General Secretariat wishes you a successful end to the academic year and a relaxing, enjoyable summer break.

Mia Panisse and Alessandra Fazio



Update from the General Secretariat

Chers membres de CercleS,

A l'approche de l'été, nous sommes heureux de revenir sur un printemps riche en activités et en échanges. Le Comité exécutif actuel se réjouit tout particulièrement que plusieurs initiatives lancées par le passé se poursuivent avec une forte participation et un grand engagement. Parmi celles-ci, trois *Teachers' Meetups* et trois *Leadership Meetups* ont été organisés, réunissant des enseignants de langues et des directeurs issus de contextes linguistiques variés.

Des webinaires et des ateliers continuent également à être proposés aussi régulièrement que possible. Au moment où vous lirez ces lignes, cinq webinaires auront été organisés, et deux événements récents auront tout juste eu lieu : le webinaire sur l'évaluation basée sur des scénarios, organisé par le groupe de discussion « Assessment and Testing » à la mi-mai (154 inscriptions !), et le webinaire *LLHE* du 17 juin. Les enregistrements de certains webinaires et conférences sont disponibles sur la chaîne YouTube de CercleS (« *CercleS organisation* »).

À ce jour, CercleS compte 385 membres institutionnels répartis entre 13 membres de droit et 24 membres associés. Depuis le lancement de notre nouveau site web, 1128 membres du personnel se sont inscrits sur la plateforme — un chiffre qui ne cesse d'augmenter. Notre principal moyen de communication avec les membres reste notre bulletin mensuel (ainsi que des éditions spéciales comme celle-ci), envoyé via le site aux personnes inscrites. Si vous connaissez des collègues dans votre département ou centre qui ne reçoivent pas notre newsletter, n'hésitez pas à les inviter à s'inscrire en suivant ce lien.

Des mises à jour récentes ont été apportées au site internet de CercleS afin de présenter les membres de la confédération de manière plus claire et structurée. Vous pouvez désormais consulter la liste complète de tous les membres institutionnels dans la rubrique *Membres > Membres institutionnels*. Nous espérons que cette présentation facilitera les connexions entre membres et aidera à trouver plus facilement des partenaires pour des projets, des collaborations ou d'autres initiatives. Nous rappelons à tous nos membres que CercleS propose un soutien financier sous forme de bourses pour celles et ceux souhaitant participer à des conférences organisées par nos associations nationales en 2025. Tous les détails sont disponibles dans l'espace membres du site, sous la rubrique *Documents officiels > Scholarships*.

CercleS continue de promouvoir et de soutenir la recherche menée par ses membres, et encourage le partage des résultats à travers des conférences et des ateliers. La page *Recherche* de notre site met en avant les projets initiés par l'association et constitue également une plateforme permettant aux membres de diffuser les résultats de leurs propres recherches.

Le Secrétariat général vous souhaite une excellente fin d'année universitaire et une pause estivale reposante et agréable.

Mia Panisse et Alessandra Fazio

Record of Meetings

Executive Committee meetings held between January and June 2025:

- 25 March 2025
- 12 May 2025
- 10 June 2025

Next Executive Committee meetings:

- 22 September 2025
- 27 October 2025
- 8 December 2025

The agendas and minutes of these (and previous) meetings are available in the members' area on the website.

Update from the Presidency

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the summer break, we are pleased to share some updates on our progress, building on the objectives set by the Executive Committee and outlined in our December e-bulletin. Over the past months, we have been working steadily to strengthen our network, increase visibility and promote collaboration across our member institutions.

As you know, we are in the process of preparing a comprehensive profile of our association and its members to identify challenges and better support centres in their needs. You will have received a short survey that has been distributed to all members. We encourage you to take a few minutes and respond. Your input is essential to ensuring that the profile reflects the diversity and richness of our community.

As you read in our newsletter, we have launched our new LinkedIn page, but we would like it to work as a showcase for your activities above all and to encourage networking by informing of the activities organised by our members. Therefore, we invite you to follow us and contribute by sharing updates from your centres and tagging us, or by sending us events, activities or achievements that you would like to see promoted.

Our Focus Groups continue to be a cornerstone of our work, and there are four White Papers currently in preparation from the Associate Members Focus Group, the EMI in Higher Education Focus Group, the Language Testing and Assessment Focus Group, and the Leadership and Management Focus Group. These papers will detail challenges, opportunities and lines of actions in each of the topics analysed, as well as serve to support our strategic positioning. Please remember that Focus Groups are open to all members, if you are interested or would like to contribute, do not hesitate to contact the FG coordinators.

Our training programme, Boost Your Language Teaching Skills, has now completed its core modules and will resume with elective modules after the summer. We look forward to offering more training opportunities soon, so if you have ideas or needs, we invite you to share them with us.

On the topic of research and dissemination, our journal, Language Learning in Higher Education (LLHE), has recently published a new issue. We encourage you to explore its contents and consider submitting your work for future issues. We have also enlarged our editorial board thanks to your suggestions, to widen our perspective and help our Editors in Chief.

On the assessment front, examinations within NULTE (CercleS Network of University Language testers) recently underwent a CEFR alignment procedure, which was presented at EALTA (the European Association for Language Testing and Assessment), reinforcing our shared commitment to quality and transparency and helping our university language certifications gain visibility and share expertise.

We have also hosted several webinars—spaces to connect, share practices, and learn from one another—, we encourage you to attend and maybe propose future topics. Since we believe connecting and networking is an important part of our mission, we are expanding our collaborations with new organisations to widen our reach and impact. We have agreed to collaborate with Libertas International University in Zagreb in Croatia on a research project and with the Community of Practice (CoP) FOREU4ALL framework to strengthen our European connections.

Finally, we are pleased to have held a very successful training week in Marseille, in partnership with Ranacles. You will find more details about this event in the bulletin.

We thank you for your continued engagement and look forward to advancing our shared goals in the months ahead. This is our space and our network. We would love to keep building it together.

Wishing you all a productive end of term and a restful summer ahead.

Julia Zabala Delgado and
Libor Štěpánek
President and Vice-president

Update from the Presidency

Milé kolegyně a milí kolegové,

s blížícím se létem bychom vám rádi přinesli několik informací o činnosti CercleS a o naplňování cílů, které jsme si předsevzali a které byly představeny v prosincovém bulletinu. Uplynulé měsíce se soustředily zejména na rozšiřování sítí kontaktů, na zviditelňování CercleS a na podporu spolupráce mezi členskými institucemi.

Jak víte, připravujeme komplexní profil CercleS a všech našich členů, což nám umožní lépe identifikovat výzvy a potřeby jednotlivých center. V této souvislosti jste obdrželi krátký dotazník. Byl rozeslán všem, a tak bychom vás rádi požádali, abyste jej vyplnili, protože vaše odpovědi mají klíčový význam. Pomohou vytvořit přesnou představu o tom, jak má vypadat konkrétní pomoc a podpora v rámci naší rozmanité a bohaté komunitě.

Jak jste se již mohli dočíst v našem newsletteru, spustili jsme novou stránku na síti LinkedIn. Tato stránka by měla sloužit především jako platforma pro prezentaci vašich aktivit. Měla by podporovat naše vzájemné propojování a informovanost o dění na jednotlivých členských centrech. Proto bychom vás rádi srdečně pozvali, abyste začali tuto stránku sledovat, a především, abyste sdíleli novinky ze svých center nebo označovali příspěvky CercleS, případně abyste nám zasílali informace o akcích, aktivitách či úspěších, které byste rádi představili širšímu publiku.

Jeden ze základních pilířů naší činnosti tvoří i nadále pracovní skupiny (Focus Groups). V současnosti se připravují čtyři tematické pracovní dokumenty (White Papers), na nichž pracují skupiny Associate Members Focus Group, EMI in Higher Education Focus Group, Language Testing and Assessment Focus Group a Leadership and Management Focus Group. Tyto dokumenty se zaměří na identifikaci výzev, příležitostí a návrhů opatření v daných oblastech a zároveň podpoří strategické směřování CercleS. Současně bychom rádi zvonu připomněli, že pracovní skupiny Focus Groups jsou otevřené všem se zájmem o danou problematiku, a proto je dobré vědět, že pokud byste se chtěli zapojit, stačí kontaktovat jejich vedoucí.

Náš vzdělávací program Boost Your Language Teaching Skills úspěšně dokončil základní moduly a po letní přestávce bude pokračovat moduly volitelnými. Těšíme se, že brzy budeme moct nabídnout další vzdělávací příležitosti. Pokud tedy máte nějaké návrhy nebo konkrétní potřeby, budeme rádi, když nám dáte vědět.

V oblasti výzkumu a publikační činnosti je pak nejnovějším výsledkem nové číslo našeho časopisu *Language Learning in Higher Education (LLHE)*. Nyní máme všichni možnost se seznámit s jeho obsahem. Současně bychom vás rádi vyzvali, abyste zvážili možnost publikace vlastních příspěvků v některém z dalších vydání. Z pohledu organizace časopisu jsme na základě vašich návrhů rozšířili jeho redakční radu. Cílem bylo posílit odbornou stránku časopisu a podpořit práci šéfredaktorů.

V oblasti hodnocení proběhl v rámci NULTE (CercleS Network of University Language Testers) proces slaďování zkoušek s podmínkami Společného evropského referenčního rámce pro jazyky (CEFR), který byl představen na konferenci EALTA (European Association for Language Testing and Assessment). Tento krok posiluje náš společný závazek k zajišťování kvality a transparentnosti; současně pak zvyšuje prestiž univerzitních jazykových certifikací a podporuje sdílení odborných znalostí.

Za poslední půlrok jsme také zorganizovali několik webinářů, které posloužily jako prostor pro setkávání, sdílení praxe i vzájemnou inspiraci. Rádi bychom opět připomněli, že účastnit se může každý, pro členy CercleS neexistují žádná omezení. Vedle účasti bychom vás také rádi vyzvali, abyste přinášeli i vlastní návrhy témat budoucích setkání. Dále věříme, že budování kontaktů je důležitou součástí naší činnosti, a proto rozšiřujeme spolupráci s novými organizacemi. Cílem je zejména zvýšit dosah a dopad naší činnosti. Nově jsme tedy navázali spolupráci na výzkumném projektu s univerzitou Libertas International University v Záhřebu a se skupinou zamřenou na budování community of practice v rámci uskupení FOREU4ALL, čímž posilujeme naše evropské vazby.

V neposlední řadě nás těší uspořádání dalšího úspěšného vzdělávacího týdne ve spolupráci s Ranacles, tentokrát v Marseille. Podrobnosti o této akci naleznete dále v bulletinu.

Závěrem bychom vám rádi poděkovali za intenzivní práci i velkou podporu. Těšíme se na nadcházející měsíce, na další společné aktivity, akce i na společné projekty, které nás mohou přiblížit k našim cílům. CercleS bude vždy takové, jaké si ho uděláme, a proto se velice těšíme na další spolupráci.

Přejeme vám úspěšné zakončení semestru a krásné, klidné léto.

Se srdečným pozdravem,
Julia Zabala a Libor Štěpánek
Předsedkyně a místopředseda

Update from the Treasury

We had the pleasure of presenting the financial situation (below) of our association to the Coordinating Committee on 12th May. We are within the budget limits adopted in December 2024, which will allow us to maintain our policy of supporting members financially.

Since then, the only significant change concerns the payment of membership fees by our Full and Associate members. We are happy to announce that all our full members have satisfied their obligations. The situation is more complicated for associate members, as they need to go through university payment procedures, but we are confident that the majority will have renewed their membership by the close of the year.

Last week, the Teacher Training Week took place in Marseille, with the success you have been able to read about above. The organisers have successfully maintained costs within budget, so no over-run is anticipated.

Tom Grainger and Ruth Tobias

Am 12. Mai wurde dem Vorstand (Koordinierungsausschuss) der unten abgebildete Finanzbericht vorgestellt. Wir freuen uns, Ihnen mitteilen zu können, dass wir uns innerhalb der im Dezember 2024 verabschiedeten Budgetgrenzen bewegen, wodurch es uns möglich ist, unsere Politik der finanziellen Unterstützung unserer Mitglieder fortzusetzen.

Seit Dezember 2024 hat sich im Hinblick auf die Finanzen vor allem die Zahlung der Mitgliedsbeiträge durch unsere ordentlichen und assoziierten Mitglieder geändert. Wir sind glücklich, bekanntgeben zu können, dass alle unsere ordentlichen Mitglieder ihren Verpflichtungen nachgekommen sind. Für unsere assoziierten Mitglieder gestaltet sich die Situation komplizierter, da diese universitäre Zahlungsprozesse durchlaufen müssen, die ggf. mehr Zeit in Anspruch nehmen. Dennoch sind wir zuversichtlich, dass die Mehrzahl der assoziierten Mitglieder ihre Mitgliedschaft bis zum Jahresende erneuern können wird.

In der vergangenen Woche fand die CercleS-Fortbildungswoche für Sprachdozierende in Marseille statt. Über die positiven Ergebnisse wurde in diesem Newsletter weiter oben schon berichtet. Die Organisatoren haben die Kosten erfolgreich innerhalb des Budgets gehalten, so dass keine Budgetüberschreitung zu erwarten ist.

Tom Grainger und Ruth Tobias

CercleS Budget Execution 2025

Balance December 2024:	**99,054.15**				
Income			**Expenditure**		
	Budget	**Execution**		**Budget**	**Execution**
			FIXED COSTS		
Membership fees	42,000.00	16,455.84	**Personnel costs**	6,000.00	2,340.00
Full members	39,600.00	15,755.84	Assistant to General Secretariat	6,000.00	2,340.00
Associate members	2,400.00	700.00	**Journal LLHE**	14,000.00	
Journal LLHE	3,000.00	1,500.00	Subscription 2025 (30€/member)	12,500.00	
Editorial and admin work	1,500.00		Editorial work + copy editing	1,500	
Royalty statement	1,500.00	1,500.00	**Bank fees and payment charges**	300.00	104.38
BOOST		4,600.00			
			Web fees and maintenance	1,400.00	1,166.68
			Hosting, plugins and domain	1,200.00	931.00
			Zoom license	200.00	235.68
			Total fixed costs	21,700.00	3,611.06
			VARIABLE COSTS		
			Contributions to conferences and projects	29,600.00	1,000.00
			Contribution to conferences	**0.00**	
			CercleS projects	**23,600.00**	
			LinkedIn	2,600.00	
			CercleS Talks	5,000.00	
			Contribution to ECML project work	2,000.00	
			Contribution to Focus Group meetings	**3,000.00**	
			FG Autonomy Paris June 2025	1,000.00	1,000.00
			Contribution to Teacher Training Week	5,000.00	
			Professionalisation	6,000.00	
			Contribution to CercleS-wide projects	**6,000.00**	
			CEFR Alignment Valencia February 2025	2,850.00	
			Scholarships	1,500.00	953.50
			Travel expenses (travel, accommodation, meals)	5,000.00	2,109.15
			Extraordinary/Unexpected expenses	1,000.00	
			Total variable costs	37,100.00	4,062.65
Total income	45,000.00	22,555.84	Total expenses	58,800.00	7,673.71
Total income + surplus	**144,054.15**	**121,609.99**	**Final Balance**	**85,254.15**	**113,936.28**
Balance			Bank balance as of 12/05/2025		113,936.28

Contact & Information

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: cercles.org

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/cercles-europe/

Instagram: @cerclesgeneralsecretariat

YouTube: CercleS organisation

STATISTICS & INFORMATION

Established

Strasbourg, France in 1991

Number of members

Within National Associations: 385
Associate Members: 26

Meetings

Executive Committee
Bimonthly online

Coordinating Committee
Last meeting: 16.05.2025 (online)
Next meeting: 12.12.2025 (online)

General Meeting
Biennially
Last general meeting: 13.09.2024
Extra general meeting: Oct 2025
Next general meeting: Sept 2026

Conferences

Arranged
Biennially

Next Conference
XIX CercleS International Conference

Date: September 2026
Venue: Rome, Italy

The European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS) has been promoting interaction, cooperation and research between different institutions involved in language teaching since 1991.