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E-bulletin

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Dear colleagues,

I wanted to take a moment, as we head into the summer, to pause and reflect on where we are and what we've done together.

When I look back at these past six months, I feel proud. Proud of what *we all* did. The Teacher Training Week in Namur was vibrant because people showed up and engaged. Our Focus Groups are thriving because colleagues are bringing their best thinking and their real challenges to the table. Our membership keeps growing because word gets out: CercleS is a place where people care about this work and about each other. And that matters. You matter.

I know summer is a time to breathe, to step back, to recover from a demanding year, and we deserve this. But while you are resting, I want to invite you to think about Rome as an opportunity. If you're coming, start imagining who you want to meet, what you want to learn, what keeps you up at night about your work that you would like to share with your peers. Those conversations, the real ones, over coffee, in the hallways, that's where the magic happens. And if they take place after attending presentations and workshops, magic can become something we actually take back and do, and wouldn't this be wonderful.

And if you can't make it in person, we want you there in spirit. Share your ideas with us, we promise to share them with others.

This community works because we show up for each other. Let's do it in Rome.

Enjoy your summer. Rest well. We'll see you there.

Julia Zabala Delgado

CercleS President

Andiamo a Roma!

We look forward to meeting many of you at the XIX CercleS Conference in 2026: The University of Rome 'Foro Italico'.

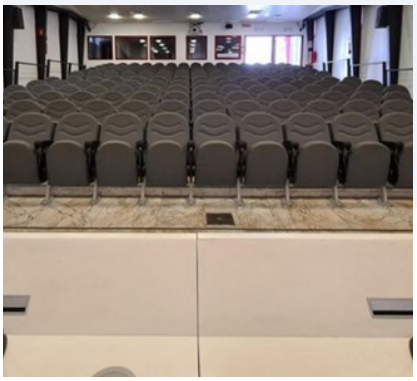
Date: 10-12 September 2026
Title: The Role of Language Centres in a Fast-Changing World: Responding to Emerging Needs in Society, Communication and Learning

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.

Important: The Conference website is being updated continually as details are finalised, so please check it regularly for up-to-date information.

University website
Location of the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo









Registration

Regular registration is open from **1 June to 31 August 2026**

CercleS is offering travel subsidies of up to €100 each.

CercleS members attending the conference may apply for a travel subsidy, which is specifically to help cover travelling costs. Members who would like to apply should please complete the following Google form and email us the following:

- A completed reimbursement form (document available here)
- Proof of Conference registration
- Travel tickets, including the price

Travel subsidies will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Focus Groups meeting in Rome

Several of our FGs are meeting in person in Rome on the morning of Thursday, 10 September, ahead of the official Conference opening that afternoon. Through our FGs, we want to provide a community where members with common interests can interact, share, and learn from each other. For an overview of our FGs, please see this page.

We invite members to join one of the FGs on the morning of 10 September, between 09:00 and 12:00. Please see the information below and the agendas or programmes provided by the FG coordinators for their meetings in Rome.

Please register if you want to attend a FG meeting

To help us with planning and allocation of venues, we ask anyone who is planning to attend a FG meeting to please complete this form. It will allow us to contact you with information regarding the venue and any further details about the FG meetings. We will share your contact details with the FG coordinators, so that they can keep you updated about latest developments.

REGISTER HERE

FG ADAPT (Accessibility, Diversity, Assessment, and Pedagogical Transformation)

PART I – presenting the ADAPT FG: vision and theoretical grounding

1. **Welcome**

2. **Why ADAPT? The rationale**
   - Global & European context
   - Theoretical foundations

3. **ADAPT Focus Group – aims & structure**

Main goals:

- Promote inclusive and accessible language education and assessment.
- Raise awareness among stakeholders.
- Develop & disseminate good practices.
- Foster collaboration across institutions.

Areas of action:

1. Research & mapping
2. Pedagogical development
3. Knowledge exchange
4. Student voice

Highlight of intended impact:

- Improved course accessibility
- Improved assessment accessibility
- Maintained academic rigour
- Stronger European collaboration

4. **Challenges in European Language Centres –** micro-reflection

Challenges:

1. Limited resources
2. Limited awareness & non-disclosure
3. Limited institutional guidelines

PART II – discussion, mapping & collaborative task

5. **Group task: "From challenge to framework"**
   - Scenario-based collaborative task

6. **Plenary discussion & mapping**
   - Immediate actions
   - Structural needs
   - Research questions

7. **Strategic brainstorm & next steps**

- What should ADAPT prioritise in the next 12 months?

Detailed agenda and programme available **here**.

FG Associate Members

"Cross-Institutional and Cross-border Collaborations: Shared Challenges, Practices and Opportunities for Professional Development"

The Associate Members Focus Group connects CercleS Associate Members, offering them a platform to share their expertise, discuss distinct challenges, and explore new opportunities. By gathering members from diverse institutional backgrounds, this Focus Group fosters a uniquely rich, multilateral exchange.

We warmly invite you to join the CercleS Associate Members Focus Group in Rome this September to share your expertise, tackle shared challenges, and help shape the future of our multilateral network.

Here is a general overview of our meeting agenda:

Arrivals & Icebreaker

A quick, informal round of introductions.

Opening Remarks & Objectives

Brief overview of the Focus Group's mission.

Setting the goals for the session.

- **Shared Expertise & Distinct Challenges**

Institutional Spotlight & Roundtable Discussion: Members share brief insights into their current institutional contexts.

- **Opportunities & Forward Planning**
- **Key takeaways and final reflections.**

Detailed agenda and programme available **here**.

FG LSP (Languages for Specific Purposes)

For the LSP Focus Group meeting in Rome, the session will centre on the ongoing development and discussion of the LSP White Paper, alongside short contributions from members on related research projects, pedagogical initiatives, and emerging ideas relevant to Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP).

We have already received a number of proposals for contributions, reflecting strong interest from colleagues and covering a range of pedagogical and research-informed practices within LSP.

The meeting is designed to be participatory and member-driven, offering a space for sharing practice, exchanging research insights, and identifying future directions for the FG's work.

We look forward to welcoming colleagues to what we hope will be a lively and productive session.

FG EMI (English as Medium of Instruction) in Higher Education

Introduction 9.00-9.30

- Introduction and ice-breaking activities.

II Background 9.30-10.30

- Focus Group – mission and vision; Activity report: September 2024 – September 2026.
- EMI experience at PUT: training of content teachers, EUNICE EMI course & BIP.
- EMI – survey for academic teachers: Results of the study and discussion.

Break (10.30-10.45)

III Groupwork 10.45-11.30

- EMI teaching and the problems encountered by content teachers and students.
- SWOT analysis: EMI for teachers vs. EMI for students.
- Controversial issues in EMI / EME.
- The current research areas – what does the literature tell us?
- Factors impacting effective EMI – dos and don'ts.
- Developing training programs for content teachers.
- EMI resources
- Outcomes of groupwork.

IV Summary and conclusions 11.30-12.00

- Reflections for the future.

Webinar in 2027 organised by the FG – preliminary assumptions.

Detailed agenda and programme available **here**.

FG Learner Autonomy

Since CercleS was established in 1990, language centres have offered their learners various ways of improving their language skills. They are often innovative places where new pedagogical approaches and devices for language learning are proposed. Among the different learning possibilities offered to students in language centres, some aim at facilitating the development of learner autonomy. Some language centres indeed offer tools such as self-access centres, and language advising facilities that enable learners to take more control of their learning to support autonomisation. The purpose of this Focus Group is to investigate the relationships between learner autonomy and language centres. It will also try to clarify the concept of autonomy, which, although widely used in language learning publications these last 30 years, is complex and open to various interpretations.

FG Internationalisation and Language Policy

Meeting Agenda – 10 September 2026, Rome

Theme: "What kind of internationalisation do we want to build?"

1. Welcome from the coordinators
2. Introduction of new members
3. Brief update on the objectives of the Focus Group
4. Main discussion: Internationalisation and Language Policy today
   a. The purpose of internationalisation
   b. The evolving role of Language Centres
   c. European University Alliances
5. From theory to action (networking opportunities)
   a. Multilingual initiatives at your language centre or in collaboration with other European language centres that promote internationalisation
   b. English-language initiatives at your language centre or in collaboration with other European language centres that promote internationalisation
6. Closing remarks and future plans for the Focus Group

Detailed agenda and programme available **here**.

FG Language Testing and Assessment

Language teachers, test developers and testers within the CercleS community are invited to engage in a lively discussion on how language testing and assessment at university should look and could be developed further in the future, how tests could be made more authentic and engaging for the test-taker, how they could be more in line with the underlying action-oriented approach of the Council of Europe's *CEFR* (2001) and its *Companion Volume* (2020), and what new approaches might be promising.

The FG Language Testing and Assessment was set up in November 2009 in Toulouse, and has met again in 2010 (Messina), 2011 (Madrid), 2013 (Barcelona), 2015 (Brno), 2018 (Poznań), 2019 (València), 2020 (in Göttingen; and – online meeting – in Brno) and 2021 (Göttingen – online meeting).

As an outcome of this Focus Group, a series of workshops on language testing (and teaching) has been initiated that took place at ZESS at the University of Göttingen in 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. The programme and the outcomes of the online workshop which took place in October 2021 can be found here.
Finally, the different providers of university language certification systems within CercleS have started closer cooperation in 2015 leading to the creation of NULTE – Network of University Language Testers in Europe – in 2018. Further information about NULTE is available here.

FG Plurilingualism (FR)

(English version follows below)

La création de ce Focus Group s'inscrit dans la continuité des activités du *FlexiLingua Group*, un collectif interuniversitaire (Université Masaryk, Université libre de Bruxelles, Université de Fribourg) actif depuis 2019 dans des projets à portée internationale. Parmi nos réalisations figurent des publications (*CASALC Review*, ouvrages collectifs), des conférences internationales (Brno, 2022, 2024 et 2026), ainsi que des programmes collaboratifs tels qu'Erasmus+ BIP et Movetia. (Plus d'informations ici.)

Nos objectifs :

- soutenir l'intégration des stratégies plurilingues et pluriculturelles dans les enseignements dispensés par les centres de langues universitaires ;
- valoriser les pratiques existantes et promouvoir un plurilinguisme réaliste ;
- encourager une utilisation flexible des langues ainsi qu'un échange harmonieux entre différentes cultures et perspectives ;
- partager des informations, favoriser les échanges académiques et créer un réseau de chercheurs et d'enseignants de langues intéressés par l'emploi plurilingue des langues ;
- rechercher des synergies entre différentes pratiques didactiques et pédagogiques.

Programme de la rencontre du FG à Rome :

- faire connaissance les uns avec les autres;
- état des lieux ;
- présentation des réalisations du groupe ;
- espace de discussion et d'échange de bonnes pratiques, de projets et d'idées innovantes ;
- élaboration d'un plan d'action (webinaires, création d'un espace commun de partage, ouvrages collectifs, etc.) ;
- atelier d'activités pratiques et de partage.

Le Focus Group vise à élargir ce réseau, à partager les bonnes pratiques et à renforcer les synergies autour du plurilinguisme dans l'enseignement supérieur. Nous invitons chaleureusement toutes les personnes intéressées à nous rejoindre et à contribuer à cette dynamique collaborative.

Ordre du jour détaillé et programme disponibles ici.
Les personnes qui prévoient de participer à la réunion sont priées de bien vouloir remplir ce formulaire.

FG Plurilingualism (EN)

The creation of this Focus Group builds on the activities of the FlexiLingua Group, an inter-university collective bringing together Masaryk University, Université libre de Bruxelles, and the University of Fribourg – which has been involved in internationally oriented projects since 2019. Our achievements include publications (*CASALC Review*, edited volumes), international conferences (Brno, 2022, 2024 and 2026), as well as collaborative programmes such as Erasmus+ BIP and Movetia. (Further information here.)

(continued on the next page)

FG Plurilingualism

(Continued from previous page)

Our objectives are to:

- support the integration of plurilingual and pluricultural strategies into language teaching practices in university language centres;
- highlight existing practices and promote a realistic approach to plurilingualism;
- encourage flexible language use, as well as harmonious exchange between different cultures and perspectives;
- share information, foster academic exchange, and create a network of researchers and language teachers interested in the plurilingual language use;
- identify synergies between different didactic and pedagogical practices.

Programme of the FG meeting in Rome:

- getting to know one another;
- overview of the current situation;
- presentation of the group's achievements;
- space for discussion and the exchange of good practices, projects and innovative ideas;
- development of an action plan, including webinars, the creation of a shared space for resources, edited volumes, etc.;
- workshop involving practical activities and sharing.

The Focus Group aims to expand this network, share good practices, and strengthen synergies around plurilingualism in higher education. We warmly invite all interested colleagues to join us and contribute to this collaborative initiative.

Detailed agenda and programme available here.
Those who plan to attend the meeting should please complete this form.

FG Management and Leadership

The Management and Leadership Focus Group invites colleagues involved in the leadership and management of Language Centres to join an open meeting on 10 Sept from 09:30 to 12:00 during the XIX CercleS Conference in Rome. This meeting is dedicated to the finalisation of the Focus Group's Mission Statement and to defining its practical implications for the CercleS community. Our discussion will focus on three areas:

- facilitating cooperation, share expertise and promote best practices among Language Centres;
- promoting innovation and implementation of new insights, methods and technologies in language education;
- encouraging research-informed language education.

Together, we will aim to match these priorities onto existing CercleS training opportunities, courses, events, initiatives and other forms of support, professional development and networking; we will also explore new forms of training and collaboration where needs are not yet sufficiently addressed. The outcomes of the meeting will be presented at the General Meeting to give a clear illustration of the current portfolio opportunities within CercleS and future directions of support CercleS can offer to its community.

Participants will be invited to contribute with their expertise, share perspectives from their own institutions and help shape future initiatives for the wider CercleS community. Colleagues who are unable to attend are warmly invited to share their ideas and reflections by email.

Feedback from our Teacher Training week

Between 18 and 22 May, the third Teacher Training Week brought together 15 participants and 10 contributors from Greece, Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Spain, France and Belgium in Namur, the capital of the Belgian region of Wallonia.

Following an introductory session led by Natassia Schutz (UNamur), head of the local organising crew, which provided an overview and served as an ice-breaker, the workshops really gave the participants the opportunity to get involved and create activities for real. The speakers' presentations opened up new avenues of exploration and broadened our horizons with regard to LSP.

The event began with a presentation by Karen Fleischhauer (Technische Universität Darmstadt), which encouraged us to reconsider our approach to interdisciplinary teaching by providing concrete examples of its implications.

The next morning, Chaïma Seddiki and Julie Walaszczyk (Mons University) gave a comprehensive presentation on the reflective processes and practices involved in collaboration between colleagues of different disciplines.

Julie Walaszczyk then led a workshop on roles and behaviours in collaborative teaching whereas Aude Labetoulle (CNAM-Paris) took us to another dimension by exploring the boundaries of teamwork in an inspiring session that was both creative and collaborative.

At the end of the day, a sharing session gave some of the participants the opportunity to present their projects, inspiring the whole group to try them out at home.

On the third day, Eric Van Luijt (Tilburg University) expanded our knowledge of how to integrate academic skills into the curriculum by sharing concrete examples that provided a clearer idea of how to implement these features. This led us to reconsider our approach to LSP curriculums.

While Julia Edeleva (Technische Universität Braunschweig) took the crowd to the gaming ground for an immersive moment of reflection and action, prompting participants to consider class management, Patrick Froissac and Christelle Hoorebeke (UNamur) encouraged participants to learn through hands-on activities.

On the final day, Aurélie Marsily and Sophie Naveau introduced us to intercultural and emotional engagement in language teaching through a dynamic and comprehensive workshop. Eventually, Sara Rymenams and Rachel Rubin (KU Leuven) challenged the audience to 'evolve or perish' in the era of AI, highlighting the complex tasks faced by language teachers.

The cultural programme was also very rich. The boat cruise on the Meuse offered participants a cinematic view of the other side of the city, and the highlight was undoubtedly the visit to the Citadel of Namur. This immersive experience took the group on a journey through the city's history, from its ancient Roman origins through the Middle Ages to the present day.

This new edition was a great success, thanks to the brilliantly dynamic UNamur team who proved more than capable of energising exchanges with enthusiasm.

This calls for a fourth edition somewhere in the south sometime next year.

By Marc Schirès (Université de Lorraine, France) and Souhilia Grifi (Université d'Aix-Marseille, France)



A word from the organisers at the University of Namur

(English follows below)

Organiser la Teacher Training Week a représenté un beau défi pour l'équipe du Centre de Langues. Préparer les séminaires, accueillir des participants venus de toute l'Europe et organiser des activités culturelles, etc. : cette semaine a été le fruit d'un travail collectif intense. Dès les premiers échanges, nous avons senti une véritable dynamique se créer. Les discussions ont été riches, ouvertes, stimulantes. Nous avons eu le sentiment de réellement atteindre notre objectif : offrir un espace d'inspiration et de partage autour des pratiques en langues sur objectifs spécifiques. Les retours des participants, enthousiastes et reconnaissants, ont confirmé que cette semaine avait répondu à leurs attentes. L'atmosphère générale était conviviale, bienveillante, stimulante. Chacun a contribué à faire de cette semaine un moment à la fois professionnel et humainement très fort. Voir les participants s'impliquer, échanger, rire, partager leurs expériences et repartir avec de nouvelles idées a été, pour nous, profondément gratifiant.

Bref, une semaine intense, mais surtout pleine de sens et de rencontres. Cette Teacher Training Week nous donne envie de poursuivre sur cette voie, en continuant à créer des espaces d'échange aussi vivants et inspirants.

Organising the Teacher Training Week was a nice challenge for the Language Centre. Preparing the seminars, welcoming participants from across Europe, and arranging cultural activities: this week was the result of an intense collective effort.

From our very first exchanges, we felt a real sense of momentum building. The discussions were rich, open, and stimulating. We truly felt that we had achieved our goal: to provide a space for inspiration and exchange around practices in LSP.

The enthusiastic and appreciative feedback from participants confirmed that the week had met their expectations. The overall atmosphere was friendly, supportive, and intellectually stimulating. Everyone contributed to making this week both professionally rewarding and personally meaningful.

Seeing participants engage so actively, exchange ideas, laugh together, share their experiences, and leave with new perspectives was deeply gratifying for us.

In short, it was an intense week, but above all one filled with purpose and meaningful encounters. This Teacher Training Week has inspired us to continue along this path, creating opportunities for exchange that are just as vibrant, enriching, and inspiring.

Vanina, Amélie, Jérémie, Patrick, Aude, Christelle, Aurélie, Sophie, Natassia & Cindy





De CercleS Training Week was een inspirerende gelegenheid om stil te staan bij de samenwerking tussen taal- en vakdocenten. Tijdens mijn bijdrage heb ik het geïntegreerde en curriculum-brede model van Tilburg University gepresenteerd, waarbij ik zowel de successen als de praktische uitdagingen ervan gedeeld heb.

Wat ik persoonlijk uit de week meeneem is zeker zo waardevol. Ik ben geïnspireerd geraakt door voorbeelden van co-teaching, projectmatige opdrachten die vakinhoud en communicatieve vaardigheden combineren, en praktische strategieën voor het opzetten en onderhouden van samenwerkingsverbanden. De week heeft mijn overtuiging bevestigd dat samenwerking tussen vak- en taalspecialisten zowel het onderwijs als het leren verrijkt, en heeft mij tegelijkertijd concrete ideeën gegeven om ons eigen model verder te ontwikkelen.

The CercleS Training Week was an inspiring opportunity to reflect on collaboration between language teachers and content lecturers. In my contribution, I presented Tilburg University's integrated, curriculum-wide model, sharing both its successes and practical challenges.

What I took away from the week was equally valuable. I left inspired by examples of co-teaching, project-based assignments that combine disciplinary learning with communication skills, and practical strategies for initiating and sustaining collaborations. The week reinforced my belief that collaboration between content and language specialists enriches both teaching and learning while giving me concrete ideas for taking our own model to the next level.

Eric Van Luijt
Tilburg University, Netherlands



For the third time, I had the pleasure of participating in the Annual Teacher Training Week, organised by CercleS/Ranacles at the University of Namur. The event brought together language teachers from across Europe to discuss the role of LSP teachers in higher education – an especially timely and important topic. The sessions were engaging, practical, and thoughtfully organised, and they gave me valuable insights into interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration between language instructors and content specialists. I returned home with new ideas, teaching strategies, and resources that I hope to integrate into my teaching next semester.

Many thanks to the University of Namur and the organising team for such an inspiring experience. I look forward to future CercleS events and to continuing these enriching exchanges with colleagues from across Europe.

Eugenia Bogomolova
Newcastle University, UK

(Continued from the previous page.)



The theme of this year's workshop struck a chord as it directly addressed the balancing act that defines so much of our professional lives as LSP teachers: what it means to navigate the boundary between language and content and find our place within that dynamic. The workshop gave us a valued space to voice our concerns openly. Our dialogue drew on conceptual frameworks, evidence-based research and practice, as well as a rich diversity of European perspectives. There was also a good mix of collaborating at the University of Namur and beyond - into a city rich in history and, of course, exceptional chocolate! Many thanks to all who made this week possible.

Das Thema des diesjährigen Workshops traf genau den Nerv, da es sich direkt mit dem Spagat befasste, der unser Berufsleben als Fachsprachen-Lehrkräfte so stark prägt: Was es bedeutet, sich an der Schnittstelle zwischen Sprache und Fach zu bewegen und unseren Platz in dieser Dynamik zu finden. Der Workshop bot uns einen wertvollen Raum, um unsere Anliegen offen anzusprechen. Unser Dialog stützte sich auf konzeptionelle Rahmenwerke, evidenzbasierte Forschung und Praxis sowie auf eine große Vielfalt europäischer Perspektiven. Es war eine gelungene Mischung aus Zusammenarbeit an der Universität Namur und darüber hinaus – in einer Stadt, die reich an Geschichte und natürlich außergewöhnlicher Schokolade ist! Vielen Dank an alle, die diese Woche ermöglicht haben.

Karen Fleischhauer,
TU Darmstadt, Germany

Eiropas Universitāšu valodu centru asociācijas (CercleS) pasniedzēju mācību nedēļa Namīras Universitātē bija lieliska iespēja atkal satikt kolēģus ar dzīvu interesi par studentiem, saziņu, un darbu, ko kopā darām. Es no sirds pateicos CercleS, Ranacles, un enerģiskajai Namīras Universitātes Valodu centra komandai, kas skaidrāk un aktuālāk ļāva saskatīt pienesumu, ko varam dot sadarbībā ar nozaru priekšmetu pasniedzējiem. Paldies kolēģiem par entuziasmu, iedziļināšanos un drosmi piedāvāt jaunus skatījumus. Paldies par iedvesmojošu nedēļu un iespēju iepazīt Namīras un Beļģijas viesmīlību vislabākajā kompānijā!



The CercleS teachers' training week at the University of Namur was a wonderful opportunity to meet again with colleagues who have a genuine interest in students, communication, and the work we do together. I am very grateful to CercleS, Ranacles, and the energetic team of the Language Centre of the University of Namur, who offered us an opportunity to see more clearly and more relevantly the contribution we can make through collaboration with the content lecturers. I am also very grateful to the colleagues for their enthusiasm, thoughtful engagement, and courage in offering new perspectives. Thank you all for an inspiring week and for the opportunity to experience the hospitality of Belgium and Namur in the very best company!

Līga Beļicka, Latvijas Universitāte, Latvia

(Continued from the previous page.)



Θα συνιστούσα ανεπιφύλακτα τη συμμετοχή στην Εκπαιδευτική Εβδομάδα Διδασκόντων (Teacher Training Week) του CercleS / Ranacles. Πρόκειται για μια αξιόλογη και ευχάριστη διοργάνωση που προάγει τη συνεργασία, την επιστημονική ανταλλαγή, την επαγγελματική ανάπτυξη και τη δημιουργικότητα.

Οι συμμετέχοντες έχουν την ευκαιρία να μοιραστούν τις διδακτικές τους εμπειρίες, να γνωρίσουν νέους συναδέλφους, να δημιουργήσουν νέες φιλίες και να ανακαλύψουν νέους τρόπους συνεργασίας για το μέλλον.

Η ανταλλαγή γνώσεων, εμπειριών και καινοτόμων ιδεών σχετικά με τη διδασκαλία ξένων γλωσσών για ειδικούς σκοπούς είναι ουσιαστική και ιδιαίτερα χρήσιμη, καθώς δίνει τη δυνατότητα στους συμμετέχοντες να αντιμετωπίσουν τις προκλήσεις αυτού του εξειδικευμένου πεδίου και να αναζητήσουν από κοινού λύσεις. Αυτά ήταν και ορισμένα από τα θέματα που συζητήθηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια του ‘’CercleS / RANACLES Teacher Training Week 2026’’ στη Ναμύρ του Βελγίου.

Απολαμβάνω πραγματικά αυτή τη διοργάνωση. Φέρνει κοντά ανθρώπους από διαφορετικούς πολιτισμούς και υπόβαθρα και πιστεύω ειλικρινά ότι μας βοηθά να κατανοούμε καλύτερα ο ένας τον άλλον, καθώς και να αντιλαμβανόμαστε πληρέστερα τις οπτικές και τις ανάγκες των φοιτητών μας μέσα από τα εργαστήρια.

Χαιρετισμούς από τη Θεσσαλονίκη.

I would wholeheartedly recommend participating in the CercleS / Ranacles Teacher Training Week. It is a valuable and enjoyable event that encourages collaboration, scientific exchange, professional development, and creativity.

Participants have the opportunity to share their teaching experiences, meet new colleagues, build new friendships, and find new ways to collaborate in the future.

Sharing knowledge, experiences, and innovative ideas regarding the teaching of foreign languages for specific purposes is meaningful and helpful, as it allows participants to address the difficulties in this special field and to search for solutions together. These were also some of the topics covered during this year’s CercleS / Ranacles Teacher Training Week 2026 in Namur.

I truly enjoy this event. It brings people from different cultures and backgrounds together, and I deeply believe that it helps us understand each other better, as well as better understand our students’ perspectives through the workshops.

Χαιρετισμούς από τη Θεσσαλονίκη

Panagiota Popotim,
Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

Update from the General Secretariat

Dear members,

As we move toward the summer months, the General Secretariat is delighted to share highlights from a very active spring across the CercleS network. The Executive Committee is especially glad to see that the engagements in our meetups, webinars and Focus Group activities has remained strong throughout the last six months, reflecting continued commitment to our community.

CercleS meetups have once again played an important role in bringing together colleagues. Three Teachers' Meetups were held in March, April and June with one more scheduled for 6 July. Leadership Meetups have also been active, with an in-person meeting in February and online gatherings throughout the spring. These events continue to provide valuable opportunities for exchange among language centre directors and staff members.

Webinars and Focus Group activities remain a central part of our professional development offer. Earlier this spring, the Focus Group Language Teaching and Assessment hosted a well-attended webinar on 9 March titled Intercultural issues in language testing, led by Barbara Sawicka and Laurent Rouveyrol. Another event took place on 17 June: the *webinar introducing the CercleS ADAPT Focus Group*, which presented the aims, scope and upcoming activities of this newly established group. The opening meeting of ADAPT will take place later during the CercleS conference in Rome in September. Recordings of selected webinars and talks continue to be available on the CercleS YouTube channel (seach for: CercleS organisation").

Membership numbers remain strong. CercleS currently has 14 institutional Members, 402 Institutional Members and 28 Associate Members. These Associate Members represent institutions across 21 countries on four continents. Most of them are based in Europe, with examples such as universities in Sweden, Romania and Greece. Beyond Europe, Associate Members also come from Asia and Africa, including institutions in United Arab Emirates and Morocco, and from North America, with a member from the United States. This international distribution highlights the expanding global reach of the CercleS community and strengthens continued international engagement across our network.

Recent updates to the CercleS website have been made to improve the visibility and accessibility of information about our members. A complete list of Institutional Members can be found under Members > Institutional Members, offering a clearer overview and making it easier to identify potential partners for projects, collaborations and other initiatives.

CercleS continues to support activities through scholarships, collaboratives projects and conferences. Members wishing to attend conferences are reminded that scholarships are available, with full details accessible in the members area of the CercleS website under Documents and Agreements > Scholarships.

We look forward to seeing many of you in person at the CercleS Conference in Rome this September, where our community will come together once again to exchange ideas, strengthen collaborations and celebrate our work together. If you are preparing to attend, please don't forget to check conference updates as they become available on the conference website.

The General Secretariat wishes all members a smooth end to the academic year and a restful, enjoyable summer break.

Mia Panisse and Alessandra Fazio,
Secretary General and
Deputy Secretary General

Update from the General Secretariat

Chers membres de CercleS,

À l'approche de l'été, le Secrétariat Général est heureux de partager les moments forts d'un printemps très actif au sein du réseau CercleS. Le Comité Exécutif se réjouit tout particulièrement de constater que la participation à nos rencontres, webinaires et activités des Groupes de Travail est restée soutenue au cours des six derniers mois, témoignant de l'engagement continu de notre communauté.

Les meetups de CercleS ont une fois de plus joué un rôle essentiel en réunissant des collègues de différents centres. Trois Teachers' Meetups ont eu lieu en mars, avril et juin, et un dernier est prévu le 6 juillet. Les Leadership Meetups ont également été très actifs, avec une rencontre en présentiel en février et plusieurs réunions en ligne tout au long du printemps. Ces événements continuent d'offrir de précieuses occasions d'échanges entre directeurs, responsables et membres du personnel des centres de langues.

Les webinaires et les activités des Groupes de Travail demeurent un élément central de notre offre de développement professionnel. Plus tôt ce printemps, le Groupe de Travail *Language Teaching and Assessment* a organisé, le 9 mars, un webinaire très suivi intitulé *Intercultural issues in language testing*, animé par Barbara Sawicka et Laurent Rouveyrol. Un autre événement a eu lieu le 17 juin : le webinaire *Introducing the CercleS ADAPT Focus Group*, qui a présenté les objectifs, le champ d'action et les activités à venir de ce nouveau groupe. La réunion inaugurale d'ADAPT se tiendra plus tard, lors de la conférence CercleS à Rome en septembre. Les enregistrements de certains webinaires et interventions sont disponibles sur la chaîne YouTube de CercleS (recherchez « CercleS organisation »).

Les chiffres de l'adhésion demeurent solides. CercleS compte actuellement 14 membres titulaires, 402 membres institutionnels et 28 membres associés. Ces membres associés représentent des institutions réparties dans 21 pays sur quatre continents. La majorité se situe en Europe, avec par exemple des universités en Suède, en Roumanie et en Grèce. Au-delà de l'Europe, des membres associés proviennent également d'Asie et d'Afrique, notamment des Émirats arabes unis et du Maroc, ainsi que d'Amérique du Nord, avec un membre aux États-Unis. Cette répartition internationale illustre l'élargissement de la portée mondiale de la communauté CercleS et renforce la dynamique d'engagement international au sein de notre réseau.

Des mises à jour récentes ont été apportées au site web de CercleS afin d'améliorer la visibilité et l'accessibilité des informations concernant nos membres. Une liste complète des membres institutionnels est disponible dans la section *Members > Institutional Members*, offrant une vue d'ensemble plus claire et facilitant l'identification de partenaires potentiels pour des projets, collaborations ou autres initiatives.

CercleS continue de soutenir les activités de ses membres grâce à des bourses, des projets et des conférences. Les membres souhaitant participer à des conférences sont rappelés que des bourses sont disponibles, avec tous les détails accessibles dans l'espace membres du site de CercleS (cercles.org), sous *Documents and Agreements > Scholarships*.

Nous nous réjouissons de retrouver un grand nombre d'entre vous en personne lors de la Conférence CercleS à Rome en septembre, où notre communauté se réunira à nouveau pour échanger des idées, renforcer les collaborations et célébrer notre travail commun. Si vous prévoyez d'y participer, n'oubliez pas de consulter les mises à jour au fur et à mesure de leur publication sur le site de la conférence.

Le Secrétariat Général vous souhaite à toutes et à tous une belle fin d'année académique et un été lumineux, reposant et ressourçant.

Mia Panisse et Alessandra Fazio, Secrétaire Générale et Secrétaire Générale adjointe

Current items from our NEWS page

CfP: 5th International ELT Conference: New Trends in English Teaching, Learning and Education
University of Brescia, Italy
2-3 October 2026
The conference aims to address keynote presentations and sessions on "English(es) for Academic and Professional Purposes" .
Deadline for abstracts: 30 June 2026
Read more...

CFP: Language and Education in the Age of AI: Applications and Implications
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
23 October 2026
The aim of this in-person, international conference is to explore the opportunities, risks, and responsibilities associated with the use of AI in language education.
Deadline for proposals: 1 July 2026
Read more...

2026 European Developing Across Differences (DAD) Learning Lab & Community Week
Groningen, Netherlands
6-10 July 2026
Join peers and experts from around the world and across sectors at the 5th annual European Developing Across Differences (DAD) Learning Lab & Community Week.
Deadline for registration: 1 July 2026
Read more...

Record of Meetings

Executive Committee meetings held between January and June 2026:

- 4&5 February 2026
- 23 February 2026
- 3 March 2026
- 20 April 2026
- 4 May 2026
- 16 June 2026
- 29 June 2026

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

Update from the Presidency

Look How Far We Have Come

Dear colleagues and friends,

Six months ago, we started this year with a clear commitment: to act on the priorities our community had asked for in our survey, to strengthen what already works, and to build what was still missing. As we are approaching the summer, we want to take a moment to look back together, because a great deal has happened, and it is worth celebrating.

There is a lot to celebrate and none of this happened by accident. It happened because of the dedication of colleagues across our network, our Focus Groups, our Members, our Coordinating Committee and our Executive Committee. It happened because CercleS is a living, working, thriving community.

In February, at the Executive Committee meeting in Berlin, we established a clear framework for the financial support of CercleS training activities. This means that training will be systematically supported, with clear protocols and administrative backing from CercleS. We will soon launch a Call for Training Proposals, opening the door for our community to participate in this initiative. This will also mean expanding the range of topics our training covers reflecting the real challenges we are facing today. Training designed by centres and for centres. And if there is one event that captured everything we believe about training and community, it is our Teacher Training Week in Namur in May. It was vibrant, hands-on and full of the kind of networking that lasts long after the sessions end. The participants were enthusiastic, engaged, and they reminded us why this work matters. We are thinking about our next edition already.

One of our proudest achievements this year is the concrete support we have provided to centres looking to connect with the wider European landscape. In February, we supported projects of two language centres, and we are looking forward to offering the same support to all centres ready to embark on such activities, opening pathways for our members to benefit from European project funding and cross-institutional cooperation.

Our Focus Groups have been working throughout the year, and CercleS has been backing them. Financial subsidies have been granted to Focus Group activities, because we believe that the work happening in these groups deserves real institutional support. At our conference in Rome, nine Focus Groups will hold their meetings. That is nine communities of practice gathering, debating and producing ideas that will shape the future of language education in higher education. If you are involved in a Focus Group, this is your moment. If you are not yet, Rome is the perfect place to start.

Our journal, *Language Learning in Higher Education* (LLHE), continues to be a space for the research our community produces. Our website is growing steadily: from 1,320 subscribers in January to 1,372 in June. We have also held webinars, offering more spaces to connect, share and learn from one another across borders. We are developing a manifesto in defence of languages and a new mission statement. We are building the CercleS Quality Mark. We are doing all of this because we intend to be at the centre of the European conversation about languages. Language policies should be made with us, not around us. And we are strong enough and united enough to make that happen.

Most of our efforts this year have been building towards a single, unmissable moment: our conference in Rome. Rome will be about something that no virtual meeting can replicate: being in the same room, sharing ideas over coffee, meeting the colleague whose webinar you attended, discovering that someone three countries away is working on exactly the same challenge you are. Language centres thrive through connection.

Come to Rome and bring a colleague, bring your questions, bring your energy. This network is built by all of us, one conversation at a time. See you in Rome, and if you cannot come and have ideas to share, let us know and we make sure they spread around our community.

We wish you a relaxing and wonderful summer.

Julia Zabala Delgado and
Libor Štěpánek
President and Vice-president

Update from the Presidency

Mireu fins on hem arribat

Benvolguts companys, companyes i amics,

Fa sis mesos vam començar este any amb un compromís clar: actuar d'acord amb les prioritats que la nostra comunitat havia expressat en l'enquesta, reforçar allò que ja funciona i construir allò que encara faltava. Ara que ens acostem a l'estiu, volem dedicar un moment a mirar enrere, perquè han passat moltes coses i val la pena celebrar-les.

Hi ha molt per celebrar, i res d'això no ha passat per casualitat. Ha sigut possible gràcies a la dedicació de companys i companyes de tota la nostra xarxa, dels nostres Focus Groups, dels nostres membres, del nostre Comitè de Coordinació i del nostre Comitè Executiu. Ha sigut possible perquè CercleS és una comunitat viva, activa i dinàmica.

Al febrer, durant la reunió del Comitè Executiu a Berlín, vam establir un marc clar per al suport financer de les activitats de formació de CercleS. Això significa que la formació rebrà un suport sistemàtic, amb protocols clars i amb el suport administratiu de CercleS. Ben prompte publicarem una convocatòria de propostes de formació, que obrirà la porta a la participació de tota la nostra comunitat en esta iniciativa. Això també permetrà ampliar la gamma de temes que abordem en les nostres activitats formatives, reflectint els reptes reals als quals ens enfrontem hui dia. Formació dissenyada pels centres i per als centres.

I si hi ha un esdeveniment que ha reflectit tot allò en què creiem pel que fa a la formació i la comunitat, este ha sigut la Setmana de Formació del Professorat celebrada a Namur al maig. Va ser una experiència dinàmica, pràctica i plena d'oportunitats de networking que perduren molt més enllà de les sessions. Les persones participants van mostrar entusiasme i implicació, i ens van recordar per què esta faena és important. Ja estem pensant en la pròxima edició.

Un dels èxits dels quals ens sentim més orgullosos enguany és el suport concret que hem oferit als centres que volen connectar amb l'escenari europeu més ampli. Al febrer vam donar suport als projectes de dos centres de llengües, i esperem poder oferir este mateix suport a tots els centres disposats a emprendre iniciatives similars, obrint vies perquè els nostres membres puguen beneficiar-se del finançament de projectes europeus i de la cooperació entre institucions.

Els nostres Focus Groups han estat treballant durant tot l'any, i CercleS els ha donat suport. S'han concedit subvencions a les seues activitats perquè creiem que la tasca que s'hi duu a terme mereix un suport institucional real. En la nostra conferència de Roma, nou Focus Groups celebraran les seues reunions. Això significa nou comunitats de pràctica reunides per debatre, intercanviar idees i generar propostes que contribuiran a definir el futur de l'ensenyament de llengües en l'educació superior. Si participeu en un Focus Group, este és el vostre moment. I si encara no ho feu, Roma és el lloc ideal per a començar.

La nostra revista, Language *Learning in Higher Education* (LLHE), continua sent un espai per a la investigació produïda per la nostra comunitat. El nostre lloc web continua creixent de manera constant: hem passat de 1.320 subscriptors al gener a 1.372 al juny. També hem organitzat seminaris web, creant nous espais per a connectar, compartir i aprendre els uns dels altres més enllà de les fronteres. Estem desenvolupant un manifest en defensa de les llengües i una nova declaració de missió. Estem construint el Segell de Qualitat de CercleS. Fem tot això perquè volem situar-nos al centre de la conversa europea sobre les llengües. Les polítiques lingüístiques s'han de construir amb nosaltres, no al marge de nosaltres. I som prou forts i prou units per a fer-ho possible.

La major part dels nostres esforços enguany han estat orientats cap a un únic moment imprescindible: la nostra conferència a Roma. Roma serà una oportunitat per a viure allò que cap reunió virtual no pot reproduir: compartir un mateix espai, intercanviar idees durant una pausa per al café, conéixer en persona aquell company o aquella companya del seminari web al qual vau assistir, o descobrir que algú que treballa a tres països de distància afronta exactament el mateix repte que vosaltres. Els centres de llengües prosperen gràcies a la connexió entre persones.

Veniu a Roma i porteu-hi un company o una companya; porteu les vostres preguntes i la vostra energia. Esta xarxa la construïm entre tots i totes, conversa a conversa. Ens veiem a Roma. I, si no podeu vindre però teniu idees per compartir, feu-nos-les arribar i ens assegurarem que circulen per tota la nostra comunitat.

Us desitgem un estiu meravellós i ple de descans.

Julia Zabala Delgado i Libor Štěpánek
Presidenta i vicepresident

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: 402
Associate Members: 28

Meetings

Executive Committee
Monthly online

Coordinating Committee
Last meeting: 15.05.2026 (online)
Next meeting: 09.09.2026 (Rome)

General Meeting
Biennially
Last general meeting: 31.10.2025
Next general meeting: 11.09.2026

Conferences

Arranged
Biennially

Next Conference
XIX CercleS International Conference

Date: 10-12 September 2026
Venue: University of Rome "Foro Italico" - piazza Lauro de Bosis, 15 - 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.