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E-bulletin



Dear colleagues

While many of us are still dealing with lots of year-end teaching and managerial business, this e-bulletin would like to invite you to look back to our shared experiences at the CercleS Conference in Porto.

Thus, this e-bulletin pays special attention to the experience and the impact of the Conference, and to the outcomes of the Round Table about future challenges of CercleS.

The former will give you the chance to travel back mentally, and the latter will allow you to learn about future developments that CercleS member institutions would like to come true.

You will also get an overview from the General Secretariat about past activities and some upcoming CercleS events in the new year. As we have done this past year, the Executive Committee will continue to offer and support various webinars, workshops and meetings for peer exchange and peer support in 2023.

We wish you a happy end of the teaching and/or examination period, a wonderful Christmas time and a promising start to 2023. We look forward to meeting you in the new year at our webinars and workshops – and maybe in person at a conference organised by a national association. And we hope that we will have many occasions for professional sharing and development and joyful encounters!

Keep well!

Yours,

Sabina Schaffner
President

Reflections on the 2022 CercleS Conference in Porto, Portugal

Porto will miss you... we will miss you! Thank you for coming to the CercleS 2022 Conference!

Organising an international, multi-lingual and multicultural conference with more than 250 participants is never easy, but it can be very rewarding! That was the case with the 2022 CercleS Conference, which was hosted in Porto, from 15th to 17th September 2022.



The conference organisation rollercoaster began a year earlier with the decision regarding the conference venue, the invitation of members for the conference committees, the preparation of the conference website, the publication of the call for papers and the preparation of a provisional programme. With the submission of 146 proposals came the first overload of work – the blind reviewing process, sending authors the reviewers' decisions, asking

for final abstracts, and the registration process, among others. After the completion of the reviewing and registration processes, it was then time for the challenging task of putting together a programme that would accommodate both onsite and online sessions, that would bring together common topics within sessions and that would take into consideration the needs and requests of speakers. In the end, we were proud to accommodate 130 oral presentations and workshops, divided by 50 sessions, 5 of them online; a session with 4 of the 10

CercleS Focus Groups (Autonomy; Leadership and Management; Testing and Assessment; and Language Policy), where each Focus Group presented a short pitch followed by separate meetings of each of the Focus Groups; 3 keynote addresses; a multilingual fishbowl round table on the future of CercleS; a presentation of posters; the CercleS Coordinating Committee meeting; and the CercleS general meeting. In total, there were 280 registered participants from 22 different countries at this conference!

(Continued on the next page.)



Reflections on the 2022 CercleS Conference in Porto, Portugal

(Continued from previous page.)

The social programme was also a lively opportunity to network with other fellow colleagues from different language and cultural backgrounds; it included 3 lunches, 4 coffee breaks, 1 welcoming drink accompanied by the performance of ISCAP's female and male "tunas" (organised singing and dancing groups of higher education students), the conference dinner where we could also celebrate the 30th anniversary of CercleS (with dancing!), and a boat tour on the Douro river and a visit

to Porto's wine cellars to taste the renowned Port wine.

None of this would have been possible without the regular meetings with and constant support from the CercleS Executive Committee, or without the amazing and truly dedicated organising committee members and volunteer students who managed to excel at every single moment!

Until you decide to come to Porto again, recognised as the World's Leading City Destination 2022 by the World Travel Awards, you can watch the [award-winning video](#) of The Majestic Adventures of Ofelia

de Souza. In the meantime, Porto will miss you... we will miss you! Thank you for coming!

Looking forward to seeing you again at the 2024 CercleS Conference in Durham, UK! We are now handing over to Mark Critchley and his team!

You can access photos (in the GALLERY folder) and presentations from the conference at [this link](#).

*ReCLes.pt Executive Committee |
Manuel Moreira da Silva, Ana
Gonçalves & Joaquim Guerra*



ReCLes.pt Executive Committee | Manuel Moreira da Silva, Ana Gonçalves & Joaquim Guerra

As part of our continued support for Ukraine and colleagues from Language Centres or Language Departments at Ukrainian universities, the CercleS Executive Committee offered several Ukrainian colleagues scholarships to attend the CercleS Conference in Porto. Two of them were willing to share their reflections on what it meant to attend this event in person.

I am very grateful to CercleS for the opportunity to participate in the conference "The future of language education in an increasingly digital world: embracing change" that took place in Porto, Portugal on September 15-17th 2022.

Participation in this conference has increased my understanding of the trends in language education that nowadays prevail in Europe. As a co-author of *Standardized Requirements: Proficiency Levels of Ukrainian as a Foreign Language*, I have discovered that teaching a foreign language has shifted from the traditional model of four skills to the four modes of communication. Later, after the conference, I have learned about the new *CEFR* and together with my colleagues at the School of Ukrainian Language and Culture at UCU in Lviv we have discussed how we are already applying this new model and how we can extend its use for our teaching practices and material development.

During this conference, I acquired a lot of knowledge on new productive concepts and approaches, such as "asynchronous learning", "digital citizenship", "digipedagogical leadership" and many others. However, the real treasure for me as a teacher of Ukrainian language became the concept of *mediation* which Kristina Fernandez extensively explained to me in the time in-between sessions at the conference. I am very grateful for her mediation of my understanding of this concept. After the conference, I started to read more about

mediation. Together with my fourth-year student of the Philology Department at UCU, I am now trying to integrate this concept in her bachelor's paper, dedicated to the development of materials for the Ukrainian language club for internally displaced persons in Lviv.

It seems this is the first conference in my life where real exchange and even gifting of ideas happen. Many thanks to all the organisers and participants of the conference who managed to create such a fruitful atmosphere of intellectual exchanges. Many thanks to Sabina Schaffner who provided for us, the Ukrainian delegates, an informal tour around Porto explaining the peculiarities of Porto porcelain and the history of "bacalhao". These episodes will be etched in my memory as an example of real mediation in action that illustrates how fruitful it can be in a multilingual environment.

I am especially grateful to Sabina, Daniel Henseler, Stefanie Neuner, Tom Grainger, and Anne Chateau

for all the conversations and discussions that we engaged in during the conference, coffee-breaks, at the conference dinner and in cafés. All the time, the feeling did not leave us – the Ukrainian delegates – that we were a part of the European family circle. We really appreciate all your support for Ukraine and Ukrainians in the time of the brutal Russian war against our country, our people, our language, and our culture.

Porto is known for its magnificent bridges across the river Douro, which can also symbolise the power to connect people with the means of communication. For me, Porto became a bridge – a bridge to novelties in language education. Let us continue to build bridges between European and Ukrainian centres of language education, to strengthen Ukrainian language teachers, and to develop a strong network of solidarity that will provide for future changes.

Olena Synchak

School of Ukrainian Language and Culture, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv



The experience of being able to attend the CercleS conference in person was an experience that will probably never be forgotten, and I will definitely want to repeat it in future. So, I would like to share my enthusiasm with someone else. Since this was my first visit to Portugal and Porto in particular, it was sometimes difficult to follow serious and very pro-

found scientific discussions at the sessions without being distracted by the beauty and originality of the venue - from the country to the city and the university. All in all, the conference has left an impression of an intercultural communication 'festival' where we were given very special attention and care.

Thank you for the opportunity of

professional growth, meeting old and new friends, and for including our Ukrainian colleagues, who we continue to get in touch with after the conference. It was an unforgettable event.

Kateryna Shevelko
 Kyiv State University of Trade and Economics



Fall-outs from the Fishbowl

The Round Table with the topic *Quo vadis CercleS? Future challenges of CercleS* in Porto was a dynamic experience. The main moderator Ruth Tobias successfully guided 14 invited speakers with different roles and all participants of the CercleS Conference 2022 during the interactive 60-minute session, enabling us to jump high, float safely and swim deep down in the multilingual fishbowl. After having the audience in front of me and seven respondents / feedback providers behind me, I personally also now know how the cheese can feel between two pieces of bread in a sandwich! My main impression in retrospect is that my four engaged co-interviewees and I collaborated well and managed to use our four minutes each to present a wide spectrum of ideas to be discussed on site with the audience and to be developed further and put into action by the Executive Committee.

In this post-event reflection text, I present some more thoughts related to the first question we received, namely: “What added value could CercleS offer in the field of internationalisation?” As mentioned during the Round Table, the challenge with the term *internationalisation* is the possibility of multiple interpretations that are influenced by the context and

stakeholders involved. Furthermore, the term is very popular in educational contexts and the concept is frequently associated with high expectations concerning both expertise at different levels and financial resources. For example, in the strategy of my university, the words *international* or *internationally* are used 10 times, and the text is only 2 pages long. The terms are not used on every line but they feature without exception in every paragraph.

My general impression is that one concept and term may not be sufficient to cover our needs when we talk about cooperation in the CercleS framework. In my opinion, the concept of internationalisation is not the same when we talk about our distinct areas of expertise, for instance about management, research or teaching. In a management context, e.g. universities’ strategies play a visible role, and in this way aspects such as competition and volume are involved. In teaching-related activities, on the other hand, cross-border cooperation between maybe only two teachers and two student groups is the defining characteristic. By identifying, describing and evaluating activities of different kinds and different scopes, CercleS can give all actors involved a greater perception of value and at the same time clarify the association’s character. As Da-

vid Little suggested, CercleS activities could be more explicitly linked to European institutions. Within this frame of reference, CercleS could also take an active role and follow how European Universities as transnational alliances identify and recognise the language dimension of higher education. If CercleS follows this path, the consequence will be that the European profile of CercleS will become stronger and more visible. One possibility could also be that CercleS chooses a set of old (continuous or repetitive) and new “must do”, “should do” and “nice to do” activities for the operating periods. Creating a teacher platform on the CercleS website where people can, for example, exchange information and star projects could be one type of “bottom-up-organised” spring board for such “to do” activities.

The fishbowl activity served as a kind of catalyst, sparking an active discussion on the inputs and outputs which reflect the priorities of CercleS. I am convinced that the impact of the Round Table can be established and measured in many concrete ways. *Non progređi est regredi* – it is time to follow the news and participate!

Nina Pilke

University of Vaasa, FINELC chair



Reflection on the Conference Round Table

The Round Table discussion at the CercleS Conference has been a unique and fulfilling experience from my perspective.

The most impressive element for me is how the discussion captured the moment when multilingualism and technology connect. As applied linguists, we promote the importance of language and culture. I believe this was the very first time for us to have the opportunity to showcase multilingualism amongst CercleS members at the conference in a simultaneous manner. It shows who we are and what we stand for. Of course, we cannot do it nowadays without technology. Technology has become something we simply cannot live without in recent times. During the pandemic, colleagues in different institutions stood at the front line to embrace the challenges and learn to adapt to online delivery. The success of our online teaching depends on our curriculum but also knowledge of different tools we can use. *Engagement* has become

a key word. This Round Table discussion managed to engage audiences via our thoughts but also technology. It was not perfect – I remember the delay in translation and sound problem, but that was part of the experience. It is just like the reality of our online teaching world in the past few years – not perfect, but we have managed to engage our students through our dedication and the use of technology.

The other discussion points which resonated with me are ‘solidarity’ and ‘collaboration’. Colleagues feel very strongly about the invasion of Ukraine and how we all stand together with Ukraine. This spirit has been the cornerstone of CercleS. At this moment, despite Brexit, as someone who works in a Language Centre in the UK, I feel that solidarity with colleagues in Europe is stronger and not weaker. There is a genuine desire for collaboration, particularly from the ‘bottom-up’. It is still the case that not all colleagues have the opportunity to attend the CercleS conference regularly. It is also still the case that budgets are tight for language learning in different in-

stitutions. I sense the tension between the desire to collaborate and the reality of how we can make it happen. After reflection on the Round Table discussion, I feel the answer lies in our passion for what we do, and technology. Perhaps, we will be able to explore innovative ways to engage colleagues and foster collaboration such as online workshops, shared e-resources, etc.

Finally, I wanted to conclude that no matter how the world keeps changing, it is the humanity and human interaction that bring meaning to our work and our life. The last CercleS conference I had the pleasure of attending in person was in Calabria, Italy. This time [in Porto], we tried a new format, we embraced technology, but what remained the same is our joint passion for multilingualism and our ever-lasting solidarity with each other.

Catherine Xiang
The London School of Economics
and Political Science, Confucius
Institute for Business London

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

The whole morning before the conference started (Thursday, 15 September) was dedicated to the activities of the focus groups. The focus groups present at the conference were: Autonomy; Leadership and Management; Testing and Assessment; and Language policy. In the first half hour of the morning each of their representatives had the opportunity to introduce their group and focus areas to the CercleS members already present at the conference, and then everyone was free to join the discussions of the group that interested them most. The discussions were organised around the following subjects:

- ◆ Dimensions of language learner autonomy and their development
- ◆ Coping with hybrid work and leadership
- ◆ Aligning teaching and assessment at university language centres: How to assess mediation skills
- ◆ Transitioning from Language Policy to Internationalisation Policy

Update from the General Secretariat

Dear members,

Many activities have been organised in the recent months. Some of our members had the pleasure of attending the 2022 CercleS conference organised at ISCAP – The Porto Accounting and Business School, Porto, Portugal – in person. The Round Table ‘fish bowl’ discussion, during which the future challenges of CercleS were discussed in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, with simultaneous translation into several languages was particularly appreciated. A recording is available [here](#).

Although CercleS is very active online, the conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from all over Europe and beyond in person, after all these months of hybrid

meetings.

Webinars and workshops have been organised since last June and, as usual, the recordings can be found on our [YouTube channel](#).

In **December 2022**, CercleS has **375 institutional members** (Language Centres) from 13 National Associations and **21** associate members. Furthermore, since the launch of the new site last year, 737 members have subscribed to the site. We welcome all members to join so that they can access information not in the public area, and will be informed of upcoming events.

Upcoming events in 2023: Regular **leadership meetups** will be held monthly, and the dates will be communicated on our

website on the calendar.

Following suggestions at the CercleS Conference Round Table, we will start organising monthly **Teachers’ meetups** from January 2023. The first session will be a general meetup and in the following months, meetings around specific subjects will follow.

A seminar on the **Vitbox** project should also be organised in January.

We’ll keep you posted on all these – and other upcoming – events.

The General Secretariat wishes you a very peaceful and relaxing end of the year and holiday season.

Anne Chateau and Mia Panisse



Update from the General Secretariat

Chers membres de CercleS,

De nombreuses activités ont été organisées au cours des derniers mois. Certains de nos membres ont eu le plaisir d'assister en personne à la conférence CercleS 2022 organisée à l'ISCAP - The Porto Accounting and Business School, Porto, Portugal. La table ronde au cours de laquelle les défis futurs de CercleS ont été discutés en anglais, français, espagnol et portugais, avec une traduction simultanée en plusieurs langues, a été particulièrement appréciée. Un enregistrement est disponible [ici](#).

Bien que CercleS soit toujours très actif en ligne, la conférence a été une merveilleuse occasion de rencontrer des collègues de toute l'Europe et au-delà, après tous ces mois de réunions en ligne.

Des webinaires et des ateliers ont été organisés depuis juin dernier et, comme d'habitude, les enregistrements peuvent être trouvés sur notre [chaîne YouTube](#).

En 2022, CercleS compte 375 membres institutionnels (centres de langues) issus de 13 associations nationales et 21 membres associés. De plus, depuis le lancement du nouveau site l'année dernière, 737 membres se sont abonnés. Nous invitons tous les membres à les rejoindre afin de pouvoir accéder à des informations qui ne sont pas dans la partie accessible à tous, et d'être informés des événements à venir.

Événements à venir en 2023 :
Des **rencontres régulières de directeurs de centres** continueront à être organisées, les dates

seront bientôt communiquées. Suite aux suggestions de la table ronde de la conférence de CercleS, **des réunions pour les enseignants** seront également organisées. La première devrait avoir lieu en janvier ; il s'agira d'une réunion générale, puis d'autres réunions sur des sujets spécifiques suivront.

Un séminaire sur le projet **Vit-box** devrait également être organisé en janvier.

Nous vous tiendrons au courant des dates précises de tous ces événements.

Le Secrétariat Général vous souhaite une excellente fin d'année et des vacances aussi paisibles et relaxantes que possible.

Anne Chateau et Mia Panisse



Update from the President

Main outcomes of the Round Table discussion “Quo vadis CercleS?”

Participants at the Round Table discussion showed that the key values of CercleS as a supranational network are **inclusion, sharing** and **diversity**. One colleague bluntly put it as follows: “It requires you to ask what others would lose if you go away”.

At the same time, colleagues advocated for more **bottom-up activities**, which is entirely in line with the Executive Committee’s role as facilitator. In this sense, as President, I appeal to all member institutions and their staff: **CercleS needs you - and all of you, all of us, make up CercleS.**

Strategically, CercleS was identified as an association promoting professionalism in the field of academic language education and learning and research in the field of language acquisition, and academic communication. Apart from that, reaching out was considered to be an important strategy to be emphasised even more in the future.

The encounter and the meetings with Ukrainian colleagues have shown that these values are essential for them in the current situation. They are very interested in mutual exchange, joint projects and training.

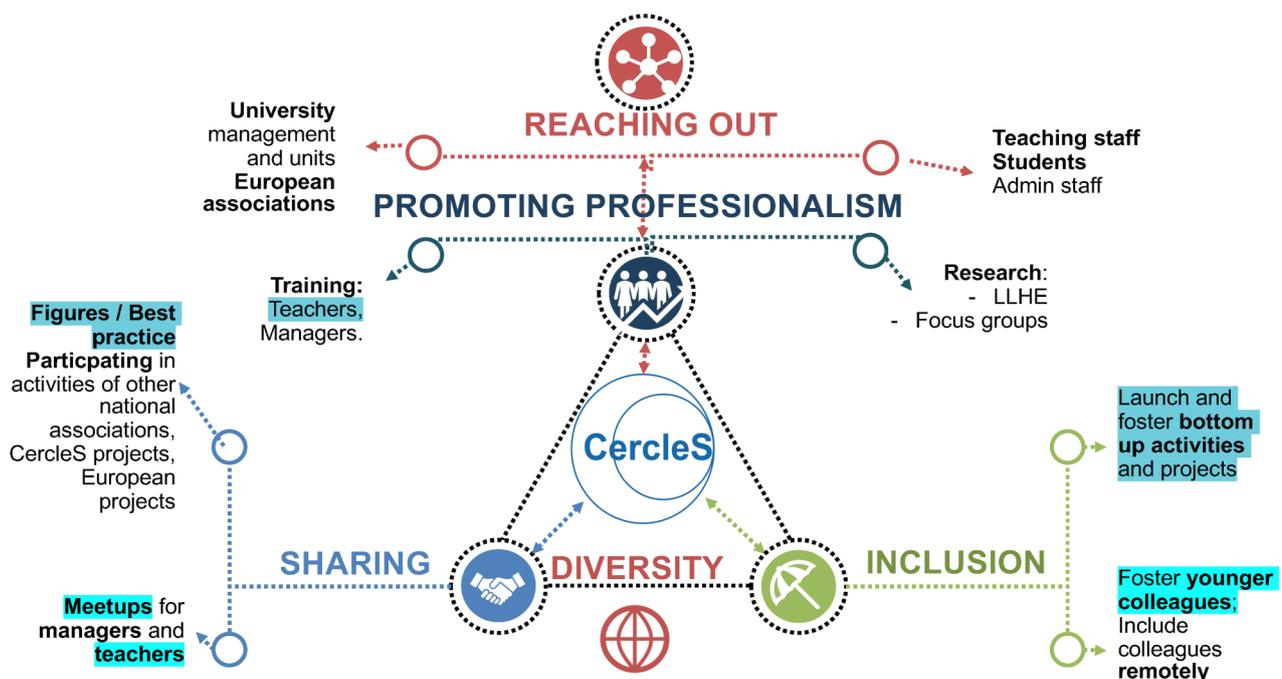
The **sharing** of information and good practices should be pursued

more vigorously and on a broader basis. *To this end, all member institutions are invited to continue to inform us about their activities and to invite colleagues from other member institutions whenever possible. It is also possible to apply for a financial contribution from CercleS.* Information around best practices can also be found in the forum in the members’ area of our website.

The Leadership Meetup will continue to be available to managers for sharing experiences and peer support. We will also start in 2023 a new exchange forum for teachers, a Teachers’ meetup.

(Continued on the next page.)

Key messages to be followed up



Update from the President

(Continued from previous page.)

Inclusion is to be promoted through additional bottom-up activities and projects. *Towards this goal, the Executive Committee will launch a call for teachers to apply for funding for a project on a topic relevant to them. In order to facilitate the participation of all interested teachers, CercleS will continue to offer webinars and workshops on didactic topics. The Executive Committee cordially invites colleagues with an expertise they would like to share, to volunteer as presenters.*

The **promotion of professionalism** is of course key. CercleS offers training for managers in the **field of leadership**. *Workshops for teachers are being planned – with internal and external experts.*

Our journal **Language Learning in Higher Education** continues to be

an essential contribution to professional development of our members since it offers staff of all member institutions and beyond a platform to publish research and activity reports, and allows us to publish our CercleS Conferences' proceedings.

The Executive Committee also welcomes all activities in **Focus Groups** and invites you to join or start new Focus Groups. These groups are an excellent opportunity for bottom-up initiatives and professional exchange.

Regarding the dimension of **out-reach**, the *current page of the CercleS website will aim to show more prominently the cooperation and involvement of CercleS and its members both in the ECML and ELC (our partner institutions) and the Council of Europe in order to foster the European dimension of its activities. Links to outcomes of*

CercleS' involvement in European projects such as the different versions of the Language Portfolio will be added. *Moreover, the President will also approach officers of the European Commission and the European Council regarding our involvement in projects being planned for 2024-2028.*

Participants at the Round Table also highlighted the need to approach university management and engaging in fruitful cooperation. *A webinar aimed at showing best practices of such an inter-university communication, on the basis of the CercleS Policy Paper on teaching, is being planned for next year.*

Your contribution to the CercleS community is most welcome and needed. Join in and share with us.

Sabina Schaffner

Action plan – work in progress



PHASE 1- January 2023

- e-bulletin dedicated to key messages of Round Table
- Plan meetups for teachers
- Plan training for teachers
- Launch call for teachers' projects
- Discuss reachout further
- Discuss Follow-Up activities in workig groups (e.g, database)



PHASE 2 - June 2023

Implement planned activities: meetups, trainings, projects, best practice reachout



PHASE 3 – December 2023

Implement planned activities: meetups, trainings, projects

Webinars offered by teachers (best practice, project outcomes)



PHASE 4: 2024

Evaluate activities linked to action plan; plan further action



Update from the Vice-President

NEWS from *Language Learning in Higher Education*

Language Learning in Higher Education (LLHE) returns to its readers with the **12.2 Issue**, which was published online on **6 December 2022**. This Issue has a hybrid format as it has been divided into two different sections. The **first section** includes research articles which offer insights on interesting topics such as *Plurilingual language policies, Language learning strategies and affective factors, Language anxiety and online engagement, Learners' reactions to remote emergency teaching, Corpus-based analysis of papers in social sciences, Statistical analysis of expectations and needs of engineering students, The role of the native speaker teacher*. The authors, all based in different academic and cultural contexts, share their ideas on the dynamics and experiences related to the above-mentioned learning aspects that are core issues in the everyday life of language researchers and prac-

tioners. Many interesting insights emerge from the articles which, once again, underline the complexity and variety of the fascinating field of study in language learning and teaching. The Issue also shows that these educational aspects are globally shared even though authors make their contribution with their critical reflections about a wide range of academic and cultural realities.

The **second section** is a special one arising from a Call for Papers, launched in 2021, through which CercleS invited researchers and teachers to explore language teaching methodologies and practical case studies that demonstrate the opportunities and challenges presented by integrating education for sustainable development (United Nation's Sustainable development [goal 4.7](#)) in modern languages curricula and learning practices. With the support of two guest editors, Odette Gabauden and Pilar Molina, who worked in collaboration with the

Editors-in-Chief (Carmen Argondizzo and Gillian Mansfield), *LLHE* has welcomed papers that bring together sustainability education with language acquisition, teaching, and learning. The aim was to discover to what extent language education for sustainable development shapes our actions, and what Language Centres, Departments and Schools of Languages can do to support such relevant language educational perspectives. Indeed, in line with [UNESCO's](#) strong affirmation that "Sustainability starts with teachers", we support the notion that language learning and teaching is ideally positioned to create cognitive, affective and behavioural learning opportunities on numerous issues of sustainability. We invite you to read the papers with the hope that they will help all of you identify your own personal realities in this relevant area of study and stimulate further research in the field.

(Continued on the next page.)

Recently uploaded
Popular

CercleS Online Talks: LLHE webinar 3 (1 Dec 2022)
1 view • 4 hours ago

CercleS Online Talks: Webinar Ukrainian Language and Culture (21.06.2022)
35 views • 5 months ago

CercleS online talks: Annick Rivens (01.06.2022)
53 views • 6 months ago

CercleS online talks: LLHE webinar
36 views • 6 months ago

CercleS online talks: Jane Wingren - Åbo Akademi University (07.09.2021)
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CercleS Webinar
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Online talks: World Universities' Response to COVID19 - Remote Online Language...
19 views • 1 year ago

XVI CercleS International Conference - Brno, Czech Republic, 10-12 September 2020
5 views • 1 year ago

Update from the Vice-President

(Continued from previous page.)

The **third webinar** dedicated to the *LLHE Journal* was held on 8 December 2022. Once again, the webinar was organised around four interviews with authors whose articles appear in *LLHE*, a dynamic format that meets the interest of participants. The webinar was hosted by Anne Chateau (General Secretary of CercleS) and opened by Carmen Argondizzo, who introduced the invited authors: Riccardo Amorati and Elisabetta Ferrari (University of Melbourne), Julia Zabala Delgado and Laurent Rouveyrol (Universitat Politècnica de València, Sorbonne Université), Odette Gabauden and Pilar Molina (Technological University of Dublin), and Pete Westbrook (University of Copenhagen). They were interviewed, respectively, by Stephan Meyer (SSH-CHES-CSUS, University of Basel), Barbara Sawicka (SERMO, Poznan University of Technology), Carmen Argondizzo (AICLU, Università della Calabria), and Thomas Christian-

sen (AICLU, Università del Salento).

They discussed various perspectives related to: *Podcasting as project-based learning and its effect on the acquisition of linguistic and non-linguistic skills (Issue 12.1)*; *Assessing verbal interaction: towards European harmonization. Insights from the co-operation between Spanish and French language exams for higher education, CERTACLES/CLES (Issue 12.1)*; *Sustainable development literacy in Language Learning and Teaching (Issue 12.2)*; *English for university admin staff: it's all in the mix (Issue 11.1)*.

As in the past webinars, we are so very grateful to the authors for this unique opportunity to get to know them better and discover what stimulated them to carry out their research. We are also grateful to the interviewers and participants for their precious contribution. The interviews, for sure, are a stimulus for all CercleS members to discuss and take the topic further themselves. You can watch

the webinar on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Looking ahead: **Issues 13.1 (May 2023), 13.2 (October 2023)**

These two Issues, although they will still offer papers that *LLHE* receives from independent authors who constantly send their proposals to the Journal, will be mainly dedicated to papers arising from the XVII CercleS International Conference (Porto 15-17 September 2022). We received a satisfying number of Articles and Activity Reports as a result to a Call for Papers that expired on 27 November 2022.

So, quite intense work is ahead of us, but we hope that the uniqueness of the activities that we create around the CercleS-De Gruyter *LLHE Journal* will stimulate CercleS members and *LLHE* readers, in general, in their own practice and research, which in turn will become future contributions to meaningful studies.

Carmen Argondizzo

Events coming up in January 2023

Please make a note of the following online events taking place in the coming weeks. For more online and face-to-face events offered by CercleS and National Associations, visit our website's [news page](#) and [events calendar](#).

◆ Date: Leadership Meetup

Tuesday, 31 January 17:00-18:00 CET

Tuesday, 7 March 17:00-18:00 CET

◆ Date: Teachers' Meetup

Tuesday, 24 January 17:00-18:30 CET

We will be starting a monthly meetup for teachers, where they can discuss issues related to teaching. Our first meetup will include breakout rooms for teachers of English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Swedish. Each group will be able to communicate in their particular (target) language (so the meetups will not be in English only). More information will follow in January. Also please make sure to visit our website's [news section](#) in January for more information.

Update from the Treasurer

We are happy to report on CercleS' Ukrainian colleagues who attended their membership fee up to now. The *LLHE* journal has also provided some income.

finances. Please find below the following brief comments about the budget for 2022.

Budget for 2022

The bank balance on 1 January 2022 was €106,229.40.

Expenses (updated on 09.12.22)

The subscription to the journal *Language Learning in Higher Education* (LLHE) is the main item, followed by the contribution to the organisation of the CercleS Conference in Porto, the travel expenses for the conference, and personnel costs. Other items are the scholarships to the

Subscription to LLHE: €13,405
 Contribution to the CercleS Conference: €5,000
 Travel expenses: €4,796
 Personnel costs: €4,200

Income

As usual, the main income is from the membership fees, particularly the fees of the institutional members. All the institutional members have already paid their membership fee for 2022. As for the associate members, 18 of them have renewed

Membership fees

Institutional members: €37,790.87
 Associate members: €18,000

LLHE

Royalty statement: €1,205.16
 Editorial and administrative work: €1,500

As of 9 December 2022, the balance was €116,659.41.

*Marta Estella Clota and
 Tom Grainger*



CercleS on the web & social media

Website 
cercles.org

Instagram 
[@cerclesgeneralsecretariat](https://www.instagram.com/cerclesgeneralsecretariat)

YouTube 
[CercleS organisation](https://www.youtube.com/CercleS%20organisation)

Twitter 
[@_CercleS](https://twitter.com/_CercleS)

The Executive Committee wishes all members a well-deserved break. To those celebrating Christmas, we wish a blessed season, and we hope that the new year will be filled with exciting new possibilities, cooperation, support, and solidarity.



From left to right: Anne Chateau (Secretary General — RANACLES), Marta Estella Clota (Treasurer — ACLES), Sabina Schaffner (President — SSH-CHES-CSUS), Zaan Bester (Assistant to the General Secretariat — CASALC CZ), Mia Panisse (Deputy Secretary General — FINELC), Carmen Argondizzo (Vice-President — AICLU), Tom Grainger (Deputy Treasurer — RANACLES)

Record of Meetings

Executive Committee meetings held between June and December 2022:

- ◆ 22 June 2022
- ◆ 23 August 2022
- ◆ 12 September 2022
- ◆ 3 October 2022
- ◆ 8 November 2022
- ◆ 29 November 2022
- ◆ 15 December 2022

The agendas and minutes of these (and previous) meetings are available in the [member area](#) on the website.

Contact & Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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Twitter: [_CercleS](https://twitter.com/_CercleS)

YouTube: [CercleS organisation](https://www.youtube.com/CercleSorganisation)

STATISTICS & INFORMATION

Established

Strasbourg, France in 1991

Number of members

Within National

Associations: 375

Associate Members: 21

Meetings

Executive Committee

Monthly online

Coordinating Committee

Last meeting: 14.09.2022

Next meeting: 12.05.2023 (online)

General Meeting

Biennially

Last general meeting: 14.09.2022

Next general meeting: 11.09.2024

Conferences

Arranged

Biennially

Next Conference

*XVIII CercleS International
Conference*

Date: 12-14 September 2024

Venue: Durham University,
Durham, UK

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.

