



CercleS Coordinating Committee Meeting 15 May 2026, 10:00-13:00 (CET)

Via Zoom

Minutes of the meeting

National Association	Country	Present
ACLES	Spain	Juana Sanmartín Vélez
AICLU	Italy	Carmen Argondizzo
AKS	Germany	Maike Engelhardt (proxy: Elisabeth Paliot)
AULC	UK	Ana de Medeiros & Oranna Speicher
CASALC CZ	Czechia	Blanka Pojslová (proxy: Peter Gergel)
CASALC SK	Slovakia	Peter Gergel
CLUB	Belgium	Dominique François
FINELC	Finland	Emmi Huttunen
NUT	Netherlands & Belgium	Esther Scheeren (proxy: Niels Rambags)
RANACLES	France	Tom Grainger
ReCLES	Portugal	Manuel Fernando Moreira da Silva
SERMO	Poland	Lucyna Skwarko
SSH-CHES-CSUS	Switzerland	Sara Cotelli Kureth & Elisabeth Paliot
VUS	Austria	Norbert Conti
Total votes	12 (out of 14)	

Executive Committee	Votes	Present
	3	Julia Zabala Delgado (President) Libor Štěpánek (Vice-President) Mia Panisse (Secretary General) Tom Grainger (Treasurer) Alessandra Fazio (Deputy Secretary General) Ruth Tobias (Deputy Treasurer) Zaan Bester (Assistant to the General Secretariat)
Total votes	15 (out of 17)	

1. Welcome and approval of agenda (slides 2–3)

Julia Zabala Delgado welcomes everyone to the meeting. She gives an overview of the agenda and asks if anyone wants to add anything to the agenda under AOB. No points are added.

2. Approval of CC minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2025, via Zoom → email attachment (slide 5)

Votes in favour: 14 | Votes against: 0 | Abstentions: 0

(NAs present/represented to vote: ACLES, AICLU, AKS, CASALC CZ, CASALC SK, CLUB, FINELC, NUT, RANACLES, ReCLES, SSH-CHES-CSUS)

The minutes are approved.

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsekretariat@cercles.org



3. Short reports of the EC activities – questions and feedback by CC members

May 2025-December 2025:

a. Presidency:

- *Marseille summer school (Tom Grainger will have the floor)* ([slides 8–11](#))

The teacher training week will be held at UNamur in Belgium (CLUB) from 18-22 May 2026. Tom goes through the programme.

There will be **three communications**:

C1: “Reframing LSP-Content Partnerships in Higher Education” by Karen Fleischauer (Technische Universität Darmstadt – Germany)

C2: “My Territory, Your Territory: A Reflexive Look at Working Together in ICLHE” by Julie Walaszczyk & Chaïma Seddiki (Mons University – Belgium)

C3: “From Stand-Alone to Integrated Learning Paths: Collaborating on Academic Skills” by Eric van Luijt (Tilburg University – the Netherlands)

There will be **six workshops**:

W1: “Designing an Action Plan for Interdisciplinary Engagement in Your LSP Context” by Aude Labetoulle (CNAM Paris – France)

W2: “Unpacking the Glocal Teaching Toolbox: A Roadmap for LSP-Content Lecturer Partnerships” by Julie Walaszczyk (Mons University – Belgium)

W3: “Learning by Doing: Integrating Languages Across Disciplines through Project-Based Collaboration” by Christelle Hoorelbeke & Patrick Foissac (Université de Namur – Belgium)

W4: “ESD-safaris: Identifying Sustainable Teaching Moments with AR and Card-Game Reflection” by Julia Edeleva, Technische Universität Braunschweig – Germany)

W5: “Evolve or perish? Navigating Collaborations with Content Specialists in the Age of GenAI” by Sara Rynemans & Rachel Rubin (KU Leuven – Belgium)

W6: “Language, Culture and Emotion in LSP Courses: An Interinstitutional Approach” by Sophie Naveau & Aurélie Marsily (Université de Namur – Belgium)

The countries represented by the participants are Belgium, the Czech Republic, England, France, Greece, Latvia, Poland, and Spain.

- *CercleS Conference Rome (Alessandra Fazio will have the floor)* ([slides 11–19](#))

Conference organisation: a snapshot

[Conference homepage](#)

The current number of registered participants: 279, the number of participants who have paid: 193. Around 300 abstracts were received, and 274 were accepted (168 presentations, 29 workshops, and 33 posters).

Conference timeline

The organisation of the scientific and social programme is in progress, and the conference programme with the parallel sessions will be uploaded to the website by the end of May. Early-bird registration will end on 31 May, whereafter regular registration will open from 1 Jun until 31 Aug.

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org



Conference programme

1. There will be 7 parallel sessions every day (the organisers are currently working on categorisation to define the main topics)
2. Poster sessions will be digitally displayed on multimedia boards in each room, running continuously to enable voting for the most plurilingual poster.
3. Coffee breaks will take place at Palestra Monumentale
4. Lunch will be held at Palestra Monumentale
5. The Welcome Reception will be held at Palestra Monumentale & Courtyard Stadio dei Marmi
6. The Conference Dinner will be held at Palestra Monumentale & Courtyard Stadio dei Marmi
7. There will be an optional guided tour on Saturday (for participants who selected this option)

Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers confirmed:

- Carmen Argondizzo (Honorary professor of English Language and Translation, University of Calabria), "CercleS Conferences as Milestones in the Development of a European Community of Practice: A Diachronic Analysis of Evolving Themes and Reflections on Current Societal Expectations".
- Francesca Romana Lenzi (Full professor of Sociology, University of Foro Italico) "Complessità del cambiamento contemporaneo e il ruolo socioculturale del linguaggio"
- Mike Mayor (Senior Director, Global Scale of English at Pearson) "Learning to Learn: Staying Relevant in the Age of AI" (offered by Pearson)
- Neus Figueras (University of Barcelona)
- Nick Saville (to be arranged)

Conference registration

Conference [Registration page](#) and fees

For any information related to payment/invoices, etc., please remind everyone to use:

info@nesviaggi.it

Conference links

[Publication of selected papers LLHE](#)

Contact and info on CercleS26 – [Committees](#)

[Accommodation](#)

- *Situation of LCs in Europe and beyond: CercleS Manifesto (slide 20)*

In the CC meeting in December, we raised the idea of a manifesto to defend language and language education, which will be shared with the PNF of the ECML. We have drafted a first version, based on the CercleS white papers and on EU documents, and will ask the CC for input later in this meeting.

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org



• *Participation in the teacher consultation of the European Commission (slide 21)*

Julia Zabala and Libor Stepanek were invited to participate in an EU survey and online meeting organised by the European Commission (15 Jan 2026). The consultation aimed to gather inputs on working conditions and competences needed to support the development of students and peers. The final goal is to prepare a new policy to support EU countries to strengthen the teaching profession within the 2021-2030 strategic framework for education. Our goal was to represent the opinions of LCs in Higher Education. We hope that this will allow CercleS to be involved in future European projects.

• *Collaborations signed for European projects (slide 22)*

CercleS now has an EU login and an organisation ID (OID) and participation code to participate in EU programme. This means that if our member LCs want to participate in European projects, they can mention that they are supported and backed by CercleS. We are already supporting two projects:

- Erasmus + KA2 on AI in language teaching – LinguAI (Coordinated by the University of Salamanca)
- Erasmus + KA2 on language learning in healthcare context (Coordinated by Metropolia University of Advance Sciences, participation requested by the Polytechnic University of Lisbon.

These will not *necessarily* go ahead, but have been presented with the support of CercleS.

• *CercleS training initiative (slide 23)*

CercleS wants to develop a structured training programme rather than simply offering a collection of individual modules. AKS shared its model, and using it could broaden training opportunities for members and allow existing programmes within the national associations (NAs) to be offered to the wider CercleS community through the CercleS platform. The long-term goal would be to work towards micro-credentials. The Coordinating Committee will be invited to provide input later in the meeting.

Ruth Tobias highlights that such a framework could also promote multilingualism. Ana de Medeiros suggests exploring collaboration with the new university alliances, many of which prioritise multilingualism. Elisabeth Paliot notes the increasing dominance of English, both within the Swiss national association and at previous CercleS Conferences, and expresses support for offering training in languages other than English.

b. Vice-Presidency

• *LLHE updates (slide 25)*

A huge thanks to Carmen Argondizzo and Anne Chateau (who has agreed to continue in the position of editor-in-chief with Carmen) for their fantastic work. Feedback from the meeting with De Gruyter on 23 Mar 2026:

- The LLHE has a healthy submission pipeline, with a steady increase over recent years
- The current annual article budget: **34 research** articles and activity reports
- Agreed adjustment for 2027 budget: **30** articles (more realistic given the workload)
- Some conference articles are expected (however, historically low conversion rate from presentations to papers)

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org



- The current 2024 Impact Factor is **0.6**
- Online first (ahead-of-print)
- Strong global readership, especially in the Netherlands (highest), UK, Germany, China, and USA

→ Carmen Argondizzo notes that from October 2026, CercleS Conference presenters will be invited to submit articles for the LLHE.

Additionally, she says that the first issue of 2026 is almost ready and will be available online soon.

- *Checklists for quality marks draft (slides 26–27)*

This point was raised at the previous CC meeting in December; today, we want to ask the CC members for input regarding the initiative and ask whether we can continue. The main idea is to establish a set of quality markers for Language Centres (LCs) in Europe, providing a clear reference for expected standards while remaining entirely voluntary, non-burdensome and flexible. The framework allows LCs to conduct a simple self-check to assess how their practices align with these expectations. This self-check can serve multiple purposes: supporting internal reflection within LCs; facilitating dialogue between staff and management; or signalling quality standards to universities and other stakeholders.

The framework is designed as a scalable support system. Some institutions require no certification: for those, it is a point of reference only. Others seek orientation: for those, it provides directions or targeted training or support (linked directly to identified quality areas). Yet others aim for formal recognition through certification: for those, such a process exists. Importantly, existing training and support activities within the CercleS network can be aligned with these quality markers, ensuring coherence and practical relevance.

Also, if the framework gained endorsement from the EU or other bodies, it has the potential to further strengthen the credibility and European, or even global, visibility and impact of CercleS and its member institutions.

Questions to the CC:

1. Do you think this initiative should take place?

The members of the CC indicate that this initiative should continue.

2. If it should, is there anybody interested in taking part in the preparation of the framework?

Ana de Medeiros (AULC) indicates that she is interested in working on the initiative.

- *Update of CercleS goals (slide 28)*

The goals have not changed, but these are a reminder of what CercleS' goals are for the current EC.

- taking part in EU projects – feel free to approach the EC; several projects have already been supported
- more collaboration within CercleS (e.g., trying to interconnect training within CercleS; support mobility, support FGs in their work to promote the impact of CercleS)
- improving the status and impact of CercleS (e.g., trying to collaborate more closely with the EU Commission and other bodies; supporting initiatives, such as new FGs; training schemes, etc.)

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org



- attracting new members

c. General Secretariat:

- *Membership management (slide 30)*

There has been steady growth in our membership numbers and the number of website subscribers.

- Full members: 14
- Institutional members: 402
- Associate members: 29
- Our AMs are from 21 countries spread over four continents
- Subscribers to the website: 1 357 (15.05.2026)

One Associate Member (Mohammed IV Polytechnic University, Morocco) has not paid the 2025 membership fee, and has not responded to payment for the 2026 membership fee, despite several reminders and being informed of the possibility of exclusion. Their possible exclusion as AM may be added to the agenda for the GM in Rome due to non-payment for 2 years - see Statutes (2020) 4.2.1.

- *CercleS meetups and webinars (slides 31–32)*

There were several meetups this year, which continue to provide a community and network for staff.

- Dates of Teachers' meetups: 9 Mar, 13 Apr, Upcoming: 1 Jun, 6 Jul
- Dates of Leadership meetups: 3-4 Feb (in-person), 9 Mar, 13 Apr, 11 May, Upcoming: 18 Jun

- *Activities of focus groups (slides 32)*

The following activities driven by focus groups (FGs) have taken place so far this year:

- Webinar on 9 March (hosted by FG Language Teaching and Assessment): *Intercultural issues in language testing*, presented by Barbara Sawicka and Laurent Rouveyrol
- FG Internationalisation and Language Policy survey: Survey on the impact of initiatives developed by CercleS language centres within European university alliances

Out of CercleS' 14 focus groups, nine will meet in Rome. The EC has offered financial support to FGs for meetings, and one of the criteria for being allocated the financial support is that there should be a tangible outcome related to the meeting, which will take the form of a report or webinar. We can therefore expect more activities from the FGs after the CercleS Conference.

d. Treasury:

- Update on payments received from Full Members and Associate Members (slide 33)

7800 from full members and 9 AMs have paid so far.

- Update on expenses to date

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org



4. Initiatives, projects and plans for 2026: request for CC feedback (slide 35)

- a. CercleS Training Framework
- b. CercleS Manifesto draft: in defence of language centres and services
- c. CercleS Quality Checklist draft: a tool for self-reflection

Feedback from the CC and discussion:

CercleS Training: Sara Cotelli Kureth speaks on behalf of the group and says there was a question how the framework would be organised at the CercleS level. E.g., would CercleS check that the training courses are of good quality? Julia Zabala notes that the prerequisites for quality, etc., would be dealt with by the NAs. Ruth Tobias mentions that at AKS, they have a checklist in place to confirm the quality of the training and the presenters. Sara says it could be a good idea to ask the NAs what topics they would find useful, or to help determine the topics to be included. Julia agrees, but instead of sending out a new survey, suggests that we could perhaps gather some information at the CercleS Conference, like providing a QR code and leaving it active over the course of the Conference. We should also not neglect the needs of teachers of some lesser-taught languages. Ruth Tobias mentions that teachers can go through various levels of training and levels of certification. Niels Rambags mentions that we should not only have online training, but also in-person, and that we could use Erasmus funding for this.

CercleS Manifesto: Sara says that everyone was happy with the manifesto and the content; they just added the word “empathy” because they felt it needed to be reflected. The wording of the third sentence in We declare that section could benefit from reformulation – perhaps “knowing a language” could be replaced with “Having a shared/common language...”.

5. Outlook on concrete activities May–Dec 2026 with dates (slide 36)

CercleS Teacher Training Week (UNamur, 19-22 May)

CercleS Conference (Rome, 10-12 September)

FG webinars after the Conference

6. AOB

- *Per rollam voting* (slide 38)

Julia Zabala asks the CC's permission to make an amendment to the Statutes to allow *per rollam* voting. *Per rollam* voting is a decision-making procedure conducted outside the General Meeting of CercleS, whereby members cast their votes in writing or electronically within a specified period. Decisions adopted through a *per rollam* procedure shall have the same validity and effect as decisions adopted during a duly convened meeting.

If approved, the EC will suggest an amendment to the Statutes at the GM in Rome in Sept 2026, with the supporting documents and formulation to be sent to all members with the invitation to the GM.

Votes in favour: 14 | Votes against: 0 | Abstentions: 0

(NAs present/represented to vote: AICLU, AKS, AULC, CASALC CZ, CASALC SK, CLUB, FINELC, NUT, Ranacles, ReCLES, SSH-CHES-CSUS)

- Next CC meeting: Wednesday 9 Sept 2026: 14:00–17:00 (Red Room – Polo Notatorio de Foro Italico)

Julia Zabala thanks the CC for their participation, and we look forward to meeting in person in Rome. (slide 39)

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | Centro de Lenguas | Universitat Politècnica de València |
Camí de Vera, s/n | Edificio 4P | 46022 Valencia, Spain
tel. +34 96 387 70 00 | e-mail: juzadel@upv.es

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 469 216 003 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org