

**Candidacy for the Position of CercleS Vice-President
Personal Statement**

This statement is to formally declare my candidacy for the position of Vice-President in the upcoming 2024 elections for the new CercleS Executive Committee, held on 11 September 2024 at Durham University, with my sincere intention to actively contribute to the future development of CercleS.

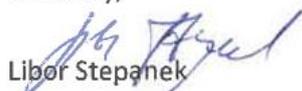
In presenting my application, I aim to offer CercleS my profound passion for languages, extensive professional experience, and research-based expertise. My interdisciplinary approach is rooted in my formal academic background, holding a Master in English Literature and Linguistics, and History, and PhD in Political Science, my informal educational pursuits, which include Drama Education and communication coaching, and practical experience in coordination and management as a language centre director. Over the course of 25 years, my engagement in language centre activities has shaped my work ethos. I have instructed students, academics and the general public in various formats, including teacher and leadership training; my research has been primarily focused on creativity and language soft skills. Outcomes of my work include international projects, publications, conference presentations, joint university courses and programmes, or establishments of informal collegial networks. Through this extensive experience, I strongly advocate for teamwork, mutual support among language centres, collegiality, close cooperation between research, teaching and administrative processes, as well as promotion of teacher and learner autonomy.

As an active and engaged member, former president of the CASALC-CZ, former CercleS Coordinating Committee member, and current representative of CercleS at the European Centre of Modern Languages and Professional Network Forum, I am committed to supporting joint activities among CercleS members and fostering knowledge and best practice exchange. If elected, I'll do my best to contribute to the development of CercleS by facilitating international project development, continuous professional development, quality management, research excellence, global networking, and innovative problem-solving and decision-making approaches amidst the current challenges faced by language centres. In alignment with the CercleS mission, I am dedicated to supporting the efforts of the future president, Executive Committee and Coordinating Committee and all CercleS working and interest groups.

Formally, I am pleased to confirm that my candidacy is fully endorsed by my home institution, Masaryk University, ensuring my availability in the event of election.

In conclusion, with my enthusiasm, expertise, and experience, I am very much looking forward to having the potential opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the success of the CercleS community.

Sincerely,



Libor Stepanek

Masaryk University Language Centre