

*Candidacy for the position of Secretary General, CercleS*

Dear members of the Coordinating Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Secretary General of CercleS, election organized in Durham, UK, September 11, 2024.

One of the strengths I bring to this role is the continuity that my transition from Deputy Secretary General to Secretary General would offer. Having served as Deputy Secretary General for the past years, I have had the privilege of closely following and learning from the current Secretary General. This unique opportunity has provided me with invaluable insights into the responsibilities of the position. By seamlessly transitioning into the role of Secretary General, I can ensure a smooth continuation of our organisation's mission and objectives, while also bringing fresh approaches to the table.

During my tenure as the Deputy Secretary General, I have cultivated working relationships with members within CercleS. Additionally, my experience extends to collaborating to some extent also with the academic publisher De Gruyter, responsible for the publication of the journal *Language Learning in Higher Education*. As Secretary General, I would be committed to build upon these foundations of collaboration, ensuring that CercleS continues to thrive and adapt to the evolving needs of our members and stakeholders.

I have an extensive background in the Finnish educational system, the majority of my experience stemming from university level and especially from teaching at the Language Centre for over 20 years. Since 2019, I am the Director of the Language Centre at Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU) in Turku, Finland, and in this position, I have gained valuable leadership experience and insights that have shaped my approach to organisational management and strategic planning. I am also currently one of the vice chairs of Finelc, the Finnish network for language centres at universities. I hold a PhD degree in French literature, having also taught at the Department of French language and literature at ÅAU prior to the position at the Language Centre.

My convictions closely align with the values and goals of CercleS: fostering language and communications competencies in the broadest sense, promoting research and international and interdisciplinary cooperation between language centres and especially the importance of promoting the professional status of language centres within the academic community as well as the professional development of the staff. I believe in our mission and am committed to contributing my best efforts to support it.

I am a member of the Executive Board of Finelc and the past two years I have also been a member of the steering group of a Finnish national project: [2digi2](#) (2022-2023) conducted within the network. I am a member of the Language Council of ÅAU and its working group, preparing the new language policy for the university. These engagements offer some glimpses into, and exemplify, hopefully, my dedication to working with questions relating to, amongst others, linguistic diversity, inclusive and equitable solutions for both students and staff and, in general, for promoting positive change both at a university, national and, as Deputy Secretary General, international level.

In conclusion, I am passionate about the values and goals of CercleS and I am excited to continue to contribute to the growth of the association. My university, superior and Finelc fully endorse my candidacy. Thank you for considering my application.

Mia Panisse  
Director  
Language Centre at ÅAU