CercleS

General Meeting

Friday, 11 September 2026, 16:45-18:15

We will start with some positive news:
Result of the voting for most multilingual/plurilingual posters

N°1: Poster n. 19 - Towards a Network of Language Centres: Institutionalising Staff Mobility for Strategic Cooperation

Authors Daniela Cerutti, Alexander Grimm

N°2: Poster n. 8 – Multilingualism and Plurilingualism in Language Education: Unlocking Their Potential in Teaching Italian as a Second Language

Author: Clelia Richters-Teodoro

N°3: Poster n. 17 – Internationalisation at Home as a Catalyst for Medical English Skills Development in a Multilingual Classroom

Authors: Timea Németh, Anna Dávidovics

More positive news ☺

Alessandra Fazio announces that AICLU would like to appoint Carmen Argondizzo as Honorary President of AICLU.

Format of meeting and technical details

Voting for all participants (on site and on Zoom) can be done with Google Forms using your computer or your smartphone.

On site: use the QR code

On Zoom: use the link we will paste in the chat

If your browser asks you to log into your Google account and you haven't got one, there is no need to register with Google. You might try another browser (e.g. Microsoft Edge),or copy the link and paste it into your browser (instead of clicking on the link).

If you have any difficulty in voting please ask a colleague to help. In the worst case scenario, we can count your hands.

Participants

Please record your attendance (everyone in the meeting, even if you are not voting) using this link / QR code.

Format of meeting and technical details:

Will be recorded for purposes of minutes, then deleted

Hybrid format

Executive Committee

Julia Zabala(President)

Libor Štěpánek (Vice-President)

Mia Panisse (Secretary General)

Alessandra Fazio (Deputy Secretary General)

Tom Grainger (Treasurer)

Ruth Tobias (Deputy Treasurer)

Zaan Bester (Assistant to the Secretary General, Co-Host)

For those online, for any questions or problems, please write in chat function

Meeting attendance



Format of meeting and technical details

Votes according to the Statutes

- One vote per institutional / associate member (no voting rights for honorary or benefactor members).
- Full members (National Associations), represented through their institutional members, do not have separate voting rights.
- Proxy voting is not permitted.
- Decisions are taken by simple majority of the votes cast by members present and entitled to vote, excluding abstentions, blank or invalid votes, which are not added to negative votes for the calculation of the majority.

Votes cast by the delegates registered

- **on site and on Zoom:** using the QR code / link in the chat

Agenda

Friday, 11 September 2026 · Red Room, Polo Natatorio del Foro Italico, Rome · and via Zoom

1. **Welcome**
    a. Approval of the agenda
    b. Information about polling
2. **Approval of the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held via Zoom on 31 October 2025**
3. **Reports: presentation and approvals**
    a. President's report
    b. Vice-President's report
    c. Secretary General's report
    d. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts
4. **Proposed amendments to the Statutes**
    a. Rationale for the amendments
    b. Voting
5. **Exclusion of associate member, to be approved by the General Meeting**
6. **AOB**
    a. Appointment of auditors for approval of accounts 2026–2027
    b. Open discussion: "what to fight for and how"

1. Welcome

a. Approval of the agenda

- All those who **approve the agenda**, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who wish to **add an item to the agenda**, speak up (on site), or write in the chat (on Zoom).

b. Information about polling

- **On site and via Zoom:** using the link / QR code for the Google form.
- Only **institutional and associate members** may vote; one vote per member. Proxy voting is not permitted.
- For any questions or problems, please speak up (on site), or write in the chat (on Zoom).

Approval of agenda



2. Approval of the minutes

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held via Zoom on 31 October 2025

- All those who **approve** the minutes, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **do not approve** the minutes, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **abstain from voting**, please use the QR code / link to do so.

Approval of the minutes of the EGM on 31 Oct 2025



Halfway through the mandate

When this Executive Committee took office in October 2024, we identified four strategic priorities.

01
Networking
Encourage networking among our members

02
Professionalism
Create opportunities to promote professionalism

03
Reach
Strengthen our network in Europe and beyond

04
Advocacy
Promote the role of language centres in Europe

This report has two purposes: to look back at what has been achieved, and to look ahead to where we are going. Over two years CercleS has become more active, more visible, more evidence-based and more strategically useful to its members.

We have built a strong base — now we must use it.

The CercleS Survey of Language Centres

We needed an updated picture of who we are, what our centres do, what they face and what they need from CercleS. Evidence gives us strength.

164	27	465,000+	35+
centres responding	countries	students a year	languages taught

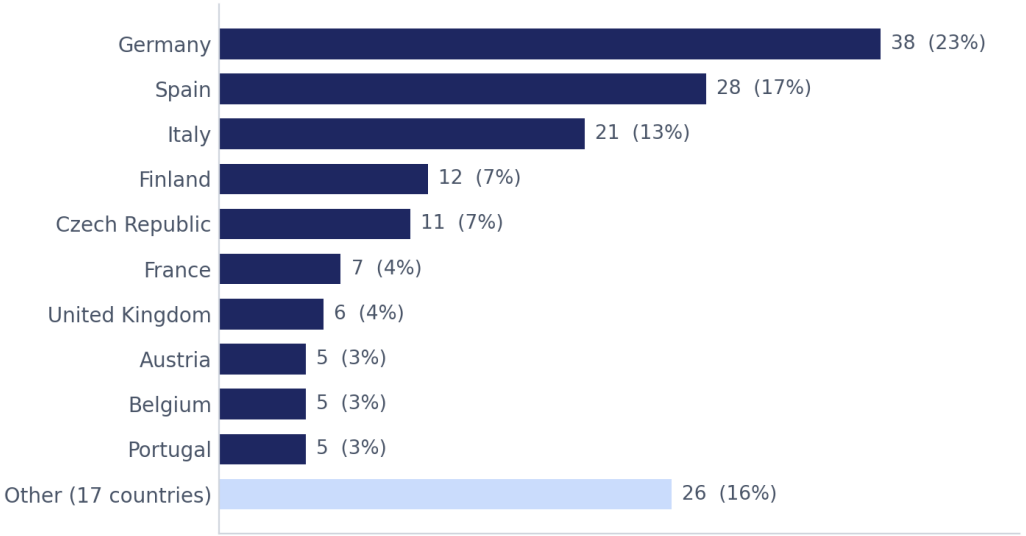
Across the wider network of 400+ institutional members, provision plausibly exceeds **one million learners a year.**

Language centres are not peripheral service units.

Together, they form a European multilingual infrastructure, and every centre will be able to use this data locally to show that it is not alone.

A genuinely European sector

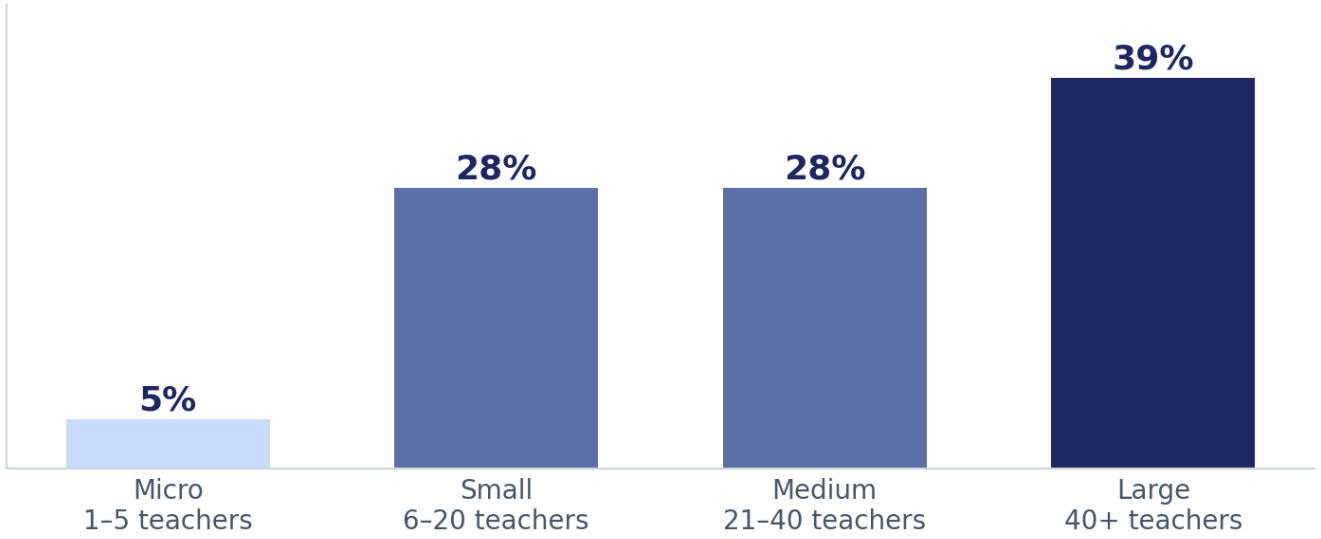
Who responded



Germany, Spain, Italy, Finland and the Czech Republic contribute two thirds of the sample, in line with our largest national associations.

Larger than our institutional profile suggests

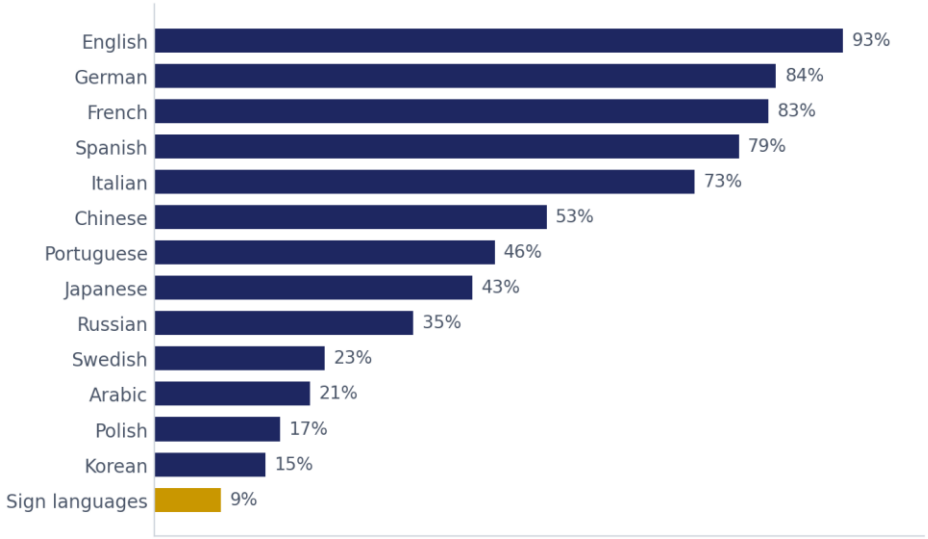
How big centres are



Two in five centres employ more than 40 teachers; 30% employ more than 50 — the size of a small academic department.

More than 35 languages — and we keep them alive

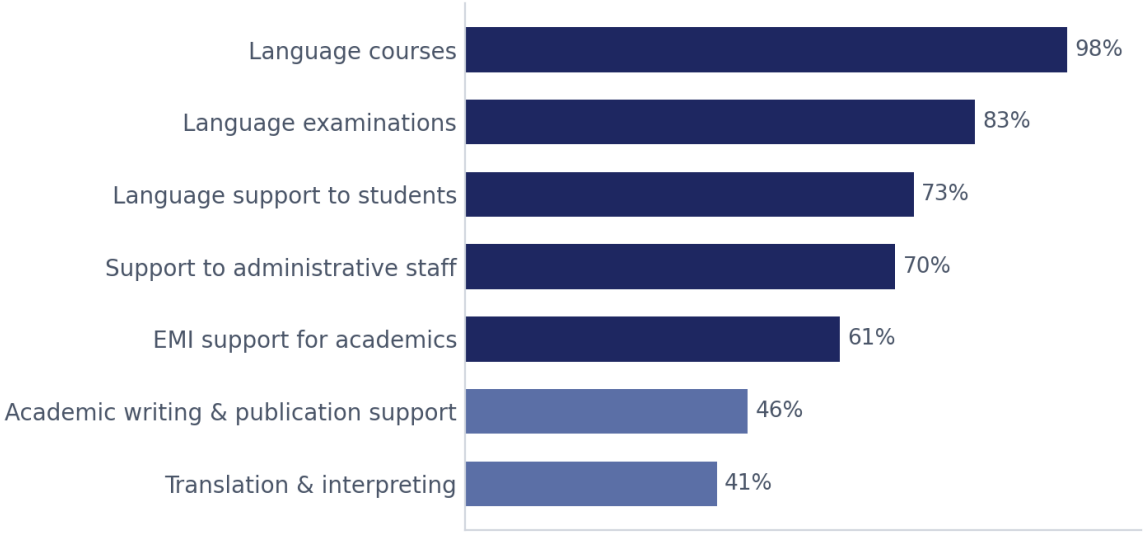
What centres teach



Including five national sign languages, Northern Sámi, Basque, Catalan, Occitan, Kurdish and Swahili. **Nobody else in higher education teaches this breadth, at this scale, every semester.**

Far beyond language courses

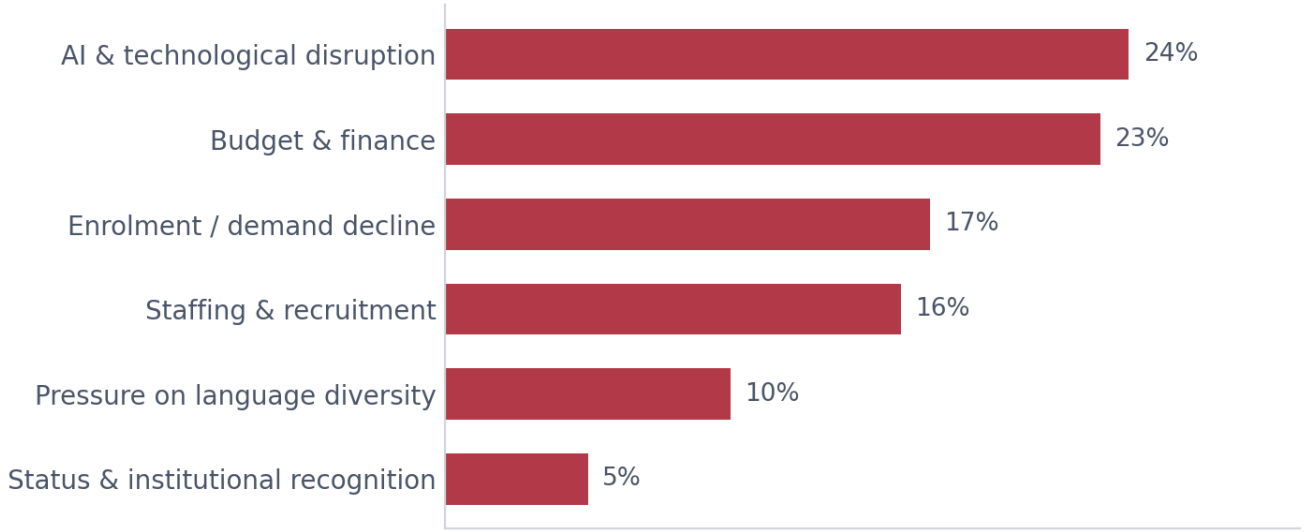
What centres do



The language centre is now the **multilingual services layer of its university**: it supports lecturers teaching in English, academics publishing internationally and administrators serving international students — and certifies the competences on which mobility depends.

Pressures, in their own words

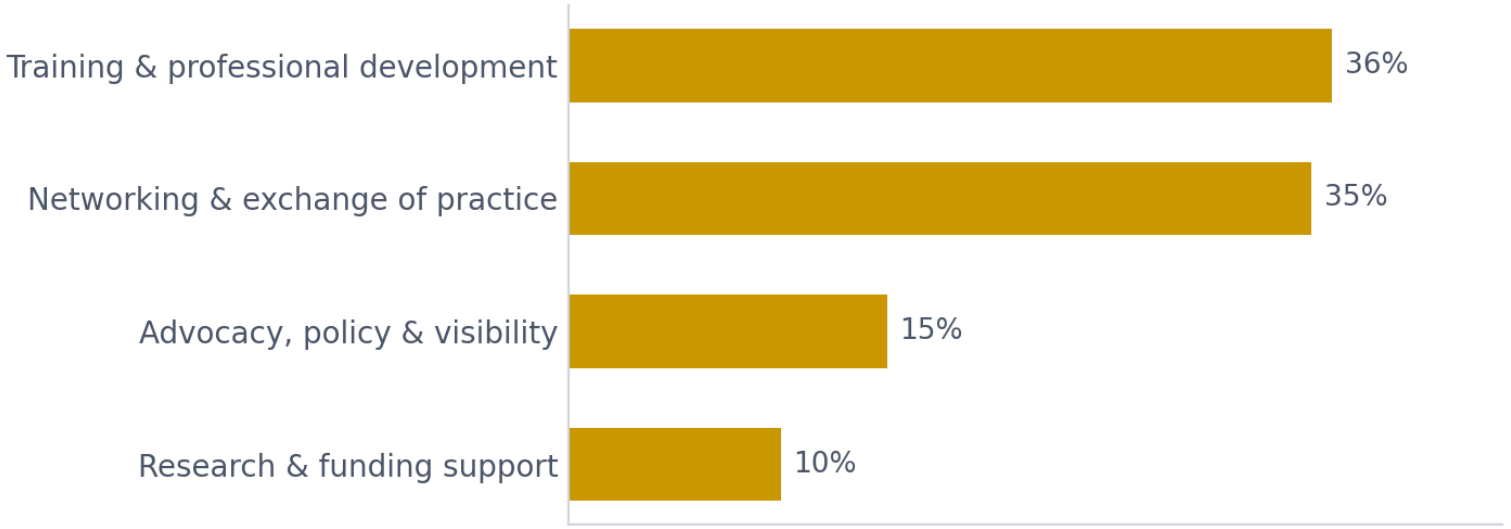
What centres say they are facing



Coded from open responses, so these are conservative floors. The AI concerns are about assessment integrity and missing frameworks, not obsolescence; the demand concerns repeatedly link decline to the perception that "English is enough".

Members told us what they need

What centres ask of CercleS



Training and professional development (36%) and networking and exchange of practice (35%) lead by a wide margin — and both are things a 400-centre network is uniquely able to deliver.

What this adds up to

The pressures are not separate problems — they form a loop.

Confront three narratives

that machines make language teaching obsolete;

that English is enough;

that centres are cost centres, not infrastructure.

Face a general challenge

casualised employment, lack of funding, which converts budget pressure into lost capacity.

One condition

statistical invisibility, which lets the cycle run unchallenged.

Break the loop **Own the evidence.** Use the survey report to contest the narratives publicly with our real scale, and give every centre the data for its own advocacy.

Requests to European institutions

Multilingualism is not a service. It is infrastructure — and infrastructure is judged by what fails when it is gone.

1

Recognition and data

Name the language centres in the European Education Area as instruments and count them in European education statistics. A million-student sector should not be invisible.

2

Funding

Provide structural funding for networks of language centres delivering shared online courses in lesser-taught languages. Multilingualism depends on diversity, but diversity rarely achieves sufficient scale within a single institution. Networks make sustainable provision possible.

3

Common European standards

Develop a shared European framework for AI in university language education, aligned with the Council of Europe's CEFR and co-designed by the language education sector.

What the network can do that no centre can do alone

Pool the rare languages

70% of centres already teach online. A network of 400+ can offer Estonian, Sámi or sign languages to every member's students, turning Europe's diversity commitment into a reality.

Train together

Training is the most requested support (36%), followed by networking (35%). One shared programme on AI, testing design or EMI reaches thousands of teachers at once.

Count ourselves

No European statistic records language centres. Repeated regularly, this survey gives every director hard numbers for the next budget meeting, and the network one authoritative voice.

Speak as one

Members asked, in their own words, for "policies, statements on the importance of language centres". With a million students behind it, that voice is very hard to ignore – CercleS manifesto.

And maybe we should stop calling ourselves "service units" … we are crucial infrastructure.

Networking and communication

Making the community visible

14	400+	28	1,300+
Full Members	institutional members	Associate Members 21 countries, 4 continents	website subscribers

- **Institutional members are now visible on the CercleS website** so that centres can identify one another, connect more easily and show their own institutions that they belong to a recognised European network. This is communication and institutional positioning.
- **The CercleS LinkedIn profile was launched** to share activities, promote initiatives and give members a public space where their work is recognised. Webinars, meetups, the e-bulletin, the website and the YouTube channel continue to carry dissemination across the network.
- **Focus Groups, National Associations and members** have contributed to events on EMI, LSP, assessment, interculturality in testing, CEFR alignment, sustainability, AI and good practice. Leadership and Teachers' Meetups continue as spaces for professional exchange. **Next:** use our channels not only to announce activities, but to show impact, circulate evidence and reinforce the public image of language centres as essential units in higher education. Contribute, it is **OUR network.**

Focus Groups: from activity to strategic expertise

We asked all Focus Groups to prepare white papers setting out their position on key themes and challenges. These documents are not symbolic — they are becoming the intellectual and strategic foundation of CercleS. Use them, download them, share them, back them. **This is US**. (Find them on the website: WHAT WE BELIEVE)

White papers prepared in:

- Language Assessment and Testing · English as a Medium of Instruction · Languages for Specific Purposes · Associate Members · Leadership and Management

What they give us:

- A shared language, evidence-informed positions and collective legitimacy, arguments members can use with their own universities.
- Input that has already fed the Manifesto, the quality checklist, training priorities, European project proposals and institutional position statements.

Focus Groups are no longer only spaces for thematic exchange. They need to become engines of expertise for the future direction of CercleS.

Two new Focus Groups

Responding directly to what the survey and our members told us

Plurilingualism

Formalised as an official CercleS Focus Group after some ten years of collaborative work.

The survey shows real pressure on languages other than English — and this is one of the central claims of our Manifesto.

Second half of the mandate

Next: stronger arguments and policy positions on plurilingual internationalisation, the protection of linguistic diversity and the role of language centres in sustaining Europe's multilingual identity.

ADAPT

Accessibility, Diversity and Pedagogical Transformation — created during this mandate.

How language centres support students with disabilities, learning differences and atypical learning profiles. Inclusion cannot remain an abstract institutional value.

Second half of the mandate

Next: concrete guidance — reasonable adjustments, inclusive assessment practices, accessibility-aware pedagogy and institutional recommendations.

The CercleS Manifesto

A collective voice for language learning

> *"In a world where democracy is threatened, equality is compromised and diversity is not celebrated, language learning must be defended as a human necessity."*

- Languages are part of the democratic infrastructure of our societies.
- Weakening language education limits access to academic, professional and civic life.
- Democracy depends on our ability to understand others and accept differences.
- AI can process language, but it cannot create meaning, context or identity.

Next: the Manifesto becomes one of our main advocacy instruments — with universities, European partners and policy organisations, and locally, giving members arguments to defend language learning and the strategic value of their centres. **We return to it in item 6b.**

European and international positioning

We do not want CercleS to remain around European policy conversations. We want CercleS to be *in* them.

Language centres implement every day the values European institutions declare: multilingualism, mobility, inclusion, employability, intercultural understanding, democratic participation and responsible digital transformation.

Already concrete

- **European Commission teacher consultation, 15 January 2026.** CercleS was represented by Julia Zabala and Libor Štěpánek, contributing the perspective of higher education language centres to discussions on working conditions and the competences needed to support students and peers.
- **ECML Professional Network Forum.** Links strengthened, and the channel we intend to use to share the CercleS Manifesto with partner organisations — EALTA, EAQUALS, OLBI, AILA, EPA, ACTFL and ECSPM.

Next: identify systematically the consultations, policy spaces and partners where CercleS should contribute. We should not wait to be invited once decisions have already been shaped.

International cooperation initiated

New links explored and opened during this period

IALLT · *United States*

International Association for Language Learning Technology — mutual promotion, exchange of expertise and participation in each other's conferences and events.

Libertas International University · *Croatia*

Interest expressed in closer cooperation through European projects and membership within the CercleS network.

FOREU4ALL · *Community of Practice*

Connects CercleS with sixteen European University Alliances, opening collaboration on multilingualism, language education and innovative teaching.

ECML and the Professional Network Forum · *Graz, Austria*

Active participation in workshops, seminars and meetings of the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages.

European projects and institutional capacity

CercleS has obtained an EU Login, an Organisation ID (OID) and a participation code.

This significantly changes our capacity to support members. When a CercleS member language centre applies for a European project within our field of expertise, it can now state that it is supported and backed by CercleS. That gives centres stronger institutional credibility and makes CercleS an active European support structure.

Two Erasmus+ KA2 applications already supported

- **LinguAI**: AI in language teaching, coordinated by the University of Salamanca.
- **Language learning in healthcare contexts**: coordinated by Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, with participation requested by the Polytechnic University of Lisbon.

These projects may or may not be funded, but the institutional step is decisive.

Next: clarify when CercleS can act as partner, when it provides institutional endorsement and when it disseminates results: supporting members while protecting the credibility and strategic coherence of the organisation.

Aligning university certification to the CEFR

The NULTE alignment project, 2025–2026 — four university certification systems, one common reference.

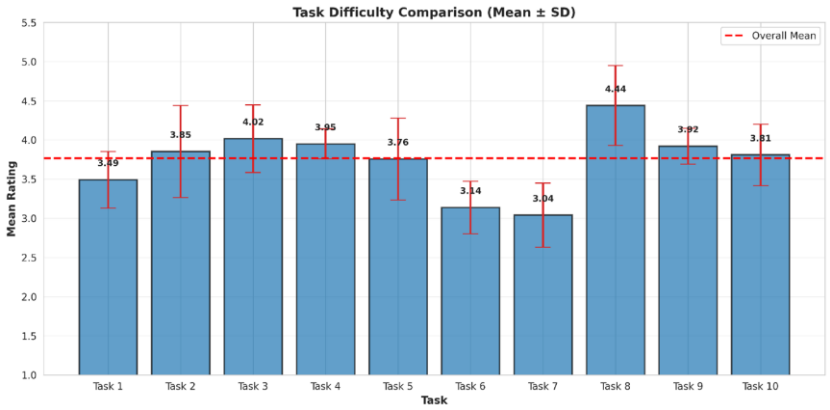
4	11	2	36
certification systems	judges	standard-setting sessions	tasks analysed

- **The four systems:** ACERT (Poland), CertAcles (Spain), CLES (France) and UNIcert (Germany).
- **The judges:** two experts from each system, plus three independent experts in CEFR alignment and standard setting.
- **The sessions:** Valencia, February 2025 — B2 English listening and writing, 10 tasks each; Göttingen, October 2025 — reading and speaking, 8 tasks each, with recorded student performances.
- **The method:** adapted from the Council of Europe manual — familiarisation, specification, standardisation, standard setting, validation. All ratings blind and anonymised.

Working group: Johann Fischer (U. Göttingen), Laurent Rouveyrol (U. Sorbonne Nouvelle), Juana Sanmartín (U. Murcia), Barbara Sawicka (Poznan University of Technology), Julia Zabala (U. Girona).

What the alignment showed

Strong agreement with the CEFR, and with each other.



704 blind ratings across the four systems

61.8%
of all 704 ratings placed tasks at B2 — the level the systems claim — with 28.8% at B1 and 8.1% at C1. No task was rated C2.

ICC > 0.85
inter-judge reliability across 11 judges: a reliable consensus, rated an excellent standard-setting process.

46 of 64
items reached good or perfect agreement; 18 were flagged for review, with 23 items (36%) at high agreement.

3.76
mean task difficulty, in a narrow band from 3.04 to 4.44 — comparable demand across all four systems.

- **Recommendations for item writers** on level targeting, answer keys and task instructions.
- **Next:** finalise validation, extend across CEFR levels, and publish results on the CercleS website.

From alignment to recognition

- **Publication.** The results go on the CercleS website together with comparative information on ACERT, CertAcles, CLES and UNIcert, so that universities can see how the systems relate.
- **Validity evidence.** Strong agreement with the CEFR gives our members something they have not had before: documented evidence to support the certificates they issue.
- **Recognition.** Comparable, evidenced systems make mutual recognition between institutions defensible, and make student and staff mobility easier.
- **Into the Quality Framework.** Assessment is one of the three domains of the quality checklist. The alignment work supplies the standard that domain points to.

This is strategic positioning. CercleS operates at every level of language education: from teaching and learning to assessment, certification and recognition.

The CercleS Mobility Scheme

Inspired by Alexander Grimm's proposal for a "CercleS to Go!" programme

Designed to

- strengthen cooperation among language centres;
- encourage international mobility of staff and learners;
- support the exchange of pedagogical practices and institutional expertise;
- increase the visibility of member institutions.

Supports

- teaching, training, research and learner mobility;
- the development of institutional partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding.

Given its small budget, the scheme does not finance mobility — it facilitates it, through administrative and organisational backing. Sometimes what centres need is not full funding, but help in making cooperation possible.

Next: make the scheme more visible and easier for members to use strategically. It responds directly to members' requests for staff exchanges, peer learning and stronger cooperation across centres.

Rome 2026: the vitality of our community

"The Role of Language Centres in a Fast-Changing World: Responding to Emerging Needs in Society, Communication, and Learning"

~300
abstracts received

274
abstracts accepted

9
Focus Groups meeting

3
formats: papers, workshops, posters

400+ participants

- Nine Focus Groups met in Rome, with financial support from the Executive Committee.
- The conference is not only an academic event; it is a strategic meeting point for the community we have been building: Focus Groups, National Associations, Associate Members, teachers, researchers, managers and international partners.
- **It comes at an important moment.** It allows us to present what has been done — and to consult you on where we should go next.

From building to using

At the midpoint of this term, our next task is to consolidate.

Turn **the survey**
into **advocacy**

Turn **the white papers**
into **policy tools**

Turn **the Manifesto**
into **a public voice**

Turn **training initiatives**
into **a coherent framework**

Turn **the OID**
into **project capacity**

Turn **European contacts**
into **real influence**

Many language centres are facing pressure, but they are not alone.

CercleS now has stronger evidence, stronger structures, stronger tools and a stronger European voice. If centres need arguments, policy support, visibility, contacts, training, project backing or examples of good practice, CercleS is here to support them.

Because together we are stronger.

3a. Approval of the President's report

- All those who **approve** the President's report, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **do not approve** the President's report, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **abstain from voting**, please use the QR code / link to do so.

Approval of the President's report



b. Vice-President's Report

Three strands of work in the first half of the mandate

LLHE · *The journal of CercleS*

A expanded reviewer pool and three issues published — the network's instrument for visibility, research dissemination and academic credibility.

Professional development · *Towards a Training Framework*

A structured, three-level framework, an open call for training proposals, and the Teacher Training Week with Ranacles — answering members' number-one request.

Quality and assessment · *Certification and excellence*

The NULTE certification alignment and the new CercleS Quality and Excellence Framework for Language Centres.

A stronger editorial structure

Language Learning in Higher Education, the flagship journal of CercleS, remains a key instrument for visibility, research dissemination and academic credibility within the network.

- **Editors-in-Chief:** Carmen Argondizzo and Anne Chateau.
- **National Associations were invited to nominate additional reviewers and editorial board members** to address increasing submission numbers and reviewer workload and to widen the national background of the reviewers. The reviewer pool has expanded, strengthening the journal's capacity to maintain a rigorous peer-review process.
- **More reviewers are still very welcome**: please encourage colleagues in your centres and associations to apply to their national associations.

Special thanks are due to Editors-in-Chief Carmen Argondizzo and Anne Chateau, and to all reviewers whose dedication has ensured the continued success of LLHE.

Publications 2024–2026

Issue 15.1

12 research papers
4 activity reports

Many originating from the 2024 CercleS Conference in Durham.

Issue 15.2

7 research articles
4 activity reports

Published October 2025, with authors from across Europe, Asia and the USA.

Issue 16.1

15 research articles

Published June 2026, on collaboration, autonomous thinking, mutual esteem and respect for sustainable development, with contributions from across the globe.

- **Cooperation with De Gruyter.** We intend to maintain regular cooperation to ensure the journal's stability and sustainability.
- **Under negotiation:** reduced subscription fees for member institutions and a more realistic annual publication budget from 2027 onward.
- **Next:** keep LLHE connected to the strategic priorities of CercleS — Focus Group work, survey findings, quality, assessment, AI, plurilingualism and accessibility.

Towards a CercleS Training Framework

Inspired by AKS-FOBIcert®

The survey named professional development as members' single greatest need. Our ambition is broader than individual courses.

01

Central CercleS programmes

In areas of common interest: language teaching, assessment, AI, EMI, LSP, plurilingualism, accessibility, leadership and quality.

02

National Association training, shared

National Associations are invited to share relevant training through the CercleS platform, so that high-quality training developed locally becomes visible to the wider European community.

03

Shared quality criteria

CercleS will work with National Associations and Focus Groups to identify quality criteria for training and for trainers.

Courses are open to staff from member and non-member institutions — members pay a reduced, CercleS-subsidised fee.

Call for Training Proposals — now open

CercleS invites proposals for short workshops, medium-length courses and longer programmes addressing current challenges, emerging trends and professional development needs in higher education language centres.

Financial framework

- CercleS may subsidise up to one third of the training cost, to a maximum of €1,000, provided the minimum number of participants is reached.
- If participant numbers generate sufficient income, no subsidy is required.
- Any surplus up to the amount of the subsidy goes to CercleS; any additional surplus may be considered by the EC as a bonus for trainers.
- Administrative support costs must be included in the budget.

How to submit

- **Stage 1:** complete sections 1–3 of the proposal template and send it to generalsecretariat@cercles.org.
- **Stage 2:** if approved, complete the full template.
- **Decision:** proposals are tabled at the Coordinating Committee (June and December) as part of the annual budget allocation, judged on their capacity to address community needs and on financial feasibility.
- **Two templates:** short (1 day to ~2 weeks) and full (2 weeks and longer).

The CercleS Quality and Excellence Framework

A common set of quality markers for language centres — voluntary, non-burdensome and flexible. In design since April 2026.

Quality

The essential standards a language centre should meet.

A reference for universities establishing a centre or ensuring core, reliable language services — and a benchmark for existing centres to evaluate their provision.

→ **CercleS Certificate of Quality**

Excellence

Outstanding practice beyond the baseline.

Recognises innovation, impact and sector-leading approaches.

→ **CercleS Certificate of Excellence**

- A simple self-check lets a centre see how its practices align with expectations — no additional administration, data reporting or formal collaboration at the initial stages.
- It supports internal reflection, dialogue between staff and management, and signalling quality standards to universities and other stakeholders.
- Certification is open to CercleS members and non-members alike; for non-members it offers a clear benchmark and a structured development pathway.

Four progressive levels

The same framework applies at both the Quality and the Excellence level. Centres enter where it is useful to them and stop where they choose.

I

Self-Check

A basic self-assessment against the key standards. Around 10 minutes for Quality, 30 for Excellence.

II

Improvement Path

Supports continuous improvement based on the self-check, and connects the centre with relevant training and support resources.

III

Certification Path

The same framework in depth, with verifiable documentation required for every criterion — policies, reports, data.

IV

Certification Audit

A formal audit of the application and its alignment with actual practice. If unsuccessful, no penalties — constructive recommendations instead.

Three domains, at every level

Organisation and Management · Teachers · Learners

Existing training and support activities within the CercleS network can be aligned with these quality markers, ensuring coherence and practical relevance.

Validation and fees

Certification validation

The process is overseen by an evaluation committee of:

- two members of the Executive Committee;
- two members of the Certification Committee, one acting as vice-chair;
- one external expert.

Final validation is supported at National Association level: at least two CercleS members must confirm the outcome of the audit. This ensures reliability and peer accountability while reducing the need for on-site visits.

Fees (proposed, 2026/2027)

CercleS members

free of charge, or a nominal fee of up to €100

Non-members · Quality

€2,600 — on-site audit, travel and accommodation up to €600, auditor remuneration €1,000, certification fee €1,000

Non-members · Excellence

€3,600 — on-site audit, travel and accommodation up to €600, auditor remuneration €1,500, certification fee €1,500

Keeping quality within the network — and a clear member benefit.

Where the Framework goes next

The aim is not to impose an inspection model. It is to give language centres a shared language of quality, a tool for institutional dialogue and a stronger basis for recognition.

- **Continue the design work** begun in April 2026, so that institutions may use the framework simply as a reference point, as guidance for targeted support and development, or as a pathway towards formal recognition.
- **Seek endorsement from European bodies** — EU agencies, national language institutions and the European Commission — to strengthen recognition and credibility.
- **Cover the whole cycle,** from the setting of goals to the assessment of achievement, connecting the framework with our training offer and with the NULTE alignment work.
- **Increase visibility and influence** for both CercleS and its member institutions, at European and international level.

3b. Approval of the Vice-President's report

- All those who **approve** the Vice-President's report, please use the QR code / link to do so.
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Approval of the Vice-President's report



3. Selected items from the EC

General Secretariat:

Membership management

Membership development

Overview

- Steady growth across all membership categories from 2024–2026
- Strengthened European core + expanding global reach
- Increased visibility and engagement from institutions worldwide

Full Members

- Growth: 13 → 14 (+1 / +7.7%)
- New Full Member: **CLUB**
- Full Members remain the strategic backbone of CercleS
- Represent national associations and major language-centre networks

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Membership development

Institutional Members

- Growth: 387 → 402 (+15 / +3.9%)
- Reflects sustained commitment to collaboration
- Increased participation in webinars, Focus Groups, and training
- Website restructuring in 2025–2026 improved visibility of institutions

Associate Members

- Growth: 24 → 28 (+4 / +16.7%)
- Represent **21 countries across 4 continents**
- Strongest growth category, showing rising international interest
- Fee waivers maintained for 3 Ukrainian institutions due to ongoing crisis

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Webinars, Workshops & Talks

Programme Characteristics

- Diverse topics: language policy, CEFR, AI, sustainability, assessment
- Mix of expert talks, Focus Group sessions, and thematic webinars
- Several events reached **150 participants**, showing high engagement

2024 Highlights

- Policy Paper Applied
- AI tools for language testing

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Webinars, Workshops & Talks

2025 Highlights

- LSP, CLIL/EMI, sustainability
- Associate Members' exchanges of good practices
- High-impact sessions by Prof. James Purpura (learning-oriented assessment)
- LLHE webinar with Carmen Argondizzo
- CEFR alignment workshops

2026 Highlights

- Intercultural issues in language testing (GenAI vs human assessors)
- Launch of **ADAPT Focus Group** (aims, scope, future activities)

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Focus Groups

Role & Importance

- 11 active Focus Groups covering key areas of language-centre work
- Provide structured collaboration, expertise exchange, and innovation
- Produce webinars, workshops, white papers, and conference contributions

Coordination

- Secretariat maintains regular contact with FG coordinators
- Support includes subsidies, e-bulletin contributions, and conference planning
- Ensures visibility and accessibility of FG activities

Outputs

- White papers on assessment, plurilingualism, sustainability, AI
- Sessions prepared for the 2026 Rome Conference
- Growing participation from Associate Members

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Leadership & Teachers' Meetups

Purpose

- Informal, small-group spaces for peer support
- Focus on shared challenges, practical solutions, and professional exchange

Leadership Meetups

- Participants: directors, managers, coordinators
- Topics: strategy, administration, evolving role of language centres
- Held regularly throughout 2025–2026

Teachers' Meetups

- Participants: language teachers across institutions
- Topics: classroom practice, teaching challenges, new methodologies
- Consistently valued for openness and collegiality

I

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Teacher Training Weeks

General purpose

- Annual collaboration with Ranacles
- Hands-on professional development
- Focus on innovation, interdisciplinary work, and shared practice

2025 – Marseille (AI in Language Teaching)

- 26 participants + 26 contributors
- Explored AI tools, ethics, opportunities, and challenges
- Highly interactive workshops and demonstrations

2026 – Namur (LSP Integration & Collaboration)

- 15 participants + 10 contributors
- Focus on cooperation between language instructors and disciplinary experts
- Emphasis on programme integration and research-informed pedagogy

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Communication with Members

Channels

- Website (cercles.org)
- Members' area with EC/CC/GM minutes and FG reports
- Biannual e-bulletins
- Monthly newsletter
- Direct mailbox communication
- LinkedIn presence
- General Meetings for strategic dialogue

Purpose

- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Regular updates
- Strengthening community engagement

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Website Updates (2025–2026)

2025 Improvements

- New institutional members section
- Expanded “What We Do”
- New Professional Development pages:
  - Boost Your Language Teaching Skills
  - Aspire to Inspire
  - Leadership Training Programme

2026 Improvements

- Updated institutional member list
- Clarified AULC membership structure (UK & Ireland separated)
- Improved navigation and clarity for visitors and members

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

E-Bulletins (Issues 13–16)

Issue 13 – Dec 2024

- New Associate Members (Latvia, Morocco, USA)
- Durham Conference review
- Introduction of new Executive team

Issue 14 – Jun 2025

- Rome 2026 Conference venue announcement
- Marseille Teacher Training Week review
- New Associate Members (Bulgaria, Albania)
- New Focus Groups (Plurilingualism, FlexiLingua)

Issue 15 – Dec 2025

- Conference preparations
- Namur Teacher Training Week announcement
- New Full Member CLUB
- Collaboration with ECML

Issue 16 – Jun 2026

- Review of Namur Teacher Training Week
- Reflections on professional exchange and outcomes

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Professional Development Programmes

Boost Your Language Teaching Skills

- Delivered in 2025 (16 participants)
- Certificate of participation awarded
- Not run in Jan 2026 due to low enrolment
- Call for participants open for Oct 2026–June 2027
- Programme viability depends on participant numbers

Leadership Training Programme

- Not offered in 2025–2026
- Future editions planned based on member interest
- Remains a strategic priority for leadership development

3. Selected items from the EC

3c. General Secretariat:

Membership management

Conclusion

Key Achievements

- Membership growth across all categories
- Strong professional development activity
- Increased internationalisation
- Transparent communication
- Strengthened collaboration across borders

Outlook

- Continued support for language centres
- Ongoing commitment to innovation and cooperation
- Focus on emerging challenges in higher education language learning

3c. Approval of the Secretary General's report

- All those who **approve** the Secretary General's report, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **do not approve** the Secretary General's report, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **abstain from voting**, please use the QR code / link to do so.

Approval of the Secretary General's report



d. Treasurer’s Report

Full report on next slide

CercleS Budget 2024 Final Statement

Balance January 2024:	**129,512.84**				
Income			**Expenditure**		
	Budget	Year to **December**		**Budget**	Year to **December**
Membership fees	**39,800.00**	41,729.99	**Personnel costs**	**6,000.00**	**5,959.50**
Institutional members (375	37,500.00	39,329.99	Assistant to General Secretariat	6,000.00	5,900.00
Associate members (23)	2,300.00	2,400.00			
Journal LLHE	**3,000.00**	**2,782.30**	**Journal LLHE**	**13,530.00**	**12,120.00**
Editorial and admin work	1,500.00	1,282.30			
Royalty statement	1,500.00	1,500.00	Subscription 2024 (30€/member)	12,030.00	12,120.00
			Editorial work + copy editing	1,500	
			Bank fees and payment charges	**250.00**	393.12
				250.00	393.12
			Web fees and maintenance	**850.00**	1,368.88
			Hosting and domain		
			E 55 per month	660.00	955.00
			Plugin license		234.00
			Zoom license		179.88
			Total fixed costs	**20,630.00**	**19,841.50**
			VARIABLE COSTS		
			Contributions to conferences and projects	**40,500.00**	**28,606.68**
			Contribution to conferences	**20,000.00**	**20,192.68**
			Sponsoring of Cercles Conferenc fee	10,000.00	11,467.49
			Sponsoring of Cercles travel fees (100xp)	10,000.00	5,832.99
			Gifts to organisers, next EC, LLHE editor		792.20
			CercleS projects	**9,500.00**	**3,414.00**
			Prize for CercleS projects (500 per project)	2,500.00	2,100.00
			Contribution to ECML project work (2000 per p)	4,000.00	340.59
			Contribution to Focus Group meetings (1000/meeting)	3,000.00	973.41
			Contribution to nat assoc contrib to professionalisation (3000 per p)	**6,000.00**	
			Contribution to Teacher Training Week	**5,000.00**	**5,000.00**
			Scholarships	**1,500.00**	1,649.48
			Travel expenses (travel, accommodation, meals)	**4,000.00**	12,453.32
			Durham		8,034.38
			Other		4,750.53
			Extraordinary/Unexpected expenses	**1,000.00**	**12,420.00**
			LLHE Subscription 2025 already paid		12,420.00
			Various		
			Total variable costs	**45,500.00**	**55,129.48**
Total income	**42,800.00**	**44,512.29**			
Total income + surplus		**174,025.13**	**Total expenses**	**66,130.00**	**74,970.98**
Balance			Bank balance 31/12/2024		**99,054.15**

CercleS Budget Execution 2025 - 31/12/2025

Balance December 2024:	**99,054.15**						
Income			**Expenditure**				
	Budget	Execution				**Budget**	**Execution**
			FIXED COSTS		Details		
Membership fees	**42,000.00**	41,159.90	**Personnel costs**			**6,000.00**	**6,030.00**
Full members	39,600.00	38,959.90		Assistant to General Secretariat	6,000.00		6,030.00
Associate members	2,400.00	2,200.00	**Journal LLHE**	(Subscription paid in 2024)		**14,000.00**	**0.00**
Journal LLHE	**3,000.00**	**2,805.40**		Subscription 2025 (30€/member)	12,500.00		
Editorial and admin work	1,500.00	1,305.40		Editorial work + copy editing	1,500		
Royalty statement	1,500.00	1,500.00	**Bank fees and payment charges**			**300.00**	196.22
BOOST		4,900.00					
			Web fees and maintenance			**1,400.00**	2,321.48
				Hosting, plugins and domain	1,200.00		2,085.80
				Zoom license	200.00		235.68
			Total fixed costs			21,700.00	**8,547.70**
			VARIABLE COSTS				
			Contributions to conferences and projects			**29,600.00**	**25,182.38**
			Contribution to conferences				
			CercleS projects			**23,600.00**	
			LinkedIn		2,600.00		
			CercleS Talks		5,000.00		
			Contribution to ECML project work		2,000.00		259.77
			Contribution to Focus Group meetings		**3,000.00**		
				FG Autonomy Paris June 2025	1,000.00		1,000.00
			Contribution to Teacher Training Week		5,000.00		5,000.00
			Professionalisation - BOOST		6,000.00		16,843.88
			Contribution to CercleS-wide projects			**6,000.00**	
				CEFR Alignment Valencia & Gottingen	2,850.00		2,078.73
			Scholarships			**1,500.00**	376.00
			Travel expenses (travel, accommodation, meals)			**5,000.00**	6,244.99
			Extraordinary/Unexpected expenses			**1,000.00**	
			Total variable costs			37,100.00	**31,803.37**
Total income	**45,000.00**	**48,865.30**	Total expenses			58,800.00	40,351.07
Total income + surplus	**144,054.15**	**147,919.45**	**Final Balance as of 31/12/2025**			**85,254.15**	**107,568.38**

CercleS Budget 2026 - adopted 12/12/2025 - balance as of 7th September 2026

Balance End 2025:	**107,568.38**					
Income			**Expenditure**			
	Budget	Realised 07/09/2026	FIXED COSTS	Details	**Budget**	Realised 07/09/2026
Membership fees	41,200.00		**Personnel costs**		6,000.00	**4809.50**
Full members	39,000.00	**37000**	Assistant to General Secretariat	6,000.00		
Associate members	2,200.00	**2300**	**Journal LLHE**		14,000.00	
Journal LLHE	3,000.00		Subscription 2026 (30€/member)	12,500.00		
Editorial and admin work	1,500.00	1500	Editorial work + copy editing	1,500		
Royalty statement	1,500.00		**Bank fees and payment charges**		300.00	**114.16**
BOOST	4,000.00					
			Web fees and maintenance		2,250.00	**1498.88**
			Hosting, plugins and domain	2,000.00		1307.00
			Zoom license	250.00		191.88
			Total fixed costs		22,550.00	6422.54
			VARIABLE COSTS			
			Total Contributions to conferences and projects		34,500.00	18331.93
			Contributions to conference		**16,500.00**	**11275.80**
			Fee subsidy	7,500.00		7015.00
			Travel subsidies	6,000.00		4260.80
			Gifts and prizes	3,000.00		0.00
			CercleS projects		**17,000.00**	**7056.13**
			LinkedIn	2,000.00		0.00
			CercleS Talks	2,000.00		0.00
			Contribution to ECML project work	1,000.00		814.74
			Contribution to Focus Group meetings	2,000.00		1904.78
			CercleS to Go!	2,000.00		0.00
			Professionalisation			
			Contribution to Teacher Training Week	5,000.00		4336.61
			BOOST	2,000.00		0.00
			Leadership	1,000.00		0.00
			Contribution to CercleS-wide projects		**1,000.00**	0.00
			Scholarships		1,500.00	0.00
			Travel expenses (travel, accommodation, meals)		10,000.00	**10290.87**
			Extraordinary/Unexpected expenses		2,000.00	0.00
			Total variable costs		48,000.00	28622.80
Total income	48,200.00	40800	Total expenses		70,550.00	35045.34
Total income + surplus	**155,768.38**	**148,368.38**	**Balance 7th September 2026**		**85,218.38**	113323.04

3d. Treasurer's report

Teacher Training Week with Ranacles

A flagship activity: it shows what CercleS does particularly well — combining practical training, international cooperation and European professional identity.

2025 · Marseille

Ranacles–CercleS Teacher Training Week

Focused on language teaching and artificial intelligence, with participants from ten countries and a very positive response.

2026 · UNamur, Belgium *Hosted by CLUB*

Ranacles–CercleS Teacher Training Week

Communications and workshops on LSP–content partnerships, interdisciplinary engagement, glocal teaching, project-based collaboration, sustainability, GenAI, and language, culture and emotion in LSP courses.

Next: Teacher Training Week remains a flagship of the second half of the mandate, aligned with the wider Training Framework.

TEACHER TRAINING WEEK
4th edition

THESSALONIKI
Aristotle University

24th to 27th May 2027

"Innovative Approaches to AI and Foreign Languages in Higher Education: Training, Teaching, and Assessment "

CercleS

6b. The 2027 Summer CercleS Teacher Training Week

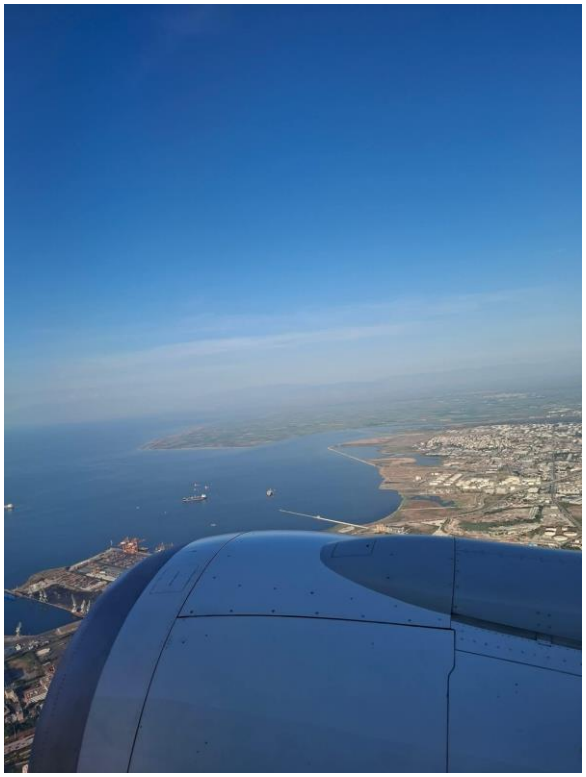
Potential workshop directions

Illustrative topics for practical, discussion-based sessions

01	**Can we trust AI?**	Critical evaluation of AI-generated language, references and sources
02	**Assessment in the GenAI era**	Rethinking foreign-language assessment in higher education
03	**Decoding specialised language**	Helping learners understand disciplinary and professional language
04	**Languages for Specific Purposes**	Designing ways to teach foreign languages for specific purposes
05	**Greek roots in scientific terminology**	Exploring terminology, etymology and cross-linguistic awareness

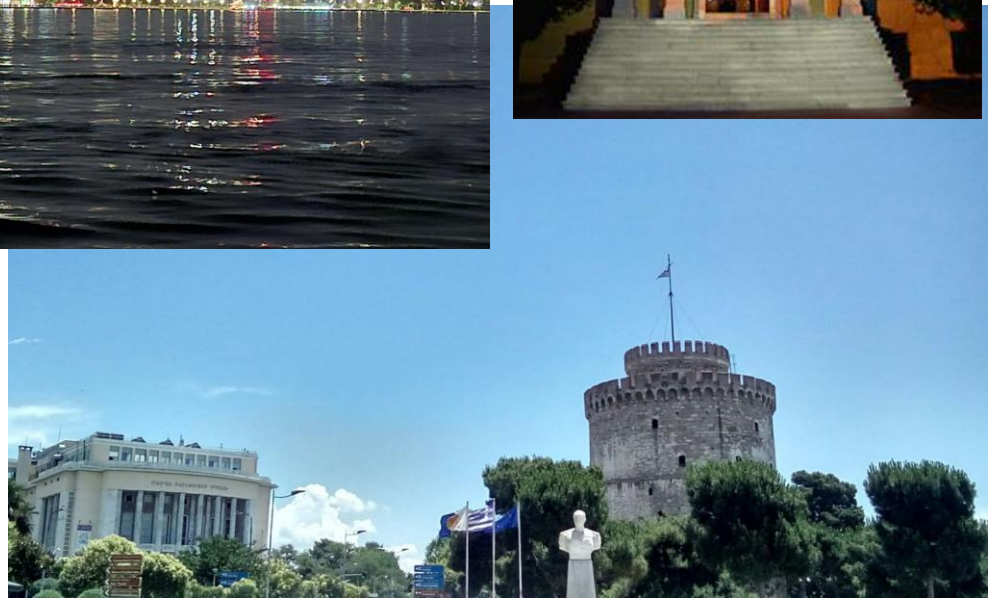
CercleS

6b. The 2027 Summer CercleS Teacher Training Week









Auditors' report and approval of accounts

Treasurer and auditors

3d. Approval of the Treasurer's report and accounts

- All those who **approve** the Treasurer's report and the accounts, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **do not approve** the Treasurer's report and the accounts, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **abstain from voting**, please use the QR code / link to do so.

Approval of the Treasurer’s report and accounts



4. Proposed amendments to the Statutes

a. Rationale — modernising Article 5 (General Meeting)

The proposed revision brings Article 5 into line with how CercleS actually works as an international association whose members are distributed across many countries, while keeping every existing safeguard.

Format

General Meetings may be held in person, electronically or in hybrid format. An attendance register lists all members participating, physically or by electronic means.

Voting rights

Members participating electronically qualify as present for the purposes of voting and quorum. Proxy voting remains excluded.

Voting methods

Show of hands, roll call, secret ballot — or a secure electronic voting procedure, which must ensure identification of participants, continuous participation, integrity of voting and confidentiality of secret ballots.

Agenda and notice

No resolution may be adopted on matters not on the agenda, unless all voting members participating agree unanimously. The convening notice must state the format, the platform and the procedures for electronic participation and voting.

Introducing per rollam decisions

The Executive Committee proposes a provision allowing the General Meeting to adopt resolutions per rollam, outside a formal meeting, by electronic written procedure.

Why

- As an international association whose members are distributed across many countries and institutions, CercleS occasionally needs timely decisions between General Meetings.
- It gives the Association a practical and transparent mechanism where convening a General Meeting would be impractical, disproportionate to the matter, or cause unnecessary delay.

Safeguards

- All members receive the full wording of the proposed resolution, with supporting documentation or information on where it may be consulted.
- A minimum voting period of fourteen calendar days guarantees time to consider the proposal.
- Participation is required from the membership categories represented within CercleS, and the Executive Committee must communicate the outcome and, where applicable, the full text of the adopted resolution.

The amendment does not replace the General Meeting as the Association's principal decision-making body — it complements it.

The proposed text — new Article 5.8

5.8 Per rollam decisions

"The General Meeting may also adopt its decisions per rollam (i.e. outside a formal meeting) in written form, electronically. The resolution to be voted on must include at least the proposed wording of the resolution, supporting documents necessary for its assessment or information on where such documents are published, as well as the deadline by which members of CercleS shall express their opinion. This deadline must not be shorter than 14 calendar days.

For written voting to be valid, the member's statement must be sent by email and must contain the full wording of the proposed resolution and a clear expression of in favour, against or abstention. In a per rollam vote, a resolution is adopted if a simple majority of the members participating in the vote is in favour.

The Executive Committee shall inform members of the Association of the voting results and, if the resolution has been adopted, shall also communicate the full text of the adopted resolution."

4. Proposed amendments to the Statutes

b. Voting

- The Executive Committee recommends that the General Meeting approve the proposed amendments to Article 5, including the new Article 5.8 on per rollam decisions.

- All those who **approve** the proposed amendments to the Statutes, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **do not approve** the proposed amendments to the Statutes, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **abstain from voting**, please use the QR code / link to do so.

Proposed amendments to the Statutes



5. Exclusion of associate member

The CercleS Statutes (2020):

Art. 4.2.1 Exclusion

The exclusion of a full member, institutional, associate, honorary or benefactor member can only be pronounced by the Ordinary or Extraordinary General Meeting. An exclusion must be motivated by a sufficiently serious reason preventing the retention of the full member, institutional, associate, honorary or benefactor member within the Association. This is particularly the case when a full member or associate member fails to pay its annual subscription for two consecutive years. A full, institutional, associate, honorary or benefactor member whose exclusion is being considered must be heard by the Ordinary or Extraordinary General Meeting and be given the opportunity to state its position as to the reasons for its proposed exclusion.

5. Exclusion of associate member

Associate Member: AMUM6P (our internal code)

Did not pay: 2025, 2026

2025 we sent emails on 10/4, 3/6, 1/7, 3/11 – no response or payment

2026 we sent emails on 17/4, 15/6, 07/09 with warning of exclusion – no response or payment

5. Exclusion of associate member

The associate member concerned has not paid its membership fees for two or more consecutive years. Under the Statutes, the exclusion of a member must be approved by the General Meeting.

- All those who **approve** the exclusion of the associate member concerned, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **do not approve** the exclusion of the associate member concerned, please use the QR code / link to do so.
- All those who **abstain from voting**, please use the QR code / link to do so.

Exclusion of associate member



6. AOB — a. Appointment of auditors

Appointment of auditors for the approval of accounts 2026–2028

- Two auditors are appointed by the General Meeting to examine the accounts of the Association for the coming period.

- Names of the proposed auditors: _____ and _____

What to fight for — and how

"In a world where democracy is threatened, equality is compromised and diversity is not celebrated, language learning must be defended as a human necessity. Because languages influence how we shape the world around us and how we relate to others."

We declare that

- Languages are part of the democratic infrastructure of our societies, and knowing a language promotes active citizenship and social inclusion.
- Weakening language education limits access to academic, professional and civic life; democracy depends on our ability to understand others and accept differences.
- Multilingualism is at the core of Europe. Knowing several languages allows us to see the world from more than one perspective, and learning languages combats cultural and linguistic reduction.
- Language education must include the capacity to act across cultural and social differences, and contributes directly to open-mindedness and flexibility of thought.
- AI can process language but not create meaning, context or identity — and languages are indispensable for AI literacy, questioning bias, tone, register and ethical use.

We call for

Universal access to language education, as a condition for social inclusion

Recognition of all languages and protection of minority languages and cultures, to respect diversity

Interculturality to be encouraged, to strengthen understanding

Language education as strategic in personal and professional development, at all levels of education

AI literacy that empowers the individual to think critically, and AI in education as capacity augmentation

Human agency within a technological world

Reform of teaching, learning and assessment to counter the impoverishment of human communication

Over to you

Languages are what define our memory, identity, relationships and thought. The future must be multilingual, intercultural and human.

What do we fight for?

Which of these claims matter most in your own institutional context, and which arguments move your leadership?

How do we fight?

Where should CercleS put its weight next: European consultations, the Quality Framework, training, project support, or the evidence base?

What do you need from us?

What would make the survey data, the white papers and the Manifesto genuinely usable in your centre tomorrow?

Together we are stronger.

Over to you

Thank you
for your participation!

Your Executive Committee