

## EUROPA. DEINE SPRACHEN.

### SLOWENIEN UND DIE MEHRSPRACHIGKEIT

*The conference series "Europe. Your Languages." of the project "Europanetzwerk Deutsch" is taking place in the context of the German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies of the Council of Europe*

#### Call for papers

The Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and its Department of German, Dutch and Swedish, in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Ljubljana are planning a joint conference on multilingualism in the context of the Slovenian presidency of the Council of Europe. This conference is the last one in the conference series entitled "Europe. Your Languages" of the project Europanetzwerk Deutsch, taking place in the context of the German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies of the Council of Europe. The first conference was held last year in Berlin, the next conference is scheduled to take place in June of 2021 in Lisbon, and the Slovenian conference will be held on **21 October 2021**.

The conference is planned in two parts: the central theme of multilingualism will be discussed by different experts and researchers in the first part of the event. In the second part, which will take place in the evening, the focus will be on highlighting the historical significance of multi-/plurilingualism on the territory of present-day Slovenia.

#### CONFERENCE STARTING POINTS

The expert conference will take place on 21 October 2021, will look at various aspects of the development of multilingualism and plurilingualism in Slovenian educational institutions and will highlight a variety of challenges that the stakeholders, involved in different spheres of the Slovenian educational system, are faced with.

Multilingualism is our everyday reality. In addition to Slovene and, in bilingual areas of Slovenia, Italian and Hungarian, our students can learn several different foreign languages at school, while getting acquainted with and sometimes also using some

other languages as well. More and more of our students are growing up in their home environments, surrounded by languages that are not the same as their language(s) of schooling, i.e., languages other than Slovenian, Italian and Hungarian. These are students, coming from bi- or multilingual families, children of first-generation or second-generation immigrants, and children, living in border areas, who are in daily contact with the neighbouring languages. Despite the ever-increasing presence of different languages in our daily lives, it can be noticed that there are increasingly fewer students learning a second foreign language in primary school, just as the second foreign language has disappeared from the curricula of vocational and technical schools.

The presence of a variety of languages in the home and school environment holds important potential, however, is still too often perceived as an obstacle to a successful integration into school and teaching, which is for the most part conducted in Slovene, i.e., the language of instruction.

The conference “Slovenia and its multilingualism” will highlight different perspectives on the following topics:

- Promoting multilingualism among students by offering them the opportunity to learn different languages and to use different languages in different subjects at various levels of education throughout their schooling,
- Promoting plurilingualism among students – using different languages in different subjects for the achievement of optimal educational outcomes,
- Exploiting the potential that individuals with different first languages bring into the educational system,
- Educating and engaging students for the acceptance of multilingualism, plurilingualism and pluriculturalism in their home social environment,
- Integrating the students' knowledge of different languages in order to enrich the linguistic repertoire of each individual,
- Developing communicative competences in the language of instruction while taking into account the different first languages of individuals,
- Pluralistic approaches in education for different age groups,
- “Translanguaging” and intercomprehension,
- Impact of multilingualism on neurological development,
- Role of knowledge of classical languages in language learning,
- Status and challenges of teaching lesser-taught languages in Slovenia,
- Multilingual language policy,
- And other topics that address the development of multilingualism in society and the plurilingualism of an individual.

It is our wish that the conference take place in as many different languages as possible, as this would be another way for us to show the possibility of coexistence of different languages as well as to point out the actual picture of multilingualism in Slovenia. Interpretation in English will be provided.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

1. Making people understand that languages contribute to the identity of the individual and the nation as a whole.
2. Spreading awareness about multilingualism and plurilingualism and their benefits in Slovenia.
3. The introduction of a second foreign language in the school system.

## **TARGET GROUPS**

- Interested members of the public
- Foreign languages teachers, lecturers, university teachers and professors, etc.
- Experts in multilingualism research
- School directors and headteachers
- Representatives of educational institutions
- Decision-makers from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and other ministries
- Representatives of EU institutions in Slovenia
- Partners of the project Europeanetzwerk Deutsch

## **PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Portugal.

## **WORKING LANGUAGES**

All languages of the participants and speakers.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE**

We invite all interested parties to participate in the conference with presentations of their papers, discussing topics related to the development of multilingualism and plurilingualism at all levels of education.

## **SUBMISSION OF PAPERS**

Your paper can be submitted via an online form. The author of the paper should submit an abstract of the paper in Slovene and in one other language. The length of the abstract in each language should be 320-350 words (including 3-5 references). The submitted papers will undergo a blind peer-review. The selected papers will be presented in sections. The author of the paper will have 15 minutes to present his/her paper and 5 minutes for discussion. Only one paper is allowed per author. The final date for submitting the abstract of the paper in both languages is 20 June

2021. You will be informed about the selection of your paper after 20 July 2021.

The online form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJMCUPlorFMsYBh8aeKAY4IXGLwwlPF5MzbgBi\\_d9LpUOqg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJMCUPlorFMsYBh8aeKAY4IXGLwwlPF5MzbgBi_d9LpUOqg/viewform)



## IMPORTANT DATES

Submit your paper by **20 June 2021**.

You will receive information about the selection of your paper after **20 July 2021**.

You will present your paper at the conference on **21 October 2021**.

## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Assistant Professor, Dr. Andreja Retelj, Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana (Leader)

Professor, Dr. Janez Skela, Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana

Associate Professor, Dr. Meta Lah, Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana

Associate Professor, Dr. Marjana Šifrar Kalan, Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana

Assistant Professor, Dr. Darja Mertelj, Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana

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Professor, Dr. Karmen Pižorn, Faculty of Education, Ljubljana

Assistant Professor, Dr. Brigita Kacjan, Faculty of Arts, Maribor

Mag. Katja Bradač, Goethe-Institut Ljubljana