



*European Civil Society embraces Multilingualism*

## ***Symposium***

### **National Languages and Terminology in Higher Education, Science & Technology**

#### ***Symposium organisation***

Symposium organized in Athens, Greece, on 7 November 2013 by the Hellenic Society for Terminology ELETTO, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the University of Cyprus and the European Association for Terminology EAFT.

The Symposium is organised in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference “Hellenic Language and Terminology” from 7-9 November.

All information about the Symposium can be found in this document in chapters under the following headings:

*Introduction*

*National languages in HE, the silent revolution*

*Exploring European HE, raising European awareness*

*Venue*

*Languages*

*International Programme Committee*

*Greek Organising Committee*

*Programme*

*Registration*

#### ***National languages in Higher Education, the silent revolution***

In 2008 the EAFT member for the Netherlands and Flanders, NL-Term, organised a conference in Brussels to investigate the advance of English-taught higher education in Dutch-speaking Europe<sup>1</sup>. There was an urgent need to address this theme: in 2008, an estimated 80% of the master courses in universities in the Netherlands were English-taught. Three decades before, this percentage was zero. All lessons, with a few individual exceptions, were in Dutch. In Flanders the number of English-taught lessons was much smaller, but on the rise.

***Questions.*** What had happened? Who decided this? Had there been an appropriate democratic consultation? Were the teaching staff prepared for this major, yes, dramatic change of academic

culture? What about the quality of knowledge transfer? If the population found out that their children were not allowed any more to study in their own mother tongue, how they would react; after all, universities and other schools are largely paid by the citizen, the tax-payer. And what if the next waves of graduates, largely trained in English, enters the Dutch labour market, to become school teacher, lawyer, medical doctor, civil servant, engineer, journalist, marketer, manager, and so on, all functions for which an academic title is supposed to be required? Did anybody think about the social and cultural consequences? And did the university governors think about the effects on the long term, did they want to fundamentally change the culture and the identity of the country? What would be the consequences for the European cooperation, which is fundamentally based upon the cultural and linguistic diversity of its' constituent peoples and countries?

*Some answers.* This phenomenon and its implications for the future of the language, for the civil society and its cultural, social and democratic future in Europe and the world had been studied in anticipation of this important cultural revolution. A democratic consultation of the citizens had not taken place, the citizens were, and still are not informed about the transition. The politicians were not properly informed either, let even consulted; it wasn't necessary because the universities were allowed to autonomously decide about such matters supposed to be 'internal' matters.

One early study about the impact on knowledge transfer under such a radically changed language regime predicted an important loss of quality and effectiveness, but there was no interest for 'negative' signals.

### ***Exploring European Higher Education, raising European awareness***

After the Brussels conference in 2008, the EAFT and other European and national stakeholders decided to 'move' the concept to other countries in Europe.

***Ljubljana 2010*** (Slovenia) was the second in line with the conference *National Languages in Higher Education*, jointly organised with the Slovenian Academy of Sciences<sup>ii</sup>. After the conference, a Slovenian Declaration about the Slovene language in Higher Education was drafted.

***Tallinn 2011*** (Estonia)<sup>iii</sup> was conceived in Estonia, The title of the international conference, organised by Tallinn University and supported by the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research: *Konverents Rahvuskeeled teaduses ja kõrghariduses/International conference on National Languages in Academic Research and Higher Education (NatAcLang)*

***Athens 2013*** (Greece) will add another national conference with international participation to the list. The event will be dedicated to exploring the situation, raising awareness and mobilising the civil society in the Greek setting, drawing conclusions for Greece and the rest of Europe.

### ***Venue***

University of Athens, Kostis Palamas Building, Athens, Greece.

### ***Languages***

English and Greek (simultaneous translation).

### ***Programme Advisory Committee***

Jan Roukens, co-chairman (BE)  
Panagiotis G. Krimpas, co-chairman (EL)  
Jordi Bover i Salvadó (ES Catalunya)  
Anna-Lena Bucher (SE)  
Gerhard Stickel (DE)  
Kostas Valeontis (EL)  
Marjeta Humar (SI)  
Bénédictte Madinier (FR)  
Peep Nemvalts (EE)  
Delyth Prys (UK Wales)  
Marita Kristiansen (NO)  
Jolanta Zabarskaitė (LT)  
Ágota Fóris (HU)

### ***Greek Organising Committee***

Panagiotis G. Krimpas  
Anna Anastasiadis-Symeonidis  
Marilena Karyolemou  
Marianna Katsoyannou  
Panagiotis Kontos  
Anna Lambrou-Gonou  
Amalia Moser  
Katerina Toraki  
Georgios Tsiamas  
Kostas Valeontis

### ***Programme***

08:30 Registration of participants  
09:30 **Theodosios Pelegrinis**, rector of Athens university,  
**Kostas Valeontis**, president of ELETO,  
*Opening of the international symposium, preceding the 9<sup>th</sup> Hellenic Language &  
Terminology conference*  
09:45 **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism  
and Youth  
*Video message to the participants of the symposium*  
09:50 **Jan Hoel**, president of the EAFT  
*Languages and Terminology in a multilingual world*  
10:00 **Anna Anastasiadou-Symeonidou**  
*Greek as a scientific language since 3000 years*  
10:30 **Joseph Mariani**  
*ICT enabling Language Diversity*  
10:45 Coffee break

- 11:15 **Panagiotis Krimpas** (Greece, chairman)  
**Jan Roukens** (Europe, the Netherlands), **Marjeta Humar** (Slovenia),  
**Jordi Bover i Salvadó** (Spain, Catalonia), **Peep Nemvalts** (Estonia),  
**Delyth Prys** (United Kingdom, Wales), **Anna-Lena Bucher** (Sweden),  
**Marita Kristiansen** (Norway), **Marilena Karyolemou** (Cyprus)  
*State-of-affairs: the use of the national languages in European universities, short interventions*
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:30 **Pascalina Grigoriadou**  
*Multilingualism policy and actions of the European Commission*
- 14:50 **Amalia Moser**  
*A cultural code of conduct for European academics*
- 15:10 Coffee break
- 15:40 **Jan Roukens & Panagiotis Krimpas**, co-Chairmen  
Panel members as in the State of Affairs panel  
*Final Round Table, discussing the main issues raised during the day, with the aim to come to conclusions and recommendations with respect to the Greece, Cyprus and Europe. To explore whether a Declaration in support of Academic Language Diversity in Europe is feasible.*
- 17:40 Closing the ELETO/EAFT symposium
- 19:00 Opening Session of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference “Hellenic Language and Terminology”

### ***Registration***

Registration is free of charge; however, all registrations should be submitted by completing the registration form and sending it to ELETO:

**Webpage:** [http://www.eleto.gr/en/ELETO-EAFT\\_Conference\\_2013-11-07.html](http://www.eleto.gr/en/ELETO-EAFT_Conference_2013-11-07.html)

The Symposium is supported by:

the Hellenic Society for Terminology **ELETO**

the European Association for Terminology **EAFT-AET**

the Délégation générale à la langue française et aux langues de France **DGLFLF**

the stichting Nederlands **SN**

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<sup>i</sup> Nederlands in hoger onderwijs & wetenschap?, proceedings (in Dutch). Editors: Albert Oosterhof e.a. Publisher: Academia Press, Gent, 2008. ISBN 978 90 382 1539 6

<sup>ii</sup> National Languages in Higher Education/Nacionalni jeziki v visokem šolstvu, proceedings (in Slovene/English). Editors: Marjeta Humar a.o. Publisher: ZRC Publishing, Scientific Research Centre SASA, Ljubljana, 2010.

<sup>iii</sup> Programme and proceedings Estonian conference 2011 :  
<http://www.tlu.ee/files/arts/10106/NatAcb15e4a384567c8341326324c185de828.pdf>