

Call for Papers

Multilingualism and the European Union

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The various languages spoken in the Member States of the European Union (EU) are likely to be one of the most direct expressions of its motto “United in diversity”. The EU’s linguistic policy relies on the respect of this diversity acknowledging 24 official languages.

This openness to multilingualism by the EU leads us to be interested in the contexts, linguistic procedures, practices and uses elaborated by the EU to address its citizens, political and economic partners, economically fragile or migrant populations, and the media. The practical, legal and sociological organization of this multilingual context encourages a reflection on the efficiency of the EU’s adopted solutions/procedures and its linguistic politics, as well as on the discrepancies between the different national languages in the Union’s public and the internal communication and their use within the institutions. Such issues can also be considered from an interdisciplinary perspective that is likely to bring new and complementary insights on multilingual prescriptions, norms and uses observed not only in the EU but also within the framework of exchanges between the Union and its neighbours or between the EU and other areas of the world.

This issue aims to bring together contributions with a critical analysis of multilingual communication approach and considering the use of multilingualism by and within the European Union in the fields of political science and law, discourse analysis, (the sociology of) communication, language studies and sociolinguistics, translation studies, Media, Cultural and area studies. Proposals adopting a multidisciplinary perspective are encouraged and welcome.

We suggest the authors to address one or several questions of the list here below, given that the list is non-exhaustive and open to other fields and issues:

- the EU multilingualism legal framework and how it is put into practice, for example at the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- the political impact on the choice of official EU languages and the lack of official status of so-called "minority" languages or immigration languages;
- the comparison of the use of multilingualism in the EU institutions;
- the disparities between the official languages of the EU and the working languages within the institutions;
- the importance of multilingualism and translations as far as the existence and the proper functioning of the EU is concerned;
- the use of multilingualism within the EU in comparison to other supranational organizations or multilingual states, as well as in comparison to monolingual states;
- the (financial, communicative, sociological) efforts of the EU to promote and manage multilingualism;
- the place of multilingual communication in European social policies or in European migration policy;
- the question of the difference between speeches promoting multilingualism made by the European institutions and the practices observed during official speeches;
- the future of English in the multilingual post-Brexit EU landscape;

- the analysis of controversies over the use of English during the speeches of European leaders;
- the comparison of multilingual practices between public communication and internal communication of the EU;
- multilingual decentralized European communication initiatives such as cross-border communication (within the EU, or between the EU and its neighbours, or as part of a wider communication with other global areas) where they can mix with national and regional languages;
- the analysis of multilingual European communication systems (media, digital platforms, etc.) specifically designed for citizens or open to citizen contribution;
- the analysis of multilingual information or education systems developed at European level or in the context of exchanges with the EU.

Abstract length, specs and deadlines

- 15/03/2022: submission of abstracts (max 600 words, containing the main research question(s) addressed, the methodology used in the study and an indication of the main findings of the research), or draft articles, should be sent via e-mail to: redazione.deeuropa@unito.it (C/C to : marie-helene.hermand@u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr and annie.niessen@uliege.be)
- 02/05/2022: notification of acceptance of abstracts communicated to authors
- 01/09/2022: submission of papers for review (5,000–7,000 words)
- 10/12/2022: reviews sent to authors
- 28/02/2023: final paper submission
- 30/06/2023: publication

The complete papers will go under double-blind peer review before publication.

Information about editorial rules can be found here:

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