

A manifesto 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 because languages influence how we shape the world around us and how we relate to others. And so,

We declare that

- Languages are part of the democratic infrastructure of our societies
- Democracy depends on our ability to understand others and accept differences
- Knowing a language promotes active citizenship and social inclusion
- Speaking several languages allows us to see the world from more than one perspective
- Multilingualism is at the core of Europe

Therefore:

- Languages are strategic at all levels of education
- Learning languages combats cultural and linguistic reduction
- Language education contributes directly to open-mindedness and flexibility of thought
- Language education includes the capacity to act across cultural and social differences
- AI can process language but does not create meaning, context, or identity
- Languages are indispensable for AI literacy; they question bias, tone, register, and ethical use.
- Language education conditions access to academic, professional, and civic life.

We call for:

- Universal access to education as a human right (EU Charta) and language education as a condition for social inclusion
- Recognising the value of all languages to encourage equality
- The protection of minority languages and cultures to respect diversity
- Encouraging interculturality to strengthen understanding
- Recognising language education as strategic in personal and professional development
- AI literacy that empowers the individual to think critically
- Human agency within a technological world
- The reform of teaching, learning, and assessment to counter the impoverishment of human communication

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | University of Girona | Institut de Ciències de l'Educació Josep Pallach-Servei d'Aprenentatge i Innovació Docent | Edifici
Jaume Casademont | C/ Pic de Peguera, 15, porta B, 1a planta, despatx 4 i 33 | Parc de Recerca i Innovació | 17003
| e-mail: president@cercles.org

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 50 43 84 96 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org

Confédération Européenne des Centres de Langues
dans l'Enseignement Supérieur

European Confederation of Language Centres in
Higher Education

Europäischer Verband der Hochschulsprachenzentren

**Secrétariat
Général**

Secretary General

Generalsekretariat

Åbo Akademi University
Tehtaankatu 2 | Language Department
FI-20500 Turku
Finland
tel. +358 50 43 84 96
e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org
website: <http://www.cercles.org>

Languages are what define our memory, identity, relationships, and thought. Without languages, we lose our way of seeing, understanding, and living with each other. The future must be multilingual, intercultural, and human.

Presidency

Dr Julia Zabala Delgado | University of Girona | Institut de Ciències de l'Educació Josep Pallach-Servei d'Aprenentatge i Innovació Docent | Edifici
Jaume Casademont | C/ Pic de Peguera, 15, porta B, 1a planta, despatx 4 i 33 | Parc de Recerca i Innovació | 17003
| e-mail: president@cercles.org

General Secretariat

Dr Mia Panisse | Åbo Akademi University | Language Department |
Tehtaankatu 2 | FI-20500 Turku, Finland
tel. +358 50 43 84 96 | e-mail: generalsecretariat@cercles.org