

Conference Announcement

The Network of Finnish University Language Centres (FINELC) and the Language Centre of the University of Helsinki are honoured to host **the 11th CercleS International Conference in Helsinki, Finland, on 2 – 4 September 2010.**

The Conference will bring together teachers and researchers from Language Centres, Departments, Institutions, Faculties and Schools in higher education whose main responsibility is the teaching of language.

The general theme of the Conference is

University Language Centres - Language Policy and Innovation.

The Conference will welcome submissions addressing the above general theme and the following sub-themes:

1. *Putting policies into practice*

The focus area can be approached through, for example, the following subtopics:

- language policy in the European Union – theory and practice;
- national, local or institutional language policy work, language programmes and/or strategies and their practical implementations;
- University Language Centres and/or their teachers as language policy implementers;
- best practices of University Language Centres and/or their teachers concerning the language policy implementations.

2. *Learning outcomes – strategies and realities*

The focus area can be approached through, for example, the following subtopics:

- competency-based teaching, learning and assessment of language skills;
- enhancing lifelong language learning;
- the challenges of competency-based university degrees to the curricular and pedagogical development of University Language Centres;
- the processes and practices of recognizing, assessing and accrediting prior (formal, informal, non-formal) language learning.

3. Personalising learning environments and networking

The focus area can be approached through, for example, the following subtopics:

- the use of modern learning technology in enhancing language learning and/or assessment of language skills;
- social media, such as Facebook, as language learning devices – combining formal, informal and non-formal language learning;
- personal study counselling, ELP and creating individual language learning paths;
- autonomous language learners, self-study and self-access;
- best practices of University Language Centres concerning networking and mutual co-operation.

4. Plurilingualism and English as a Lingua Franca

The focus area can be approached through, for example, the following subtopics:

- plurilingualism as an educational goal, with practical examples;
- plurilingualism promoting intercultural understanding;
- English as a threat to other languages or a stimulus to multi- or plurilingualism;
- English as a Lingua Franca, what is it?

5. Managing change and quality assurance

The focus area can be approached through, for example, following subtopics:

- quality in University Language Centre contexts;
- developing quality assurance and working processes in University Language Centres, co-operation, benchmarking and best practices;
- ways of collecting feedback from students, collaborators, stakeholders and other such interest groups, utilization of feedback in the development of teaching, other LC work and organization;
- future prospects of University Language Centres and proactive development needed for keeping them up-to-date.

6. Current issues in LSP

The focus area can be approached through, for example, the following subtopics:

- the concept of LSP today;
- recent research results concerning different aspects of LSP;
- pedagogical innovations and pilot experiments in LSP teaching;
- on-going LSP projects.

Submissions are invited both for paper and poster presentations.

The official languages of the conference are: English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Swedish.

Call for Papers

Submissions for oral and poster presentations

Oral presentations

Abstracts of maximum 300 words should be submitted electronically via e-form by 31 March 2010. Contributors will be informed of the decision by 15 May 2010.

Oral presentation - Abstract submission

Each abstract should have a short, specific title. The body should concisely state the objective of the study or project, its methods, results, and conclusions.

The abstract should also include the name(s) of the author(s), the university, and contact information.

Also, requirements for special equipment should be mentioned.

The oral presentation should last 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion.

The abstract may be in one of the official languages of the conference: English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Swedish. The title and abstract are to be in the language of the actual presentation with support material in another language. There should be a short summary in a second language (which will be in the same language as the support material).

Poster presentations

Abstracts of maximum 250 words should be submitted electronically via e-form by 31 March 2010. Contributors will be informed of the decision by 15 May 2010.

Poster presentation - Abstract submission

Each abstract should have a short, specific title. The body should concisely state the objective of the study or project, its methods, results and conclusions.

The abstract should also include the name(s) of the author(s), the university, and contact information. At least one of the poster authors should be present at the conference.

Requirements for special equipment should be mentioned. Equipment will be provided by the organiser whenever possible.

The abstract should be in one of the official languages of the conference: English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Swedish. The title and abstract are to be in the language of the poster.

The posters will be presented in a separate time section.

The maximum size of posters will be limited to 90 cm x 110 cm (width x height). More detailed guidelines will be provided to contributors in May 2010.

For any consultation concerning papers please contact Dr Heidi Rontu by email (heidi.rontu@tkk.fi).
