

Action Line 4 – Multilingual & Multicultural University

Arqus Alliance

Multilingualism and Multiculturalism:
The ARQUS Perspective
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Vilniaus
universitetas

Some questions...

- What is „Language Policy“?
- Why is Language Policy Important for Higher Education?
- Which Elements Could a Language Policy for a European University Comprise?
- What Stance Does the European University Alliance ARQUS Take on Language Policy?



Overview

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What is „Language Policy“?

„broad over-arching term for decisions on rights and access to language and on the roles and functions of languages in a given polity“ (Skutnabb-Kangas/Phillipson 1997: 116-118)



Language Policy of the EU

It (i.e. the European Union) shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced. (Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union)



Language Policy of the EU

“The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.” (Article 22 of the Lisbon Treaty)

Vision of a European Educational Space:

- Every High School Student is Supposed to Master Two Foreign Languages
 - Mutual Recognition of HE Diplomas
 - Expanding Academic Mobility (ERASMUS+)
 - Increasing Digital Competence
- (European Commission 2017, COM(2017) 673)



Language Policy of the EU: Some Hallmarks

- Support of Language Learning (e.g. in Schools, e-Twinning)
- A Common Yardstick for Language Competence (CEFR)
- Research on Language Pedagogy (e.g. ECML, Mercator)
- European Masters Program in Translation
- ERASMUS+
- European Language Seal
- European Day of Languages



The Common European Framework of Reference

“The provision of common reference points is subsidiary to the CEFR’s main aim of facilitating quality in language education and promoting a Europe of open-minded plurilingual citizens.” (CEFR Companion Volume (2018): 26)

Seeing learners as plurilingual, pluricultural beings means allowing them to use all their linguistic resources when necessary, encouraging them to see similarities and regularities as well as differences between languages and cultures. (CEFR Companion Volume (2018): 27)



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Why is Language Policy Important for Higher Education?

Language Functions As

- A Medium of Instruction
- A Heuristic Tool (Carrying Out and Reporting on Research)
- An Object of Learning (LSP)

Language is a Prerequisite of Teaching and Learning



Why is Language Policy Important for Higher Education?

- 4 of 43 European University Alliances Have a Document Related to Language Policy
- 8 German Universities in European University Alliances Have a Document Related to Language Policy

Language is a Prerequisite of Teaching and Learning?



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Elements of a Language Policy in HE: Students

- Linguistic and Culture Competencies of Incoming Students and Graduates
- Ability of Students to Participate in International Academic Discourse
- Certification
- QA of Language Teaching and Learning
- Support Structures
- Role of Digital Learning Formats



Elements of a Language Policy in HE: Academic staff

- Language Competencies
- Qualification Levels of Academic Staff
- Professional Development
- Ability of Ph.D. Students to Participate in International Academic Discourse
- Role of Texts in L2 in Study Programmes
- Attracting International Researchers and Lecturers



Elements of a Language Policy in HE: Governance

- Measures and Actions to Attain a Higher Degree of Internationalization
- Role of the HE Institution to Promote Plurilingualism and Pluriculturalism
- Spaces for International Encounters
- Role of the HE Institution as a Host
- Role of the HE Institution as an Employer
- Linguistic Research Agenda
- Pro-active Heterogeneity Management



Elements of a Language Policy in HE: Administration and Support

- Linguistic and Cultural Competencies of Non-academic Staff
- Official Documents, Website
- Student Counseling
- Procurement
- Support for Hiring International Experts
- Professional Development
- QA
- Transfer into the Labor Market and into Society



Elements of a Language Policy in HE: Non-discriminatory Language Use

- Role of the HE Institution in Societal Discourses
- Means of Awareness-raising
- Opportunities for Support and Counseling
- Promoting the Use of Non-discriminatory Language in Labor Market and Society
- Barrier-free Means of Communication



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Multilingual & Multicultural University

>300K students

>24K academics

>17K technical staff



Engaged European Citizens

Student-centred Frameworks for Quality Learning

Multilingual & Multicultural University

Widening Access, Inclusion and Diversity

Entrepreneurial University and Regional Engagement

Research Support and Early Stage Researcher Development

Management, sustainability & dissemination

ACTION LINES

arqus-alliance.eu

[@ArqusAlliance](https://twitter.com/ArqusAlliance)

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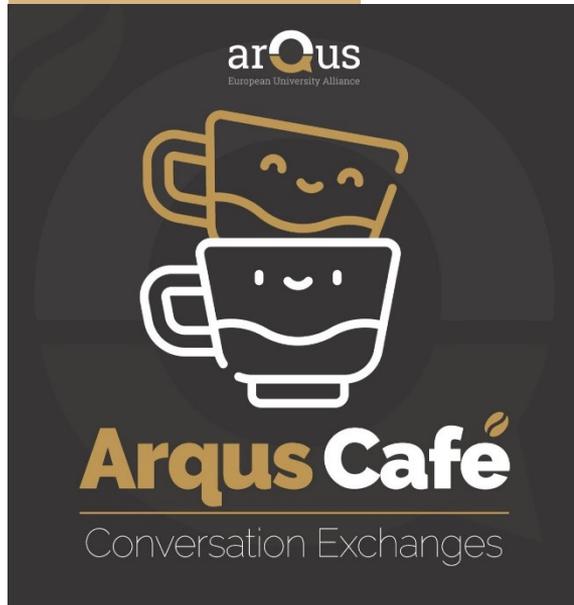
Vilniaus universitetas

Work Packages

- Arqus Charter on Language Policy
- Symposium on language policy
- Joint strategy for staff development
- Certificates of language and cross-cultural competence
- Sharing language and cross-cultural preparatory courses
- Volunteer language and culture programme
- Exchange of language assistants for partner universities
- Online terminological data base for terms in Higher Education



**Training
students for a
multilingual
and
multicultural
world**



Keep promoting!

Arqus Café – Summer Term

Up to Date Numbers

- 23 Cafés
- 15 Languages (African languages (Twi and Ga), Arabic (standard and levantine), Brazilian, Portuguese, Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish)
- 28 Tutors
- 174 Participants

(22.03. – 30.07.2021)

Language cafés: Why?

- virtual meeting place
- flexible
- low-threshold, informal and welcoming
- participation in different language cafés
- integration of international students
- **fostering and promoting multilingualism**



What the participants say

"Thanks to the language café, I have been able to use and improve my language skills on a regular basis in order not to forget what you have learned."

"I enjoyed the casual and relaxed atmosphere and the focus on actually speaking the language. In addition, you can suggest topics for the discussed. This always keeps things exciting as you get to know different people from a variety of countries."

"In addition, you can meet great students from different countries and get to know each other, thus experiencing completely new perspectives and opinions."

"I would recommend to other students because I think it is one of the best ways to improve the hardest part for a language: speaking."

"There is no better way of learning a language than communicating with fellow colleagues."

"It's a great way to improve the speaking."

"I met many people from all over the world who willingly speak Spanish and each of them have different experience, it gave a lot."



What the language tutors say

Topics

„Participants were often curious about themes of culture/language comparison (vocabulary, traditions..), which also encouraged a nice collective conversation. Book and film recommendations have also been a recurring topic.“

“In specific cases, a few participants asked both linguistics and practical questions regarding Italian language, country, logistics. Tutors were happy to help.“

Support

„I felt ready to start managing the café, yes. I also appreciated the constant support offered from the Tandembüro (in the person of Ms. de Lima).“

Difficulties:

“Manchmal die Verbindung. Aber es war nicht so problematisch. Also, es ist ganz normal in der virtuellen Realität. Es gibt immer eine Lösung..“

Sometimes the connection. But it wasn't so problematic. So, it's quite normal in virtual reality. There is always a solution.“

Benefits

„exchange with other Arqus language tutors can positively add to one's personal knowledge and experience, I think.



Arqus Café Lounge - English

Deutsch

English

Español

Français

Italiano

Lietuvių

Norsk



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



What is the Arqus Lounge?

The virtual Arqus Lounge is an opportunity for all staff to get to know colleagues from other Arqus universities and to talk about current topics, their daily work or problems and perhaps to come up with solutions.

The meetings take place once a month for about an hour.



Photo: Colourbox

Where do the meetings take place?

The meetings take place via the video conference platform ZOOM. You can find instructions [here](#).

After registration you will receive an email with a link to the lounge.

Registration

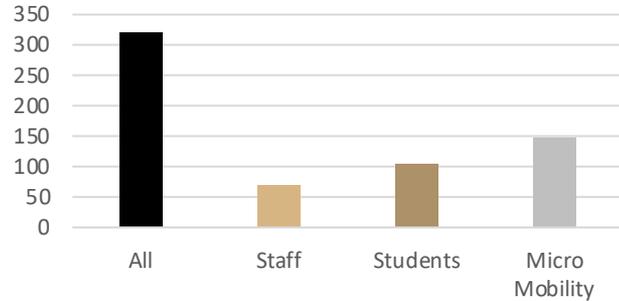
Upcoming meetings

Topic: *Lanauage cafés and online lanauage*

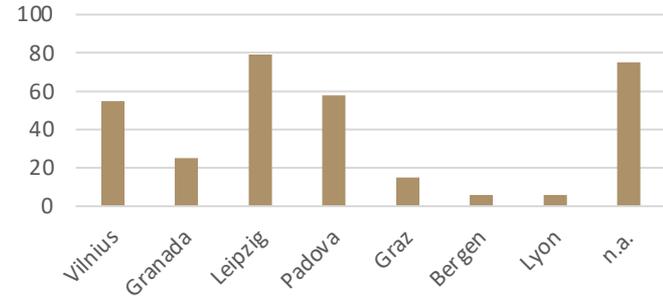


Goals achieved 2020

Participants AL4 Activities



Participants / Partner



Arqus AL4 provided

- more than 2000 hrs of instruction
- PLUS guided learning
- PLUS Materials for Further Learning

Multilingual & Multicultural University Questions? Comments?





Thank You