

UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Didactics of Foreign Languages and Cultures: From Language Policies to Approaches for Multilingual Competence

Date: 23-24 October 2023

Location: Faculty of Foreign Languages, Tirana

This conference invites scholars, different stakeholders in the field of teaching, such as policymakers, institutional leaders, social workers, trainers, teachers who wish to put the issue of foreign language didactics at the center of research, professionalism and political action and participate in a joint reflection event on the latest scientific developments and professional experiences in the field of didactics of foreign languages and cultures.

Topics of the conference:

1. Multilingualism in the Balkan context and the profile of language education policy

The place and role of foreign languages and languages of national minorities in the educational system and the implementation of European conventions.

Historical approach to the didactics of foreign languages and cultures from the beginning of the twentieth century till now in the Balkans.



2. Language policy at pre-university level

Reforms of foreign language teaching in the pre-university education system and its expected impact on the quality of acquiring multilingual competence.

Curricular developments and their impact on teaching/learning of foreign languages in line with European standards.

Policies of continual professional development training for teachers in the pre-university system on multilingual and multicultural competences.

The role of school textbooks in the acquisition of multilingual and intercultural competences.

3. Language policy at university level

The place and role of foreign languages at the University in relation to the challenges of its internationalization.

The need for curricular reorganization of competency-based foreign language learning including the university level to respond to the current demands and needs of the pre-university education system; mapping student-teacher competences at the end of university studies.

The need for training foreign language teachers for primary school considering the peculiarities and specifics of teaching children of that age-group.

4. Multilingualism in the classroom and teaching and learning practices

Research and papers on teaching and learning practices to assist students' multilingualism. The evolution of didactics is closely linked to the development of other fields, which reflect on and enrich this evolution.

From learning psychology to neuroscience where it is evident the interconnection of similar fields, which are involved in the evolution of thinking, particularly verifying some old hypotheses, such as the transfer of skills from one language to another.

The papers will focus on the connections, relationships between disciplines, interdisciplinary studies, which are the basis of complex approaches and possible influences on language teaching/learning.



5. Innovation and digitization in foreign language teaching/learning: current practices

Considering digital innovation as a component of didactics and learning is no longer a novelty. The hybridization of learning/training, the use of digital tools in the classroom or the development and evolution of learning through digital learning platforms naturally calls for reflection on their effective contribution on the learning process and on the upcoming developments for learners/students taking into account the complexity of contexts and aiming for the intertwining of approaches (open science, MOOCs, etc.).

Acknowledging and implementing the CEFR Companion Volume descriptors regarding the digital competences of learners, students, and teachers according to levels from A1-C2.

6. Initial and continual professional development of foreign languages teachers conform to the current standards for the teacher profession.

What initial and/or continual professional development training should be provided to foreign language teachers so that the complexity of situations is taken into consideration, and it responds to the demands of the public?

Introducing and training teachers in relation to the methodological innovations and documents of the Council of Europe in the field of didactics of languages and cultures for the acquisition of *multilingual and intercultural competences* such as CEFR as well as its Companion Volume, which emphasizes *language mediation* as a tool for the acquisition of multilingual and multicultural competence in the classroom.

Mapping professional competences of foreign language teachers.

7. Quality of foreign language teaching and assessment.

Methods, didactic tools, contemporary classroom practices for a functional and qualitative teaching. Indicators for measuring the quality of teaching and achievements of learners/students in relation to international certification levels. Training of teachers and lecturers for competence-based assessment and testing of multilingual skills for students, based on fair and transparent criteria according to European standards.



Promotion of educational and decision-making policies in favor of drafting national tests according to European standards that are internationally recognized as admission tests to national and international universities.

Please click on the following link to submit your abstracts: <u>https://forms.office.com/e/wAuD4pR15r</u>

Important dates:

Abstract submission: June 30th, 2023

Notification of acceptance: July 30th, 2023 (Conference papers will be published after their collection and pre-evaluation by the Scientific Committee).

Conference languages: Albanian/Foreign language.

Conference is planned to be held in person and "online".

Organization Committee:

PhDc. Greta Robja – Pedagogue of the Department of French Language, FGJH-UT Vasilika Mulla – Head of the Projects Office FGJH-UT Rudina Koromani – Head of the Scientific Research Office FGJH-UT Marseda Koçi – Specialist in the Scientific Research Office FGJH-UT



Scientific Committee:

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