



European Observatory for Plurilingualism

– 4th European Conference on Plurilingualism –

Brussels 18, 19 and 20 May 2016



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Press communiqué

On 18, 19 and 20 May 2016 will take place in Brussels the 4th European Conference on Plurilingualism. Organised in collaboration with the association GEM+ (for a Multilingual European Governance) and with the support of many partners, this 4th Conference will be held on the theme :

Plurilingualism and creativity : languages at the heart of Europe

In line with the former conferences in Paris (2005), Berlin (2009) and Rome (2012), this Conference will focus on the political, educational, cultural and economical aspects of plurilingualism in Europe.

Plurilingualism is a major challenge for both Europe and each of the member states.

Europe is not the first political construction historically constituted around several languages, but we know that Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity, while having exceptionally rich views of the world, poses unrivaled challenges that cannot find their solution with any form of monolingualism. This is the reason why, even if plurilingualism is an overriding principle, it needs a minimum of organisation and a political support by way of concrete and operational solutions, whether it is about :

- the daily working of European institutions and their relationships with the citizens of the member States,
- education where diversification of the language programs must be organised, including in higher education,
- the corporate world where it must be taken stock of the assets that could result in appropriate treatment of languages, treated as resources and integral part of management,
- or culture where plurilingualism and cultural diversity appear as a tremendous source of creativity and fulfilment.

These subjects will be discussed during the three days of the Conference which will be a meeting place for researchers, decision-makers of national administrations and European institutions, public and private sector, and representatives of the civil society.

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