

Helsinki, August 2024

57th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea

The SLE 'Linguistics in Schools Manifesto'

Context. The *Societas Linguistica Europaea* – the representative body of European linguists – adopts the following manifesto on the importance of teaching linguistics in the pre-university school systems across Europe. The manifesto argues for **introducing linguistics in curricula across Europe in the national pre-university school systems.**

Purpose. This manifesto should serve as an **authority document** for the national governmental institutions responsible for curricula as well as for the EU Commission bodies such as the European Education and Culture Executive Agency and Education, Youth, Sport and Culture.

Rationale. Introducing linguistics in curricula across Europe in the national pre-university school systems can (i) help students to deal with any aspect of language and linguistic competence including literacy and orthography, (ii) increase learner independence, (iii) contribute to the development of social awareness, (iv) increase curiosity for a wider range of languages, (v) show students the utility of metalinguistic knowledge in everyday contexts of language use, (vi) support the development of a positive attitude towards minority languages, the idioms of immigrants and local dialects, especially in the context of actual intense multilingualism, (vi) foster intrinsic motivation for language learning, (vii) support local Linguistics Olympiads, an important, successful and mostly grass-roots initiative, which became very popular in the last years in the European countries.

Expected outcomes. These benefits have important implications for the development of individual skills and especially of multilingualism, which ultimately

enhances cohesion within the EU. Multilingualism is a *founding principle* of the EU, [“enshrined in the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights”](#)

The *Societas Linguistica Europaea* is the representative body of European linguists. Scattered initiatives (for example, [*A manifesto for linguistics in language teaching in the UK context*](#)) as well as examples of good practice (for example, [*Bilingualism Matters*](#), founded in 1966, [*ReGrOC. Revista de Gramática Orientada a las Competencias*](#) and the [*Asociación GrOC*](#) in Spain, the [*Taalcanon*](#) in the Netherlands) are found across European countries, and it is the role of the SLE to bring them together.