
Heritage language education in Europe: Legislative and educational challenges

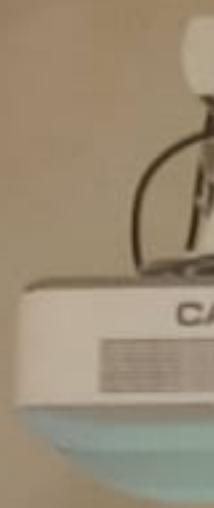
From 8 November to 10 November 2024, scholars from 8 European universities (namely Charles University, Heidelberg University, Sorbonne University, University of Copenhagen, University of Geneva, University of Warsaw, University of Iceland and Czech University of Life Sciences) met in Prague to discuss the progress and continue the work on their joint project “Heritage language education in Europe: Legislative and educational challenges” listed under the 4EU+ grant (project number: MA/4EU+/2024/F2/10).

On Friday, the researchers met for a symposium, which was organised in three major blocks. In the first part, Marie Boccou Kestřánková welcomed the guests and gave an introductory talk about state policies related to heritage language education. After an interesting follow-up discussion, it was time for the second part of the programme, which focused on laws and motivation in special education. In this part, the researchers discussed the work of the follow-up team as well as the results of the pilot study conducted in Geneva. The final block “Heritage language – different countries, different problems” was dedicated to key issues pertaining to heritage language learning in various European countries (namely Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Germany and Hungary).

The day then ended with a presentation of the article *The Role of Heritage Languages in the Strategic Actions of Selected European Countries: The Case of Poland, Germany, Spain, Slovakia, and Hungary*, on which members of the team collaborated.

The symposium raised important issues, such as the absence of specific curricula for heritage language learners. The researchers appreciated the supportive steps taken by the different states, but also pointed to the need for comprehensive systemic support.

On Saturday and Sunday, the team members participated in two exploratory workshops, in which they discussed their goals for the future and the specific steps needed to accomplish these goals. This also involved the preparation of an application for a follow-up project.



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Introduction

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Research and Practice in Heri
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2023), school time/organisati
education systems/structure
- little known about Slovakia

