

Interconnected Learning and Teaching. Trends and Challenges in Teaching Foreign Languages

Iași, Romania
8 - 12 November 2023

Synopsis of the First Edition

The 5-day conference brought together 4 international experts as Keynote Speakers, 87 participants both onsite and online from 17 countries, 27 Workshops held by foreign language trainers and teachers, 3 Talks and 2 Roundtables, thus providing the opportunity to interconnect various foreign languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Polish, Norwegian, Russian and Romanian.

This multilingual network brought together foreign language teachers, university teaching staff and experts in didactics and methodology from Romania and abroad, thus connecting the secondary and tertiary education system, as well as public and private institutions. The intensive discussions on teaching foreign languages in general, on the importance of LSP and the productive use of technology for didactic purposes materialized in a productive exchange of ideas, theories and tips and tricks for practical application. In addition to the academic format of **sessions**, the three **talks** gave the general public (of teachers and students) an insight into present-day issues regarding the role of foreign language teaching in the school curricula and in the public opinion.

The workshops enjoyed a consistent participation of the teaching staff from Romania and Republic of Moldavia (almost 200 participants), demonstrating once again the constant need for continuous learning and for update to the latest teaching techniques and strategies for both school and university teaching staff. The practical nature of the workshops also facilitated an in-depth discussion of the particularities and challenges of teaching each language, highlighting the necessity for a specialized, language-oriented approach to teaching a foreign language.





The roundtables envisioned an open forum of discussion between the actors and beneficiaries of the education system.

Thus, the first event gathered around the table representatives of the university and of the private sector. The 2-hour discussion debated on the need of a distinct profile of the foreign language BA and MA, as intermediary of knowledge and skills, as mediator between languages and cultures. This unique combination between hard and soft skills is what makes the BA graduate in foreign languages most attractive for the private sector, for both small enterprises and large multinational companies. The discussion also emphasized the real need of a proactive collaboration between the education institutions and the public enterprises (in form of sponsorships, curricula revision or enlarging the base of providers of highly specialized content).

The second roundtable brought together the school and university system, with representatives for almost each language present in the conference. The discussions resulted in the unanimous acknowledgement of the need for continuous learning in both secondary and tertiary systems, the need for enlarging and updating the linguistic offer in schools and university, in order to meet the demand within the society and profiting from the double specialization of the BA graduates. A special topic focused on the need to form BA specialists in languages relevant to the region (such as Russian, Polish, Norwegian or Chinese, as well as others).

The results of this large-scale event will be published in 2024 in three editorial releases:

Linguaculture for papers in English

(<https://journal.linguaculture.ro/index.php/home>)

Jassyer Beiträge zur Germanistik for papers in German

(<https://www.hartung-gorre.de/jassy.htm>)

ILT Conference Proceedings (in open-access format)

The ILT-Team extends a warm thank you to all the participants at the conference and hopes to see you all at the second edition in November 2025!

