

MULTILINGUALISM

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

- **Balanced multilingualism:**
- In practice: balance between English and any other language
- NOT against English: in some countries more English needed, in some maybe more national (or other) languages
- Balance between understanding and promoting globalization in research and societally effective and responsible research at the same time
- See: Gunnar Sivertsen, “Balanced multilingualism in science” (2018)

WHY HELSINKI INITIATIVE?

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

- KEY ISSUES:
- Research is international. That's the way we like it!
- Multilingualism keeps locally relevant research alive. Protect it!
- Disseminating research results in your own language creates impact. Endorse it!
- It is vital to interact with society and share knowledge beyond academia. Promote it!
- Infrastructure of scholarly communication in national languages is fragile. Don't lose it!

Policy-makers, leaders, universities, research institutions, research funders, libraries, and researchers are invited to sign the Helsinki Initiative to promote multilingualism in scholarly communication:

www.helsinki-initiative.org

RECOMMENDATIONS

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.
2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.
3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.

- Make sure researchers are merited for disseminating research results beyond academia and for interacting with heritage, culture, and society.
- Make sure equal access to researched knowledge is provided in a variety of languages.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

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2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.

- Make sure not-for-profit journals and book publishers have both sufficient resources and the support needed to maintain high standards of quality control and research integrity.
- Make sure national journals and book publishers are safeguarded in their transition to open access.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

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3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.

- Make sure that in the process of expert-based evaluation, high quality research is valued regardless of the publishing language or publication channel.
- Make sure that when metrics-based systems are utilized, journal and book publications in all languages are adequately taken into account.

FOUNDING SIGNATORIES

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV)

- Co-operative body for 275 learned societies. Supports scholarly communication and publishing, promotes awareness and usage of research results, coordinates open science agenda.

Committee for Public Information (TJNK)

- Expert body attached to the Ministry of Education and Culture that coordinates and promotes the dissemination of information.

Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing

- The mission is to strengthen the role of scientific publications, and to support the international community's interaction for the development of scholarly publishing.

Universities Norway (UHR)

- Universities Norway is a cooperative body for 33 accredited universities and university colleges.

European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (ENRESSH)

- COST Action bringing together more than 125 participants from 36 countries to propose clear best practices in the field of SSH research evaluation.

CURRENT STATE

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

- The Helsinki Initiative was launched the 3rd of April 2019
- Available in 28 languages including Esperanto (next Catalan, Provençal, Japanese)
- Almost 70 organizations and 410 individuals have signed from 60 countries
- Recently featured in Research Europe article, LSE Blog under preparation
- Joint statement of strong support from the European University Association, Universities Norway and Finland. Also Flemish Interuniversity Council and German Rectors' Conference have signed.
- European and Latin-American Open Access communities: OPERAS, DOAJ, OpenEdition, Redalyc, AmeliCA, CLACSO
- (International Conference on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication in April 2020 in Brussels)

FROM EUA STATEMENT

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

- “Balanced multilingualism is particularly relevant for Europe, as its research is characterised by geographic, cultural and linguistic diversity and the common principle of excellence”
- “The strength of European universities lies in aiming at international leadership while being locally anchored”
- “Considering the traditional ties between Europe and other regions of the world, a diversity of languages is also an important asset in internationalisation, ensuring and fostering both exchange and mobility”
- “Fostering openness in relation to the use of language is also relevant for successful Open Access policies... This also includes a balanced multilingualism, that takes into account the whole width of research production and serves as a strength of the European academic research system”

TO DO LIST?

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

Next steps?

- To create concrete implementation plan for universities, research funders, researchers, learned societies, scholarly publishers and other stake holders
- What concrete steps can be in order promote multilingualism in scientific communication?
- Research(er) assessment. There must be some kind of career advancing incentive for researchers to publish and communicate in different languages! This is in the hands of universities and national policy makers
- Prizes for scientific publications and communication in different languages (scholarly societies and other organisations)
- National infra/technical solutions to support publishing in different languages:
 - In Finland e.g. -Federation of Finnish Learned Societies offer a OJS based platform for editing and publishing scholarly journals: journal.fi (free for member societies, currently about 70 journals). A similar platform for monographs is on its way.
 - There is also a national financial support system for scholarly journals - not necessarily but mostly published in national languages

EXCITED?

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

- Sign the initiative as an individual
- Convince your organization to sign the initiative
- Spread the word about the initiative to your colleague
- Translate the initiative to your own language
- Take part in the #InAllLanguages -campaign in the social media. "In all languages" campaign is a wake-up call for policy-makers, leaders, universities, research institutions, research funders, libraries, and researchers to promote multilingualism in scholarly communication.
- Write about the Initiative in your own language. Defining key terms in context is an essential task for signatories of this initiative.

MORE INFORMATION

**Helsinki Initiative
on Multilingualism**

Hi!

Read, sign and download material:

www.helsinki-initiative.org

Email:

helsinki-initiative@tsv.fi

Hashtag:

[#InAllLanguages](#)

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED?

**Helsinki Initiative
on Multilingualism**

Hi!

1. How many of you have already signed the initiative?
2. How many of you is going to sign?
3. How many of you is going to persuade your organisation to sign?
4. Do you have ideas for next steps?