



International Federation of Language Teacher Associations  
Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes

# NEWSLETTER

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## News from ILEI

By **Ilona Koutny**, Director of Interlinguistic Studies, AMU, representative of ILEI (Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Instruistoj) to FIPLV

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### **Teaching international communication in an international language.**

#### **A university program in interlinguistics using Esperanto**

The goal of foreign language teaching is to develop learners' communicative competence. They will usually aspire to use the target language with native speakers, and therefore attempt to adapt to their linguistic and cultural norms. On the other hand, ELF (English as Lingua Franca) is often used for international communication and its norms are less fixed, subject to negotiation according to the situation and the partners involved.

An alternative lingua franca, Esperanto, was created in 1887 for international communication between people speaking different mother tongues (see also the report of Alessandra Madella in the December 2022 Newsletter of FIPLV). Many years of experience have proven the suitability of Esperanto for this purpose. It is spoken in many countries, and the Internet dramatically increased the scale of its international use. Esperanto performs well in both social and professional contacts and can also be used as a cultural intermediary, as in literary translation through Esperanto.

Esperanto has a significant propaedeutic value as a first foreign language, especially, although not only, for learning Romance languages as borne out by

several practical experiments. It is particularly useful for developing language awareness – as attested by the *Springboard* project in Great Britain. This is due to its transparent, regular and flexible grammar and its productive word formation. It makes intercultural contacts possible after a relatively short learning period, so it can contribute to cultural exchanges between learners.

Esperanto, Esperantology and the related field of interlinguistics (encompassing both international communication and its optimization through the use of planned languages) are also taught at some universities in the Netherlands, Germany, France and China, among others. The comprehensive 3-year postgraduate program in **Interlinguistic Studies** at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań, Poland, has successfully functioned for 25 years with an international group of instructors and students (at present, 21 students from 10 countries): see <https://esfconnected.org/2021/07/09/interlingvistikaj-studoj/>. The program also works with the International League of Esperanto-speaking Teachers (ILEI) and edukado.net (a portal for teachers of Esperanto) for its third-year specialization in **teacher training**. The next training will take place in 2023/24 (<https://edukado.net/novajhoj?id=888>).

A **new on-site master degree program in interlinguistics** began in the academic year 2022/23 at AMU in the framework of the major program *Linguistics and Information Management* in the Faculty of Modern Languages and Literatures. The specialization is open to both Polish and international students. The unique two-year degree program has the goal of preparing young people for international

collaboration through the international language Esperanto with competences in linguistics, languages, intercultural communication and digital humanities.

The courses are mainly taught in Esperanto. These include language typology, language policy, intercultural communication as well as Esperanto linguistics and culture. Courses taught in English include digital humanities. A course on translation between English and Esperanto is also included. The recruitment for 2023/24 will be open from 01 June 2023. More information can be found on the following websites: <https://kml.amu.edu.pl/en/interlinguistics/>  
[http://interl.home.amu.edu.pl/interlingvistiko/magistraj\\_apr22.html](http://interl.home.amu.edu.pl/interlingvistiko/magistraj_apr22.html)



Vice-rector prof. Rafał Witkowski of AMU (first on left) receives Chinese students who completed their bachelor studies in Zaozhuang, China, in the office of the Rector. Program Director, prof. Ilona Koutny is in the middle.