

Linguapax

The Linguapax Institute was constituted at the premises of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia on 23 March. On 3 May the institute was recognised by the General Directorate of Juridical Bodies of the Generalitat de Catalunya. The Linguapax Institute was set up as an international non-governmental organisation based in Barcelona, whose objectives are to promote information and investigation in the field of language policies, advise those responsible for language policy in state and substate governments, further multilingual education and perfect teaching methods, relate multilingual education and the culture of peace, provide technical assistance to minority or minorized linguistic communities, defend linguistic rights as individual and collective human rights, facilitate the management of linguistic diversity in cities with immigrants speaking different languages, contribute to the presence of multilingualism in cyberspace, and create new mechanisms for collaboration between specialist NGOs. Miquel Siguan is its honorary chairman, Fèlix Martí is its chairman and Dolors Reig its vice-chairwoman. Other members are Carles Descalzi and Miquel Martí. Marc Leprêtre was its director until 26 July, when he was relieved by Marie-Amélie Ponce. Marc Leprêtre remains a member of the institute in the capacity of general secretary. The members of the executive board of the Linguapax Institute met on

26 July and 5 December in Barcelona. From 1 November, Josep Cru joined the Linguapax Institute as its technical secretary.

The UNESCO Centre of Catalonia promoted the setting up of a Linguapax UNESCO Chair at the Institute for Catalan Studies. In this respect, on 3 May, Fèlix Martí and Marc Leprêtre met with Manuel Castellet, chairman of the institute, and with Joan Martí, the future coordinator of the chair. On 19 May there was a meeting in Paris of representatives of the UNESCO chairs in languages. Taking part in the meeting, apart from Fèlix Martí, director of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and chairman of the Linguapax Institute, were Marc Leprêtre, director of the Linguapax Institute, Raymond Renard, of the UNESCO Chair in Mons, Belgium; Paul Ortega, of the Languages Observatory of the Basque Country; Patxi Juaristi, of the UNESCO Chair in the Basque Country; Joan Martí, of the UNESCO Chair of the Institute for Catalan Studies, and Linda King, of UNESCO.

Also on 19 May, the director of the centre met in Paris with authors of the world report on languages, which is being drafted under the direction of the UNESCO Centre of the Basque Country.

LINGUAPAX OBJECTIVES

The Linguapax project has as its objective the promotion of the culture of peace through the appreciation of linguistic diversity and multilingual education. The programme is based on the idea that a knowledge of languages will help to strengthen links between cultures and peoples and therefore allow progress in international understanding and cooperation. At present, the activities of the Linguapax programme centre around the following issues: preparation of the *Report on the Languages of the World*, under the coordination of the UNESCO Centre of the Basque Country, production of teaching materials for multilingual education and assessment for governments in the design of language policies.

CATALAN SCHOOLS TAKING PART IN THE LINGUAPAX PROJECT

Campclar Primary School in Tarragona, El Dofi Primary School in Premià de Mar, Els Pinetons Primary School in La Garriga, Marinada-Salvador Espriu Primary School in El Masnou, Mercè Rodoreda Primary School in Barcelona, Empordà School in Roses, Matadepera Secondary School, Betània-Patmos School in Barcelona, Piarist School in Calella, Piarist School in Igualada, Virolai School in Barcelona, Cristòfol Ferrer Secondary School in Premià de Mar, Francesc Ferrer Guàrdia Secondary School in Sant Joan Despí, Montserrat School in Barcelona and Piarist School in Mataró.

On 19 May, the director of the centre had talks with Joseph Poth, a new member of the Council of Languages in France. On 20 December, in Barcelona, Joseph Poth received the International Award of the Escarré International Centre for Ethnic Minorities and Nations, CIEMEN 2001, the director of the centre made the presentation.

On 20 May, the director of the centre attended the official presentation at UNESCO headquarters in Paris of the book on the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights prepared by the monitoring committee of the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights.

On 26 and 29 April, Fèlix Martí took part in Melbourne, Australia, in the international congress "Pacific: a linguistic treasury", organised by the International Federation of Teachers of Living Languages. The aim was to gather information on a continental level for the preparation of the *Report on the Languages of the World*. Fèlix Martí gave a talk at the inaugural session of the congress.

On 16 April, Marc Leprêtre met with Sergei A. Arutiunov, Vida Yu. Mikhalchenko and Svetlana Tikhomirova, members of the Russian Academy of Sciences. On 18 and 19 April he met in Elista with the ministers of Culture and of Education of the Republic of Kalmykia, Russian Federation, to study a project for carrying out surveys on linguistic habits. On 20 and 21 April he took part in Riga in the International Conference on the minority Languages of

Europe in the 21st Century, where he presented a report and took part in a round table.

On 26 and 27 April, Marc Leprêtre took part in the Sessions on Linguistic Diversity organised by the CIEMEN in Barcelona.

The Linguapax Institute began steps to convene the World Congress on Language Policies, which it is foreseen will be held in Barcelona from 16 to 20 April 2002 and which has the collaboration of the General Directorate of Language Policy of the Generalitat de Catalunya. In this respect, a meeting was held of officials of the Linguapax Institute with Albert Valero, director of the Institute of Sociolinguistics of the General Directorate for Language Policy, on 30 July and another on 18 September.

On 19 November a meeting was held at the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia to prepare the convention, in the framework of the Eurocongress 2000, of an international congress on the languages and cultures of medium scope in the European Union. With the theme of "Linguistic proposals for the future of Europe", it is foreseen for February 2003. Taking part in the meeting were Joan Amorós, executive director of the Congress of Catalan Culture Foundation, Marie-Amélie-Ponce, director of the Linguapax Institute, and Fèlix Martí, director of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia.

THE "REPORT ON THE LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD"

The *Report on the Languages of the World* has its origin in the International Linguapax Seminar on Linguistic Policies held in Leioa (Basque Country) in 1996, at which the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, put forward the need for research on the situation of languages in the world. The 1997 UNESCO General Conference approved the project. The Basque Government signed an agreement memorandum with UNESCO in July 1997 and undertook to finance the project. It is foreseen that the report will appear during the year 2002. The report is intended to publicise the state of languages in the world, revealing the planet's linguistic wealth and explaining the problems affecting languages in different parts of the world. The report will promote awareness of our linguistic heritage, help to watch over the way this heritage develops and recommend up-to-date measures for protecting living languages.

Dolors Reig and Miquel Martí coordinated the seminar Linguapax 5, which was held during the 2000-2001 school year. This year's sessions were held on 10 February and 5 May. The sessions for the 2001-2002 school year took place on 12 September and 21 November. The seminar, recognised by the Department of Education of the Generalitat de Catalunya, is directed at teachers in Catalan schools who are applying the Linguapax Programme and has as its object to improve teaching practices in the field of foreign languages and the social sciences, the acquisition of new knowledge about the teaching units of the UNESCO Linguapax Programme and the integration of the activities of the programme in the transverse axis "Education for peace". The sessions were held at the premises of the Friends of UNESCO Club in Barcelona. The Linguapax Catalonia teaching team met in Barcelona on 23 February and 12 September.

The UNESCO Centre of Catalonia published the Bulletin *Linguapax Catalunya*. Number 3 appeared in January and number 4 in June. Number 303 of the magazine *Cuadernos de Pedagogía* published a review.

On 14 April, The Internet gateway www.oneworld.net included information about the Linguapax experiment.

Dolors Reig published the article "Learning languages to make friends", in the magazine *Escola Catalana* in February.

Dolors Reig took part in the following activities to present the Linguapax initiative: on 15 March, she gave a talk on "Linguapax: educating for peace and development through the teaching and learning of languages and social sciences", in Palma de Mallorca, in the framework of a series of talks organised by the "Sa Nostra" social and cultural foundation on educating for a culture of peace and coexistence. On 26 April, she took part in Girona in a talk on "Languages for understanding, languages for dialogue". Dolors Reig presented the Linguapax programme at the 14th State Encounter for the UNESCO Associated Schools Plan, which was held in Valencia from 4 to 7 July. Dolors Reig and Miquel Martí took part, on 20 and 21 December, in the Linguapax workshop organised by the Santiago Sobrequés secondary school in Girona.

On 30 March, the First Encounter of Linguapax Pupils was held in Barcelona. Taking part were seventy pupils from the Marina-Salvador Espriu primary school in Masnou, the Els Pinetons primary school in La Garriga and the Virolai school in Barcelona.

Dolors Reig took part on 30 November, by video-conference from Girona, in the Second Congress of Teachers of Foreign Languages in Higher Education, organised by the School of Foreign Languages of the Pontifical Catholic University of Lima, Peru, and devoted to “Educating for peace and development through the learning of languages and social sciences”.

In October, the Paraguayan National Commission on Bilingualism published the book *Desafíos de la educación intercultural bilingüe en el tercer milenio*, which contains the talks from the 4th Latin-American Congress on Intercultural Bilingual Education held from 6 to 9 November 2000, and including the talk by Fèlix Martí on “From Babel to the planet of linguistic harmony. Managing linguistic complexity”.

Edicions Pau published volume 6 of the Linguapax teaching units, called “When travelling is not a pleasure”, of which Dolors Reig is the editor. On 22 January, Fèlix Martí and Miquel Martí had talks with Àngel Miret, commissioner for immigration of the Generalitat de Catalunya, to present the contents of the teaching unit. On 18 September a meeting was held at Edicions Pau with Dolors Reig, Carme Sillué and Miquel Martí to establish the final text of the unit. On 22 October the unit was presented in public in Barcelona in the framework of the sessions on “New citizenships: education and immigration”, organised by the Municipal Institute of Education of Barcelona, in which Dolors Reig took part.

The director of the centre supervised the interactive exhibition “Languages, endangered universes”, on linguistic, cultural and biological diversity, organised in Ciutadella by the “Sa Nostra” social and cultural foundation and the department of Education and Culture of the Government of the Balearic Islands, with the collaboration of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia. The exhibition can be seen in Ciutadella from 13 December to 25 January 2002. The director

of the centre took part in the inauguration of the exhibition, which took place in Ciutadella on 13 December.

The centre provided information and documentation for the preparation of a special dossier on the disappearance of languages, “The agony of Babel”, published in *Presència* on 16 November.

The UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, along with the La Bressola, Arrels and Comte Guifré schools, the ICRES of the University of Perpinyà and the Catalan Cultural Centre of Perpinyà, convened a debating forum on “The teaching of the Catalan language in Catalonia North”. The event took place in Perpinyà on 30 November and 11 December. Fèlix Martí, as chairman of the UNESCO Advisory Council on Linguistic Pluralism and Multilingual Education, gave a talk on “New ideas on linguistic education”. Taking part were representatives of the following organisations: Eurocongress 2000, Catalonia North SGEN/FDT, l’Aplec, Catalonia North Òmnium Cultural, Catalan Teachers Collective, Catalonia North ERC, Association of Friends of the Comte Guifré School and Association of Friends of La Bressola. Also taking part were Miquel Martí, in representation of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and as coordinator of the UNESCO associated schools in Catalonia, and chairman of the Association of Friends of the Comte Guifré School. Those attending drew up and released a final declaration on “Teaching in Catalan in Catalonia North”.

Josep Cru took part in the sessions on 19 and 20 November on “Alternative models of linguistic rehabilitation and planning”, organised in Barcelona by the Study Group on Endangered Languages, the CIEMEN programme “Mercator: linguistic law and legislation” and the Department of General Linguistics at Barcelona University.