

Linguapax

The Linguapax Institute is an international non-governmental organisation with head office in Barcelona, and lies within the framework of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia. Nevertheless, there are other organisations around the world with the same spirit as Linguapax: the UNESCO Centre of the Basque Country; the UNESCO Chair in Linguistic and Didactic Policies in Languages of the Mons-Hainaut University in Belgium; and the UNESCO Chair in Languages and Education of the Institute for Catalan Studies – Catalan centre of studies, created in February last year.

The aims of the Linguapax Institute are: to promote information and research in language policies; advise the leadership involved in language policy making in central and regional governments; foster multilingual education and perfect learning methods; associate multilingual education with a culture of peace; offer expert advice to minority or oppressed language groups; defend language rights as individual and collective human rights; facilitate language diversity management in cities with multicultural immigration; contribute to multilingualism in cyberspace; and create new means of collaboration between NGO's.

Miquel Siguan was the Honorary President of the Linguapax Institute. The members of the Executive Committee were: Fèlix Martí as president; Marie-Amélie Ponce as director; Marc Leprêtre as secretary general till November when then substituted by Josep Cru; Dolors Reig as vicepresident; Josep Cru as specialist secretary; also members were Carles Descalzi till June, and Miquel Martí. The executive board of the Linguapax Institute met on 27th February and 12th June. The general meeting of the institute was held 21st November.

The members of the Executive Committee of the Linguapax Institute were Susana Cuevas, Lachman M. Khubchan-Dani, Luís Enrique López, Mohamed Miled, Irmela Neu, Joseph Poth, Ignace Sanwidi, György Szépe, Carles Torner and Jean Jacques Van Vlasselaer. The members of the Advisory Committee of the Linguapax Institute were Vigdis Finnbogadóttir as Honorary President, Serguei A. Arutiunov, Anvita Abbi, Conrad M. B. Brann, Charles Castonguay, Bernard Comrie, Jean-Claude Corbeil, François Grin, Regina Jensdóttir, Björn H. Jernudd, Vida O. Mikhalchenko, Dónall Ó Riagáin, Jerzy Smolicz, Asher Stern and Miquel Strubell.

On 14th and 15th January the Linguapax Institute was visited by the General Coordinator of the National Commission for Bilingualism of the Ministry for Education and Culture of Paraguay, Ramiro Dominguez. During his visit, an exchange agreement was signed between the Linguapax Institute and the National Commission for Bilingualism mentioned, with the aim of intensifying collaboration between the two organisations in the areas of research development in cross-cultural education; training teachers and specialists in multilingual education; the creation of an exchange programme network between innovative schools in the area of multilingual education; and in the production of education material dealing with languages and cultures.

On 28th February, Fèlix Martí as president of the Linguapax Institute, took part in the inauguration of the exhibition titled "Languages; endangered universes" at the Cultural Centre Sa Nostra in Palma de Mallorca. The exhibition was created by the Obra Social i Cultural Sa Nostra, with the support of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia. In November, the Obra Social i Cultural Sa Nostra announced the crea-

WORLD CONGRESS ON LANGUAGE POLICIES

The Linguapax Institute organised the World Congress on Language Policies held in Barcelona from 16th to 20th April. The Congress brought together two hundred and fifty experts from 48 different countries, and had collaboration from the Language Policy Authority of the Generalitat de Catalunya, UNESCO, the Peace Culture Foundation, the Balearic Government and the Universal Forum of Cultures Barcelona 2004. Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO's general director, and John Packer, director of the OSCE Office for National Minorities, addressed the congress with a greeting. The congress was structured around six plenary conferences and five simultaneously held workshops. The plenary conferences were lead by Albert Bastardes, E. Annamalai, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Lachman Khubchandani, Emmanuel N. Emenanjo and Peter Mühlhäusler. The subject themes of the workshops were: Linguistic legislation and its application; The management of language diversity in big cities; Language policy models; The role of non-profit organisations in linguistic policy making; and New information technologies and the languages of small to medium sized populations. Reported in the newspaper *El Puntón* 15th and 17th April; in the newspaper *Avui* on 15th, 17th and 21st April; in the newspaper *La Vanguardia* on 17th April; in the newspaper *El País* on 17th April, in the newspaper *El Periódico* on 17th April; in the portal *vilaweb.com* on 16th April; in the portal *intra-acn*, the Catalan news agency, and in the portal *e-notícies.com* on 17th April. The full text without the speeches, communications and conclusions can be accessed on the Linguapax Institute website (www.linguapax.org)

tion of an educational pack containing education material based on the contents of the exhibition. Fèlix Martí made an assessment of certain aspects concerning the educational pack.

Fèlix Martí took part in the Partnership for Diversity Forum in Palma de Mallorca on 7th and 8th February, organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (EBLUL).

On 11th and 12th April, Fèlix Martí took part in a colloquium on the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages and France, organised in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe and the Human Rights Department of the Robert Schuman University.

From 27th to 30th September, Fèlix Martí took part in the international conference on the theme "For a world linguistic policy based on plurilingualism" held in Tlemcen, Algeria, organised by The Bilingual World International Association.

On 21st October, Fèlix Martí had an interview in Brussels with M. Sancerni and Josep Soler, of the European Commission, and with Joseph Poth and Michel Lefranc, to present a project for the creation of teaching materials for African languages.

As president of the Linguapax Institute, Fèlix Martí met with various members of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 23rd October: Joseph Sheils, director of the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe; Gabriele Mazza, Director of School Education, Out-of-School Education and Higher Education; José Maria Ballester, Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage; and Vera Boltho, Head of the Cultural Policy and Action Division.

From 13th to 15th November, Fèlix Martí took part in a seminar on Policies for the Promotion of Pluralism in Europe, organised by the Council of Europe.

WORLD LANGUAGES REPORT

The World Languages Report was first started at the Linguapax International Seminar on Language Policies held in Leioz (Basque Country) in 1996, when the director general of UNESCO Federico Mayor, put forth the need to conduct research on the status of world languages. The UNESCO General Conference of 1997 approved the project. The Basque Government signed a memorandum of agreement with UNESCO on July 1997 pledging to finance the project. The aims of the report were to reveal the status of world languages, while demonstrating the linguistic richness of our planet and describing the problems facing languages in different regions around the world. At the same time, the report continued to promote awareness of linguistic heritage, called to attention the developments of this heritage and recommended measures to protect modern languages.

On 18th January, 26th February and 9th April, Fèlix Martí took part in the various team meetings in Bilbao that were producing the World Languages Report. Fèlix Martí and Paul Ortega provided the text of the report '**Words and Worlds World Languages Report**', to various UNESCO officers: on 24th October to John Daniel, director of the Education Division of UNESCO, and to Katerina Stenou, director of the Cultural Policies and Cross-Cultural Dialogue Division; on 18th December to Linda King, head of the Education Language Programme for World Values; on the 20th December to Abdul Waheed Khan, deputy director general of the Communications Department and to Stany Kol, General Conference Secretary.

Fèlix Martí also provided the text of the report to various heads of the Basque Government: on 18th November in Bilbao to Javier Madrazo, Regional Minister for Housing and Social Affairs, and to Miren Azcarate, Regional Minister for Culture; on 19th November in Vitoria to the **Lehendakari** (President), Juan Jose Ibarretxe; reported in the electronic newspaper **tribunacatalana.org**

As president of the Linguapax Institute, Fèlix Martí was member of the Honorary Committee of the Mediterranean Languages Council, promoted by the Aboubekr Belkaid University in Tlemcen, Algeria.

Josep Cru took part in the XIII Languages and Education Seminar on "Language teaching in a multicultural society and for a multicultural society" held in Barcelona on 30th and 31st May and 1st June, and organised by **ICE** – Education Science Institute, of the University of Barcelona. On 23rd and 26th October, Josep Cru took part in the II International Symposium on Bilingualism, organised by the University of Vigo, in Vigo.

On 2nd May, a group of twenty students from the Paul Valery University, Montpellier III, France visited

the Linguapax Institute with professor Henri Boyer. Fèlix Martí, Marie Amélie Ponce, Marc Leprêtre and Josep Cru explained the aims and activities of the institute.

Fèlix Martí acted as advisor for UNESCO in the preparation of the document on multilingual education, **Education in a Multilingual World**, released by the UNESCO Education Division in October.

On 9th July, Fèlix Martí met with Vicenç Villatoro, head of the exhibition project titled "From sound to voice" of the Universal Forum of Cultures Barcelona 2004, and with Enric Marin, member of the scientific committee of the exhibition, to advise on content and the focus of the exhibition.

On 13th December, Torh Franch, head of the General Services of the Universal Forum of Cultures Barcelona 2004, and Teresa Puiggrós, head of the Translation Services of the Forum, visited the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia so that the Linguapax Institute could advise on the various aspects of language use during the Barcelona 2004 Forum.

On 26th November, Fèlix Martí met with Josep M. Ferrer of the Catalan Encyclopedia Foundation to assess a possible collaboration with the Linguapax Institute to prepare and write an Atlas of Languages. On 4th December, Fèlix Martí, Marie Amélie Ponce and Josep Cru met again with the heads of the Catalan Encyclopedia Foundation to establish the scope of the collaboration. On 17th December, Fèlix Martí, Marie Amélie Ponce and Josep Cru met in Bilbao with the heads of the UNESCO Centre of the Basque Country, who had undertaken the produc-

On 13th December, the Board of Directors of the Forum approved the director plan and the contents of the event; amongst the approved congresses were "Linguistic diversity, Sustainability and Peace", presented by the Linguapax Institute, and due to take place from 28th to 31st May 2004.

tion of the World Languages Report, to define the points of collaboration in producing the atlas.

The newspaper *Avui* published an interview with Joseph Poth for his having received the 2001 CIEMEN International Award for his contribution to the defence of languages as a representative of Linguapax and the Language Division of UNESCO. The magazine *El Temps* also published an interview with Joseph Poth in their 12th February issue.

EXPERTS MEET TO DISCUSS LINGUISTIC PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

On 30th and 31st May and 1st June, the Linguapax Institute organised together with the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, the Open University of Catalonia, the Jaume Bofill Foundation and the Euro-Congress 2000, an international congress to discuss "Linguistic Proposals for the Future of Europe". The congress was held with the collaboration of the Institute for Catalan Studies and the Patronat Català Pro Europa. The aim of the congress was to consider a linguistic model for the future of Europe based on respect and the promotion of linguistic diversity and multiculturalism, and in view of the new countries that would eventually join the European Union. The following people took part: Urko Aiatza from the Basque Country; Joan Argenté from the Institute for Catalan Studies; Bojan Brezigar and Markus Warasin from EBLUL; Paula Kasares, director of the Observatory of Linguistic Rights; Miklos Kontra, professor at the University of Szeged; Anxo Lorenzo, professor of the University of Vigo; Isidor Marí and Miquel Strubell, from the Open University of Catalonia; Fèlix Martí, director of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia; Peter Neld, research fellow for the Centre for Multilingualism; Miamh Nic Shuibhne, professor at the University of Edinburgh; Dónall Ó Riagáin, Irish research fellow; Aija Priedite, director of the Latvian Language Programme; Vladimira Satavová, professor at the University of Prague; Ned Thomas, professor at the University of Wales; Ilmar Tomusk, director of Estonian Language Inspectorate; Arturo Tosi, professor at the University of London; Snezana Trifunovska, professor of the University of Nimega; Tomasz Wicherkiewics, professor at the University Adam Mickiewicz in Poland; Marc Leprière of the Catalan Sociolinguistics Institute. A document was prepared during the congress addressing linguistic diversity in Europe to present it at the Future of the European Union Convention.

The Linguapax 6 Seminar, officially recognised as part of academic curricula by the Education Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya, was aimed at teachers of Catalan schools that included the Linguapax Programme, and aimed at improving teaching techniques in foreign language and social sciences; furthering knowledge with the teaching units of the UNESCO Linguapax Programme; and uniting the activities of the programme under “Education for Peace”. Dolors Reig and Miquel Martí were the seminar co-ordinators. The sessions took place at the Friends of UNESCO Club of Barcelona on 26th January and 13th April, and at the Institute for Catalan Studies on 25th May, 12th September and 16th November.

On 15th February, the primary school students from Catalan schools working with the Linguapax Programme met together in Barcelona. On 8th March, secondary school students from Catalan schools working with the Linguapax Programme met together in Barcelona.

Dolors Reig attended the XIII Languages and Education Seminar “Language teaching in a multicultural society and for a multicultural society”, that took place in Barcelona on 30th and 31st May and 1st June, and organised by the University of Barcelona, the University of Girona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

On 11th July, Miquel Martí and Dolors Reig presented the Linguapax Programme at the Rosa Sensat Summer School. On 18th April, Carme Sillue presented the Linguapax Programme at the IES Blanxart, higher education institute, in Terrassa. On 4th and 5th July, the Linguapax Programme was presented in Bilbao at the gathering of national state schools associated with UNESCO. On 3rd, 17th, 19th and 26th September, Gisa Mohr took part in the Languages Seminar organised by the Education Science Institute, of the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

On 17th July, Marie Amélie Ponce, Miquel Martí and Dolors Reig met with Antoine Ulmo and Fernando Catalan from Edicions PAU, publishing company, to review the agreement conditions in force between the two organisations since 1996, and which gave Edicions PAU the publishing rights to the Linguapax teaching materials.

On 3rd September, the Linguapax Programme was presented at ICE of the University of Barcelona during their meeting which discussed the languages of CEIP of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. This reflection group, of which Dolors Reig and Gisa Mohr are members, was part of the Catalan group of the Centre for Modern Languages of Graz and the Comenius language research project.

On 15th November, the Linguapax Institute and the UNESCO Chair on Languages and Education of the Institute for Catalan Studies, together organised a conference in Barcelona of Jon Sarasua, jongleur and professor at the University of Mondragon, on “A foundation of linguistic diversity: sharing some open thoughts with educators.” Reported in the portal *entitats.info* on 15th November.

In May, the Linguapax Institute put out a brochure explaining the institute’s activities, structure and objectives in three languages: Catalan, English and French.