

Linguapax

The Linguapax Institute is an international non government institution based in Barcelona and acting within the framework of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia. Nevertheless, there are other bodies all over the world who also share in the Linguapax spirit: the UNESCO Centre of the Basque Country, the UNESCO Chair of Linguistic Policy and Language Teaching at the University of Mons-Hainaut (Belgium), the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Tokyo and the UNESCO Chair in Languages and Education of the Institute of Catalan Studies, set up in February this year.

The objectives of the Linguapax Institute are: to promote information and research into linguistic policies; to advise officials responsible for linguistic policies in state or sub-state governments; to further multilingual education and perfect learning methods; to relate multilingual education and the culture of peace; to provide technical assistance to minority linguistic communities; to defend linguistic rights as individual and collective human rights; to facilitate the administration of linguistic diversity in cities with immigrants speaking several languages; to contribute to the presence of multilingualism in cyberspace; to create new mechanisms for collaboration between specialised NGOs. Miquel Siguan is the honorary president of the Linguapax Institute. The Board of Directors is made up as follows: Fèlix Martí, president; Isidor Marí and Dolors Reig, vice-presidents; Marie Amélie Ponce, director; Josep Cru, general secretary; Marc Leprêtre and Miquel Martí. The members of the board of the Linguapax Institute met on 3 April, 23 July and 20 October.

The Management Committee of the Linguapax Institute consists of Susana Cuevas, Denis Cunningham, Lachman M. Khubchandani, Luís Enrique López, Irmela Neu, Joseph Poth, Ignace

Sanwidi, György Szépe, Carles Torner and Jean Jacques Van Vasselaer. The Advisory Committee is made up of Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, as honorary president of the committee, and Serguei A. Arutiunov, Anvita Abbi, Conrad M. B. Brann, Charles Castonguay, Bernard Comrie, Jean-Claude Corbell, François Grin, Regina Jensdóttir, Björn H. Jernudd, Vida Mikhalchenko, Dónall Ó Riagáin, Jerzy Smolicz, Asher Stern and Miquel Strubell.

As chairman of the Linguapax Committee, Fèlix Martí is a member of the Committee of Honour of the Mediterranean Council of Languages of the University of Abou-Bekr Belkaid in Tlemcen (Algeria).

The Linguapax Prizes were awarded on International Mother Language Day. At this year's edition, the prize-winners were Tove Skutnabb Kangas and Aina Moll, two linguists who have stood out in the struggle in favour of the promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingual education. There was information on the Internet portal *entitats info* and *vilaweb.com* on 21 February and in the informative bulletin on the Catalan language *Infozèfir* on 24 February and in the bulletin of the FOCIR for March. The 2004 Linguapax Prizes were convened in October.

The chairman of the Linguapax Institute took part in the conference convened by UNESCO from 10 to 12 March in Paris on the situation of minority languages in danger of extinction. There was ample information in the newspaper *Deia* on 17 March. It was reported in *Tribuna catalana* on 17 March.

During the course of the year the Linguapax Institute prepared the text of eight subjects on linguistic diversity for Enciclopèdia Catalana. Each one is accompanied by a map, for the *Ales de la Diversitat*

CATALAN SCHOOLS TAKING PART IN THE LINGUAPAX PROGRAMME

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, Empordà school in Roses, Matadepera secondary school, Betània-Patmos secondary school in Barcelona, Cristòfol Ferrer secondary school in Premià de Mar, Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia secondary school in Sant Joan Despí, Montserrat school in Barcelona, Piarist school in Mataró, Bellaterra primary school in Cerdanyola del Vallès. The following schools also take part in the Linguapax Programme: Manuel Vidal Portela primary school in Pontevedra, Artxandape school in Bilbao, Camargo adults' school in Cantabria, Alixar secondary school in Castilleja de la Cuesta. Pupils from the Catalan primary schools working with the Linguapax Programme met in Barcelona on 14 February. Pupils from the Catalan secondary schools working with the Linguapax Programme met in Barcelona on 7 March.

which Enciclopèdia Catalana plans to publish during the first half of 2004.

The UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and the Linguapax Institute are two of the organisations promoting the constitution of the Catalan Language Observatory, promoted by the CIEMEN. This is an authoritative organisation applying serious academic criteria and acting as a technical reference in the defence of the Catalan language in the framework of national, state and international legislation. The bodies initially belonging to the Language Observatory are Òmnium Cultural, Valencian Cultural Action, Balearic Cultural Foundation, UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, Linguapax Institute, Committee for the Monitoring of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Platform for the Language, Congress of Catalan Culture Foundation and Jaume I Centre in Perpignan. In October the Barcelona College of Lawyers joined. The Institute of Catalan Studies supports the project. The official signing and constitution of the organisation took place on 14 May at the premises of the Institute of Catalan Studies. Raimon Ribera signed on behalf of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and Fèlix Martí signed on behalf of the Linguapax Institute. Fèlix Martí and Marie Amélie Ponce attended the meetings on behalf of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and Josep Cru attended on behalf of Linguapax. The meetings of the promoting organi-

sations took place on 10 January, 17 February and 8 April. On 14 May there was a public presentation in Barcelona of the Language Observatory. There was information on the portal *entitats.info* on 12 and 14 May and in the newspaper *Avui* on 12 May. One of this organisation's first acts was to draw up a report on the presence of Catalan in the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. On 5 June a committee of experts was formed to prepare the document. The committee was made up of Jaume Vernet, Santi Castellà, Antoni Mirambell, Teresa Cabré, Isidor Marí, Miquel Strubell, Joan Martí, Antoni Milian, Miquel Pueyo, Bartomeu Colom, Biel Bibiloni, Xavier Vila, Manuel Alcaraz, Joan Ramon Soler, Xavier Lamuela, Albert Branchadell, Francesc Vallverdú and Emili Boix. The meetings of the board of the Observatory were held on 29 May, 22 September, 3 November and 15 December. On 16 May the Language Observatory organised a workshop in Barcelona on the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. In September the Language Observatory published a report addressed to the Council of Europe denouncing the stifling of the Catalan language by the monolingual pressure from Castilian. There was ample coverage in the newspaper *Avui* on 26 September, information on the TV3 news programmes on 26 September and it was also reported on the portal *tribuna catalana.org* on 29 September.

A WORLD STUDY OF LANGUAGES

The World Study of Languages has its beginnings in the International Linguapax Seminar on Linguistic Policies held in Leioa (Basque Country) in 1996, at which the Director General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, pointed out the need for research into the situation of the world's languages. The UNESCO General Conference in 1996 approved the project. The Basque Government signed a memorandum for agreement with UNESCO in July 1997 and undertook to finance the project. The object of the study is to make known the state of the languages of the world, showing the planet's linguistic wealth and explaining the problems affecting languages in various parts of the world. At the same time, the study makes a point of promoting awareness of the linguistic heritage, drawing attention to the evolution of this heritage and recommending measures to protect living languages.

On 17 October, Fèlix Martí, along with Itziar Idiabal of UNESCO Etxea, took part in Paris in a meeting with John Daniel, Assistant Director General for Education, Milagros del Corral, Deputy Assistant Director General for Culture, M. Longworth, Director of the Information Society Division, and Mary Joy Pigozzi, Director of the Division for the Promotion of Quality Education. During the course of the meeting, UNESCO confirmed that it would take charge of the publication of the study in four linguistic versions.

DIALOGUE ON LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND PEACE

The Linguapax Institute began the preparation of one of the 45 Dialogues of the Universal Forum of Cultures Barcelona 2004: 'Linguistic diversity, sustainability and peace'. It is foreseen that this dialogue will take place from 20 to 23 May 2004, and at the same time is 'Linguapax X', the tenth international meeting of experts promoted by Linguapax. This is the list of previous meetings: Linguapax I, Kiev, Ukraine, 1988; Linguapax II, Sitges, 1988; Linguapax III, Saärbrucken, Germany, 1990; Linguapax IV, Barcelona, 1994; Linguapax V, Melbourne, Australia, 1995; Linguapax VI, Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, 1999; Linguapax VII, Cochabamba, Bolivia, 1999; Linguapax VIII, Kiev, Ukraine, 2000; Linguapax IX, Barcelona, 2002.

An organising committee was set up composed of the following people: Aureli Argemí, Andoni Barreña, Susana Cuevas, Denis Cunningham, Ernest Querol, Lachman Khubchandani, Luis Enrique López, Isidor Mari, Fèlix Martí, Juan Carlos Moreno, Irmela Neu, Miquel Siguan, Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselar and a representative of the Forum Barcelona 2004. The technical secretariat is made up of Josep Cru and Amélie Ponce. Fèlix Martí is director of the dialogue.

Josep Cru presented the dialogue at the public event which, under the name of 'The agora: a step forward', was organised in Barcelona by the Forum Barcelona 2004.

The Linguapax 6 seminar, officially recognised as a teacher training course by the Department of Education of the Generalitat de Catalunya, is directed at teachers of the Catalan schools applying the Linguapax Programme and is intended to improve teaching practise in the fields of foreign languages and social sciences, provide new understanding of the teaching units of the Linguapax Programme, and integrate the programme activities in the transverse axis 'Education for peace'. Dolors Reig and Miquel Martí coordinated the seminar. The sessions were held on 18 January at the home of the Institute of Catalan Studies, on 10 May in Girona, on 9 September at the premises of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and on 24 and 25 October at the home of the Institute of Catalan Studies.

The Centre publishes the *Butlletí Linguapax Catalunya*, which reports on the activity of the Catalan schools taking part in the Linguapax programme. Number 7 was published in February, number 8 was published in June. A review of number 7 appeared in the magazine *Cuadernos de Pedagogía* number 235, in June.

Amélie Ponce and Josep Cru prepared the teaching sheet *Linguistic diversity in the world*, in the framework of the production of teaching material for

multilingual education and with the objective of making known linguistic diversity. This sheet has been available since June in pdf format from the Linguapax Institute website.

On 7 February Amparo Vázquez directed three Linguapax workshops at the Virolai school in Barcelona.

On 8 July Miquel Martí presented the Linguapax programme at the Rosa Sensat summer school.

The Linguapax Institute supported the document 'Enough is enough: manifesto for fair and reasonable treatment', promoted by Catalonia Open Enterprise and Òmnium Cultural, on Catalonia's fiscal deficit and the economic situation in Catalonia, which was made public on 26 October.

On 24 October, in collaboration with the Institute of Catalan Studies, the Linguapax Institute organised a talk by Isidor Marí on linguistic diversity, which served to present the material for the exhibition 'Languages, endangered universes: teaching resources', especially directed at teachers working on linguistic diversity in the classroom. The event took place in Barcelona, at the home of the Institute of Catalan Studies.