

LINEE News

8th Issue – July 2010

LINEE Activities During Its Last Phase

LINEE has reached its last phase: at the end of October, the project's contract with the European Commission comes to an end. During this last phase, LINEE carries out a number of activities to make best use of the work already done and set the basis for a continuation of LINEE.

New projects

In April, LINEE started three pilot research projects (see page 2). They investigate topics that cross the boundaries of LINEE's thematic areas and levels of analysis. One of their goals is to show their potential and possibilities for further development and receiving new funds.

Working on LINEE's future

A group of researchers is working on plans to make LINEE continue after the end of funding by FP6. Most likely, the Training Institutes of LINEE will be one part of LINEE's future. During the Training Institutes, doctoral students present their research to each other, they attend lectures

given by renowned researchers and they receive training and coaching by these researchers. One such Training Institute has taken place in Prague in June (see page 3). As feedback to this event has been again very positive, the team from the LINEE partner in Prague plans to host such Training Institutes also in future.

Disseminating the results

Apart from engaging in dissemination of results and the new projects, researchers are busy presenting the results of LINEE's work in journals and at conferences (see page 3), among others at the Sociolinguistics Symposium 18 in Southampton (1–4 April 2010).

Stakeholders' meeting in Brussels

Finally, LINEE is organizing a stakeholders' meeting in Brussels (see below). Members of LINEE will present and discuss policy-relevant results to policy-makers, representatives of interest groups and journalists.

Stakeholders' Meeting in Brussels, 23 September

On 23 September, LINEE will present its policy-relevant results to stakeholders in Brussels. Representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, associations and research institutions have already registered for this event.

The presentation in Brussels will cover policy-relevant aspects of multilingualism at school, language equality, language and migration, and the role of English in Europe. The goal is that LINEE communicates its knowledge and opinions to stakeholders and also learns from the stakeholders who attend the meeting.

The current guest list looks already interesting: a number of members of the

European Parliament, members of the European Commission and representatives of associations such as the European Association of Teachers.

Participation is free but registration is required. Further stakeholders can register or request the information pack on-line via <http://www.linee.info/research-brief.htm>, or direct questions to linee@isw.unibe.ch.

The day after the stakeholder meeting, LINEE will hold its final meeting to discuss the work done during the last phase of the project and to discuss the further development of LINEE.

► www.linee.info/research-brief.htm

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Languages In a Network of European Excellence

LINEE Tackles Cross-Cutting Topics

In April, LINEE launched three pilot research projects. They investigate the use of English within LINEE, the multilingual workplace and the value of multilingualism for migrants.

The topics investigated by the pilot research projects cross the thematic areas and levels of analysis by which LINEE framed its research activities. The projects build on data that members of LINEE have already collected. Among others, the projects are expected to show their potential to be further developed (and funded) after the end of LINEE in October. All projects have been designed and are led by junior researchers.

Use of English in LINEE

The project led by Alessia Cogo (University of Southampton) investigates the use of English in a knowledge-based society, taking LINEE as a case study. As the members of LINEE have different mother tongues, they had to find a way to communicate in a language other than their mother tongue. The choice was often English. But in which situations was it used? For which purpose? Are there other languages used as a common means for communication? How are the multiple languages present in LINEE managed? And how do the members of LINEE perceive and evaluate the language use within LINEE? These are some of the questions that this project is going to address.

Experiences of migrants

The project led by Dick Vigers (University of Southampton) is investigating how migrants perceive their situation as regards language, integration and citizenship, what their goals are, and how their goals might diverge from



At the workplace: one LINEE project further investigates multilingualism in connection with the workplace.

those expressed in integration policies, particularly in those regarding language competence.

Further questions are how the goals of migrants influence their language learning, how attitudes of the receiving community towards multilingualism influence the attitudes of migrants, and at which point civic participation becomes possible and desirable for the migrants, and how far this is facilitated by multilingualism.

Languages and the workplace

The project led by Oliver Engelhardt (Charles University Prague) concentrates on the workplace. It investigates how the presence of or demand for

multiple languages at the workplace is managed by organizations (e.g. companies or schools) and employees (e.g. migrants). Furthermore, it investigates how the presence of multiple languages at the workplace is anticipated in educational systems.

The results of the three projects will be presented to the members of LINEE in September.

The projects will also explore their possibilities of continuation after the end of LINEE's contract with the European Commission, for example by starting a new project to be supported by national or European funds, or by continuing the projects within a successor organization of LINEE.

Second Training Institute in Prague

Fourteen doctoral students have attended the LINEE Training Institute in Prague to meet and learn from renowned researchers and to present and discuss their work.

The Organizing Committee of the Charles University in Prague managed to attract Alexandre Duchêne, Joseph Lo Bianco, Melissa G. Moyer, and Dick Vigers (from LINEE) as resource persons for the Training Institute. During four days, they gave lectures and led seminars and workshops. In addition, each of them was available for individual consultation during a time slot reserved for this purpose. The relatively small group size of fourteen participants allowed for a lot of individual discussions.

International collaboration

The presence of these experts was not only useful for the doctoral students, it

was also valuable for the LINEE team who organized the Training Institute. They could share their knowledge and discuss their work. Several contacts between researchers continue to be active.

The doctoral students themselves could establish contacts across countries as well: they came from eight universities in six countries.

Knowing others' research

During poster sessions on the first two days of the Training Institute, the doctoral students presented posters on their research to the other participants. Both the students and the organizing committee found it useful to see what their colleagues were working on.

And because the posters already answered small-talk questions like “where are you from?” and “what are you working on?”, informal conversations among the participants could advance quickly to more material questions.

A further part of the Training Institute was an excursion to the city hall in Prague. There, representatives of media for Romani minorities presented their views of the situation of the Romani minority in the Czech Republic.

Researchers from Prague, Pavel Kubaník, Helena Sadílková and Ondřej Klípa (member of the Secretariat of the Council of the Government for National Minorities), had prepared the students for this excursion by lectures on minorities in the Czech Republic in general and on the Romani minority in particular.

To be continued

The experience and feedback from the previous Training Institutes encouraged the team from the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of the Charles University to continue the Training Institutes in future. As they now have twice successfully organized a Training Institute, they also have the experience to do this efficiently.

LINEE at Conferences

Members of LINEE present their work at a number of conferences. LINEE is especially well represented at the SS18 (Sociolinguistics Symposium 18) in Southampton.

Upcoming conferences:

- 11th EASA Biennial Conference, European Association of Social Anthropologists (Maynooth, Ireland,

24–27 August 2010)

- 20th Annual Conference of the European Second Language Association (Reggio Emilia, Italy, 1–4 September 2010)
- Sociolinguistics Symposium 18, SS18 (Southampton, England, 1–4 September)
- 10th CADAAD Conference: Ideology, identity and interaction (Łódź,

Poland, 13–15 September)

- 20th IATEFL-Hungary Conference (Zánka, Hungary, 8–10 October 2010)
- Multilingual Individuals and Multilingual Societies (Hamburg, Germany, 6–8 October 2010)
- Dialog der Kulturen, Kultur des Dialogs (Kostroma, Russia, 6–10 December 2010)

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