5th International Conference on Early Language Learning and Multilingual Education in Early Childhood (ELLME'27)

16-17 September 2027
University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia

Languages are much more than tools for communication: they carry identities, histories, values, and ways of understanding the world. Recognising and valuing linguistic diversity from the earliest years of life can help nurture openness towards others, challenge prejudice, and foster empathy, respect, and a sense of belonging. When children are encouraged to value their own languages and those of others, linguistic diversity can become a shared resource rather than a source of division. Families, educators, schools, and communities all play a vital role in creating environments in which every child's linguistic identity is respected and communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries is encouraged.

The Faculty of Education of the University of Primorska, Slovenia, in cooperation with ELLMEnet (Early Language Learning and Multilingual Education Network: https://www.ellmenet.com/ELLME24) are proud to welcome scholars and professionals in early language and multilingual education from all over the world to contribute to our 5th International Conference. Researchers, PhD students, policy-makers, educators, and practitioners are invited to share theoretical, empirical, and pedagogical contributions that explore how linguistic diversity can be recognised, nurtured, and developed in early childhood, and how multilingual education can help foster mutual understanding, respect for difference, and peaceful coexistence.

Possible topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Early language learning
2. Early bi-/multilingual education
3. Multilingual acquisition and development
4. Language, identity, and belonging
5. Multilingual families and communities
6. Linguistic diversity and peaceful coexistence
7. Inclusive multilingual classroom practices
8. Research on early multilingualism
9. Teacher education for multilingualism
10. Multilingual policies and linguistic rights in early childhood

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



prof. Claudine Kirsch
University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg



prof. Karmen Pižorn
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia



dr. Marjan Asgari
Free University of Bolzano, Italy



prof. Hadrian Aleksander Lankiewicz
University of Gdansk, Poland

IMPORTANT DATES

- Call for papers (CFP) opens **5 November 2026**
- CFP closes **5 January 2027**
- Notification of acceptance by **1 March 2027**
- Early bird registration: **10 April–15 May 2027**
- Late bird registration: **15 May 2027–15 July 2027**
- Provisional programme available **20 July 2027**

LANGUAGE

The language of the conference is English, but sessions can also be in Slovenian or Italian.

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TYPES OF SPEAKERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

As a speaker you can present **up to two contributions** of the following modalities:

- **Presentations**: 15-min communication + 5 min discussion
- **Workshops:** 60-min workshop with a hands-on approach either research- or pedagogy-oriented.
- **Self-organised symposium**: including 3-4 different communications around a topic in a 60-min slot with at least 10 minutes for discussion after participants' presentations. Papers are selected by the chair of the symposium.
- **Poster**: research-oriented poster presentations.

**Please note that the certificate of participation will only be awarded to registered authors.*

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- Submit you **abstract** (200-250 words) here: https://forms.gle/Z2DwW15mzWPcZgibA
- **DEADLINE** for submission: 5 January 2027
- Please note that you need to **copy and paste** in the online form as no document can be attached.
- **The corresponding author** sends the abstract on behalf of all authors. However, the full name of all the other authors also needs to be included in the online form.
- All abstracts will undergo **a blind peer-review** by the conference scientific committee.
- **Acceptance notification** will be sent to authors by 1 March 2027.

POST CONFERENCE PUBLICATION OPTIONS

A post-conference thematic volume will also be published. In addition, selected papers will be published in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal, indexed in Scopus.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns:
silva.bratoz@upr.si, ellmenetwork@gmail.com

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Conference Chair

Silva Bratož