

Editorial : Is citizenship a vanished value ?

Is citizenship a vanished value ?

Some values seem to be vanishing or already vanished.

The powers of the State are challenged from all sides by globalisation, thus leading to the decline of the nation.

Solidarity is frayed by the exacerbation of economic competition.

Growth generates inequalities, it is then believed that inequalities generate growth.

Free market ideologues believe that the market will replace democracy which is considered archaic.

There are no longer public services but goods and services.

There are no longer users, there are clients ; no longer citizens, there are consumers.

There is no culture any more, there are impulses ; no more history but serials ; no longer languages but a *lingua franca*.

We hardly dare speak about freedom, the idea seems hollow.

Nation, solidarity, equality, fraternity, democracy, republic, citizenship, culture, history, right to speak and to understand and freedom are nothing but obsolete ideas in a fast-changing world shaped by technology.

Then a criminal and barbaric act sets things straight. They thought that democracy was collapsing, that French society was disintegrating and that it was the place to attack. And they attacked, after New York, London, Madrid, Brussels, Peshawar...

But the people do not take the same view. Within 48 hours, they sent a clear message to the authorities. And the authorities did what they had to do to meet strong and urgent expectations.

On 11 January, in Paris and all over France, from the big cities to the smallest communes, the entire people woke up and sent a clear message.

We were being forced to our knees and we are now standing.

If we did not know what the word *citizen* means, we know it now : *being a citizen* means being responsible.

But we must be responsible together.

Those who were speculating on the disappearance of France have been proved wrong. Thus the nation has a meaning.

We cannot get together if we intolerant of differences. Therefore equality is meaningful.

We cannot get together if we reject others. Therefore fraternity is meaningful.

We cannot get together without acknowledging others. Therefore diversity is meaningful.

We cannot get together without respecting others. Therefore secularism is meaningful....->

Editing and writing : Christian Tremblay, Anne Bui

La Lettre de l'OEP is translated by volunteers in allemand, anglais, bulgare, croate, espagnol, grec, italien, polonais, portugais, roumain et russe. The texts can be read on-line. Thanks to the translators. You can add other languages. Contact us.

[Click here](#) to read the former Newsletters

In this issue

- Édito : Is citizenship a vanished value ?
- Édito : Is citizenship a vanished value ?
- The ENA is turning all-English
- Recent articles not to be missed
- Announcements and publications

-> We get together because we have things to share. Therefore democracy is meaningful.

But the French were not alone. Hardly anybody said "It happened in France, we are not concerned". In many cities in Europe, America, Africa and Asia, citizens felt concerned and expressed not only their rejection of terrorism but also their commitment to common values.

An attack against a symbol of freedom of thought and expression, against critical mind, humour, satire and laughter, against intelligence and freedom, with which one may disagree, is monstrous and this is what happened.

We are moved by the number of victims this week but during the same week in Nigeria, 2,000 civilians died following the attacks of the Boko Haram group....->

-> But the world does not react. Hardly a short communiqué on the radio and television. Terror killings in Nigeria and in Paris a bloodshed and an attack on a symbol : freedom of expression and secularism.

European and French-speaking solidarity is strongest because there is a common culture, this “intangible thing” Umberto Eco speaks about, that we are conscious of when we are out of it. 2,000 years of common life in Europe are significant.

Being a citizen means being responsible, but what of ?

Responsible for oneself.

Responsible for one’s family.

Responsible for one’s country.

Responsible for one’s partners.

Responsible for the world.

The citizen understands the world he lives in.

The citizen knows, at least by collective memory, what war means.

The citizen is educated, thus education is a priority.

But if the citizen rather often knows what he wants, he does not necessarily have the solution.

The occasions on which the people make their will heard are not many. These are exceptional circumstances and their repetition is not to be wished. The usual means is the vote whose interpretation is not always easy and which is often organised to silence the people. The exercise of democracy is a difficult art, so numerous are the attempts at appropriation and diversion.

What we are going to say applies to all the peoples in Europe and the world.

The Frenchman is first of all a French citizen because France is the place where he lives. But France having united her fate with her European neighbours, he is also a European citizen, as are all the citizens of the countries of the European Union, in three ways :

- by his vote for the election of the European Parliament in as much as his vote can and should enable him to have an influence over the decisions taken at the European level.

...->

->- by his government that represents him at the European level.

- by his vote when he resides in another European country and takes part in the local elections.

But to exercise citizenship fully, a right should be guaranteed, a right which should be fundamental : the right to understand.

So long as citizenship is only national, the right to understand is but the Swedish KLARSPRÅK we were discussing in the Letter n° 56 which is a serious matter. But as soon as important decisions are taken at a European and global level, this right to understand should be exercised fully. It must be organised. This right to understand is called plurilingualism which includes translation and interpretation.

Albert Camus is said to have written (*"Sur une philosophie de l'expression"*, 1944, published in *"Poésie 44"*) that “misnaming things adds to the misfortunes of the world”.

Our hope here is that in every language of the world could be understood the words “nation”, “freedom”, “equality”, “fraternity”, “solidarity”, “democracy”, “citizenship”, “culture”, “history”, “republic” and finally “secularism”, a word that is simply unknown in many languages, in the light of historical experiences, shared or not.



The National School of Administration (ENA) is turning all-English

A major reform in hiding : all languages but English excluded from the ENA competitive examination.

Some reforms involving huge consequences are decided by cabinet ministers.

Thus the minister of Public Service, by an order of 16 April 2014 updating the details of the entry competitive examination of the National School of Administration (ENA), decided to exclude from the examination all foreign languages but English. This is a huge negative evolution, not only for all the foreign languages in which the candidates could compete, but also for English itself. The best proof is that the CFPP (Training centre of the Ministry of Finance), who prepares for this examination, stopped the preparations for the language test, including the English one. When the level of ambition is lowered, the level of proficiency is lowered too.

The OEP and the APLV (Association of language teachers) feeling concerned about this asked the minister to withdraw these provisions.

The minister refused to do so, arguing that English is essential and that, according to the school's rules of procedure, two languages are compulsory there.

Therefore an appeal has been lodged with the Conseil d'Etat¹, based on two grounds for illegality :

- The order of 16 April 2014 is inconsistent with Article L-121-3 of the code of education that states that "Mastery of the French language and knowledge of two other languages are part of the fundamental objectives of education."

- It is also inconsistent with the Franco-German Treaty of 1963, also said the "Elysée Treaty".

...->

-> This reform of the ENA competitive examination tends to impose to the French public service as a whole an all-English model. This policy is not only illegal but also contrary to the European commitments of the French government and to its orientations concerning the French language.

Applying the principles of the Barcelona European Council of 2002 to the public services of European countries would mean that knowledge of at least two European languages would be compulsory for any public servant. The order of 16 April 2014 does exactly the opposite.



1) The appeal has been lodged by the OEP, the ADEAF (Association for the Development of the teaching of German in France), the AFEA (French Association for American Studies), the AGES (Association of Germanists in High Education), the ALF (Future of the French Language), the ASSELAF (Association for the Safeguard and Expansion of the French Language), the CLEC (Literary Circle of Railwaymen Writers), the ICEG (Institute for Culture, Economics and Geopolitics), the SHF (Society of Hispanists in High Education), the SIES (Society of Italianists in High Education), the SLNL (Society of Neo-Latin Languages). This group is strictly limited to this appeal and implies no allegiance whatsoever.

Articles not to be missed

[Keep in mind that we need your support. Click here!](#)

[Saarland will soon be bilingual !](#)

By 2043 German and French will be spoken in Saarland. This is the goal set by the coalition CDU-SPD which governs this small German Land located at the border with Lorraine and Luxembourg, occupied by France during the two world wars. [As announced by the minister-president of Saarland, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer](#) (CDU), quoted by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung... [Read the article](#)



[Agree or disagree?: "there is no language instinct](#)

For decades, under the influence off the US linguist and philosopher Noam Chomsky, the idea of a language instinct has dominated linguistics. It is simple, powerful and completely wrong.

[Read the article](#)

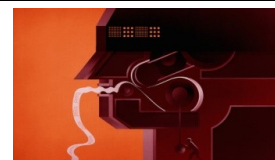


Illustration by Matt Murphy

[La posición de un idioma en la red global influye en el éxito personal](#)

El lugar del español en las redes lingüísticas globales hace que sus hablantes y contenidos culturales se vean mucho más que la propia riqueza del país. Así lo han demostrado varios investigadores de Francia y Estados Unidos tras analizar tres redes como Twitter, Wikipedia y libros traducidos en varios idiomas.

Alba Loredo - Redacción Mastermas - 17/12/2014

[Seguir leyendo... >>>>>](#)

[EU grant for a strategic partnership concerning the training of literary translators](#)

Source : European Council of Literary Translators' Associations

22-10-2014 – [CEATL News](#) | [Europe](#)

In Utrecht on 16 and 17 October, organisations of six European countries have initiated a program for the creation of a framework for the education and training of literary translators. It was the first time that European professors were meeting to discuss the knowledge and skills necessary to a literary translator. [Read more...](#)

[How music class can spark language development \(MedicalPress.com\)](#)

Steinway & Sons Grand Piano Iron Plates and Strings. Credit: David Maiolo / Wikipedia.

Music training has well-known benefits for the developing brain, especially for at-risk children. But youngsters who sit passively in a music class may be missing out, according to new Northwestern University research.




In a study designed to test whether the level of engagement matters, researchers found that children who regularly attended **music** classes and actively participated showed larger improvements in how the **brain** processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers after two years.

[Read more](#)

[Translating war and transmitting the unspeakable, by Florence Hartmann](#)

Florence Hartmann, spokeswoman of the International Criminal Courts for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda opened the 31st session of the Assises de la traduction littéraire in Arles.

News, Monday 10 November 2014 : The 31st session of the Assises de la traduction littéraire started on Friday 7 November in Arles by a conference of Florence Hartmann, international reporter and spokeswoman of the International Criminal Courts for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. How make a war real ? How

<p>to collect the words of the victims ? Of the torturers ? How “translate the reality without deactivating the words ? Read more...</p>	
<p><u>The science behind language and translation (By Geoff Watts - World Economic Forum)</u> Neuroscientists have explored language for decades and produced scores of studies on multilingual speakers. Yet understanding this process – simultaneous interpretation – is a much bigger scientific challenge. So much goes on in an interpreter’s brain that it’s hard even to know where to start. Recently, however, a handful of enthusiasts have taken up the challenge, and one region of the brain – the caudate nucleus – has already caught their attention.</p>	
<p>Announcements and publications</p> <p><u>Keep in mind that we need your support. Click here!</u></p>	
	<p>Call for contributions – Les Langues Modernes 1-2016 « Translation » - Closing dates for propositions : 15 February 2015</p> <p>Coordinator : Astrid GUILLAUME (MCF (hdr), Université Paris IV Sorbonne)</p> <p>Ancient discipline par excellence, translation has been as much recommended as criticised in language classes and manuals in high schools. Still it is a mediative, cultural and educational practice and it stands at the crossroads between linguistics, civilisation, literature and specialised language. It allows all possible didactic innovations with digital and audiovisual media. It can be used at all levels of the educational system, and in all sorts of programs in higher education. Translation is one of the most efficient means to test the mastery of a source language and a target language. Besides, it is a major issue pour linguistic policies in Europe and for linguistic respect of the member states.</p> <p>Details on the website of the APLV</p>
	<p>In the Belgian and European associative landscape We are welcoming GEM+ « Pour une Gouvernance Européenne Multilingue »</p> <p>Fifty three European citizens of ten countries, living in member states and speaking some fifteen languages, founded on 4 December 2014 in Brussels this association that will work for the promotion of multilingualism in the European institutions and their environment.</p> <p>Read more</p>
	<p><u>DERNIERS JOURS POUR PARTICIPER AUX CONCOURS PÉDAGOGIQUES !</u></p> <p>Vous êtes enseignant au collège ou au lycée ? Vous avez jusqu’au 30 janvier pour vous inscrire au concours des dix mots. Il vous invite à réaliser collectivement une production artistique ou littéraire reposant sur un travail linguistique à partir des dix mots. Si vous êtes enseignant en école élémentaire, inscrivez votre classe avant le 31 janvier au concours de l’imagier des dix mots ! Ce concours vise à favoriser l’appropriation des mots et le travail sur la langue française et à encourager la créativité des élèves.</p> <p>PARTICIPEZ À LA PREMIÈRE PHASE DU CONCOURS DES DÉFINITIONS JUSQU’AU 24 JANVIER SUR FACEBOOK !</p> <p>Inventez de nouvelles définitions pour un ou plusieurs des dix mots. Elles seront poétiques, humoristiques, voire loufoques... avec une seule contrainte : pas plus de 140 caractères ! À vos idées ! Et du 3 au 15 février, votez pour vos définitions favorites ! Résultats le 18 février.</p>

	<p align="center">The first House of Language in France created in Ile de France ! “Speaking, reading and writing are essential for all of us”</p>
	<p><u>Langue et cultures françaises et francophones</u> est le magazine de FLE à destination des apprenants et des enseignants ! Découvrez et téléchargez le magazine LCF sur le site internet http://www.lcf-magazine.com Chez LCF, l'année débute avec un numéro dédié aux clichés sur les Français mais aussi sur les francophones ! <i>Les Français font tout le temps la grève ; les Canadiens sont polis et courtois ; les Africains ont le rythme dans la peau...</i> Dans ce numéro 25, <u>LCFF</u> aide à démêler le vrai du faux !</p>
	<p align="center">Constraints and freedom in languages An tribute to the linguist Christos Clairis</p> <p>This publication follows the international conference organised in Istanbul in July 2012 as a tribute to <u>Professor Christos Clairis</u>, titled CONSTRAINTS AND FREEDOM IN LANGUAGES... AND IN THE WIDER WORLD This volume gathers the tokens of friendship and scientific contributions that made this event so friendly and stimulating. This is a subscription for this volume at the price of 23 euros Orders and payments with Françoise Guérin (Summary of the book and order form)</p>
	<p align="center"><u>In Paris, a museum to discover the languages of the world</u></p> <p>The language plays a central role in our lives, even in our dreams. The 170m²-wide permanent exhibition MUNDOLINGUA invites you to discover the secrets of language during an unusual visit with many different themes. 10 rue Servandoni – 75006 Paris - tél. +33 (0)1 56 81 65 79 http://www.mundolingua.org/ - contact@mundolingua.org Ouvert tous les jours de 10h – 19h</p>
	<p align="center">Politiques européennes des langues et priorités nationales (Séminaire annuel du CELV)</p> <p>Le séminaire annuel du Centre européen pour les langues vivantes (CELV) du Conseil de l'Europe, "Politiques européennes des langues et priorités nationales", aura lieu cette année les 12 et 13 février au Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP) à Sèvres. Il est ouvert aux inspecteurs, DAREIC, enseignants des ESPE, enseignants de langues et de lettres et chercheurs. Les experts français ayant déjà participé aux travaux du CELV sont cordialement invités, de même que toute personne intéressée par le CELV. Une place importante sera faite à l'appel à manifestations d'intérêt du CELV pour 2016-2019 que vous pouvez d'ores et déjà consulter sur http://call.ecml.at.</p>
	<p align="center">Call to contributions – 43rd Congress of UPLEGESS EM Strasbourg Business School - 27-30 May 2015</p> <p>Is Europe a myth or a reality, a historical necessity or a political utopia, a completed whole or an evolutive construction ? Whatever the standing point, it is obvious that linguistic diversity always was an important part of the European history, and even, according to some, the main vehicle of modernity that was stimulated at the end of the Middle Ages by the emancipation of popular languages from the lingua franca of the political and religious elite. 15 February 2015 : Closing date for the reception of propositions 15 March 2015 : Answers from the scientific committee</p>

	<p>15 April 2015 : Closing date for the reception of documents for the Acts 27/30 May 2015 : 43rd congress UPLEGESS at EM Strasbourg Business School To learn more : UPLGESS website</p>
	<p>A new model of international school : Eurécole It is not exactly a new school, as this school opened almost twenty years ago in the 16th arrondissement of Paris. The idea was that after the fall of the Berlin wall and the announced extension of the European Union, it was urgent to take the matter of languages seriously but without limiting the teaching to English only, contrary to what has been done during the same period in many European countries and particularly in France where the linguistic offer has been limited to English. Besides, when there is a linguistic ambition it must be backed with financial means while respecting the national programs. Lire la suite</p>
	<p>Records of linguistic rights – 2014 Most texts written about linguistic rights in Canada have been published in different places. It seemed essential to gather in the same place all this information published about linguistic rights. <i>The Records of Linguistic Rights (Les annales de droits linguistiques)</i> are therefore published every year and list the court rulings, the books, the articles in periodicals and the law changes concerning linguistic rights in Canada. Read and download</p>
	<p>I quaderni <i>Traduzionetradizione</i> – diretti da Claudia Azzola – sono dedicati alla traduzione di Autori europei. Ogni testo poetico presenta una o più versioni linguistiche con testo a fronte. I quaderni sono reperibili presso librerie, biblioteche, istituti universitari e sono presentati a festival ed eventi letterari in Italia e in Europa. <i>In questo numero scritti, traduzioni, interventi di</i> <i>In this issue writings, translations by</i> Antonio Gamoneda, Carlo Gazzelli, Valeria Correa Fiz, Richard Berengarten, Paschalis Nikolaou, Claudia Azzola, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Maria Cristina Vino, Cédric Demangeot, Gilberto Isella David Greenslade, Mostra tutto...</p>

[Keep in mind that we need your support. Click here!](#)