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RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR LINGUISTICS

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**RESEARCH CENTRE FOR
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Research Institute for
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**TÖBBNYELVŰSÉGI
KUTATÓKÖZPONT
MTA Nyelvtudományi Intézet**



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The Research Centre for Multilingualism was established in 2008, grounded on the achievements of the research activity of twenty years. The researchers working for the Centre have coordinated several national, regional and EU projects, organized various regional and international conferences (e.g. ICML XI).

A significant experience of the Centre is the coordination of the DILING (Dimensions of Linguistic Otherness: Prospects of Maintenance and Revitalization of Minority Languages) FP6 project that came to an end in 2008.

Without striving for completeness, it is important to highlight some of the main achievements of the Centre since its establishment:

Within the confines of the Language Rich Europe project, co-financed by the European Commission, the European Multilingualism Index has reached completion and the chapter summarizing the Hungarian achievements has been published by the Cambridge University Press.

The continually broadening first Hungarian *Deaf Identity Database* has been established in the *Identity* project, jointly with SINOSZ (Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing).

As the synthesis of the findings of the sociolinguistic research conducted among the Romanians living in Hungary and the comparative study carried out in the six bilingual communities of Hungary, the “sustainable model for bilingualism” has been developed.

A sociolinguistic and neurolinguistic research has been undertaken on the correlations of

different types of dementia and language, predominantly in terms of bilingualism.

In cooperation with the British Council Hungary and the Cultural Committee of the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, the Centre held a workshop titled *Possibilities and limitations of the cultural and linguistic diversity in the Carpathian Basin*.

The Centre has successfully proposed for the bilateral mobility tender of the HAS with the *Sociocultural aspects of linguistic variation in the Estonian and Hungarian language area*. It collaborates with the researchers of the Estonian Academy of Sciences’ Institute of the Estonian Language, the University of Tartu and the Eötvös Loránd University.

Enhancing the future professional partnerships, highlighting the situation-specific peculiarities of the eastern region, it organised an international conference professionally managed by Csilla Bartha and Petteri Laihonon titled *Theory and Practice of Linguistic Landscape research on East-Central European Minorities* the bilingual website of which is active and expands with further materials (www.nytud.hu/nyelvitajkep/en/index.html).

The Centre has won a significant TÁMOP grant to help the implementation of the Act CXXV of 2009 on Hungarian Sign Language and the Use of Hungarian Sign Language with emphasis on the regulations of the acquisition of sign language and the education of hearing impaired children. It is titled: *SIGNificant Chance: Theoretical and practical steps of the standardisation of Hungarian Sign Language*.

The researchers of the Centre, that has established professional partnerships throughout Europe, also participate in policy activities. The RCM plays a pivotal role in studying Romani and Boyash languages and communities, Deaf communities and sign languages. Its acknowledged presence in EU networks and projects, professional institutions (it is the only Eastern European member of the Mercator Network and EU platforms and has close connection with the professional bodies of the European Parliament) and its philosophy and practice that build on the societal utilization of research results suggest that the Centre will play a major role in coordination and advocacy in matters such as linguistic diversity, minority rights protection, multilingual education and multilingualism in the near future

The Research Centre for Multilingualism conducts basic and applied research in several sub-themes of multilingualism:

- national minorities in Hungary
- Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin
- Deaf communities and sign languages
- Gypsy (Romani and Boyash) communities
- Immigrant communities
- Multilingualism in family, in education, and in society