

## ADVANCES IN INTERDISCIPLINARY LANGUAGE POLICY

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# Book presentation

*Budapest, Andrásy-Universität*

*Wednesday 15 June 2022, 6.30 pm*

## Address by Prof. François Grin

*Director, Observatoire Économie-Langues- Formation (ÉLF),  
University of Geneva & Coordinator, MIME Project*

Good evening, bonsoir, jó estét,

I'm very sorry not to be able to be with you tonight in Budapest. But we are going through chaotic times, and what used to be simple, hassle-free travel has become somewhat unpredictable.

But what's important is that *you* are there, and I'd like to thank you for attending this reception, which marks the opening of an important scientific conference, but also the official launch of a book that came out four months ago; however, today is the first chance we get to celebrate this happy moment.

This book is the result of a joint effort – namely, the joint effort of 25 research teams bringing together, in the MIME project, some fifty authors from sixteen countries across Europe. MIME, which stands for “Mobility and Inclusion in Multilingual Europe”, was a substantial research project funded by the European Commission and

its 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research and development, and it has been first of all a wonderful experience of European cooperation.

As a citizen of Switzerland, a non-member state, I would like to emphasize one thing that the MIME project has made very clear to me, that is, just how *indispensable* Europe is. I think this is a notion worth repeating at a time of war and geopolitical tension: the indispensableness of Europe, and these days, I often wonder where we would all be without it.

But this book is also a unique scientific adventure. It is unique in the sense that it has brought together researchers from twelve academic disciplines. We have all approached language issues with the questions, tools and methods of our respective canonic disciplines, but we have combined them into a coherent, consistent perspective on the challenges of multilingualism. The resulting book, *Advances in Interdisciplinary Language Policy*, is therefore – to my knowledge at least – the most interdisciplinary book on language policy ever published.

This, again, is the result of a joint effort, and I'd like to thank:

- my co-editors, Prof. László Marácz in Amsterdam and Prof. Nike Pokorn in Ljubljana, who can't be with us today;
- all the team leaders of the MIME project (which includes two of the organizers of the conference starting today, Prof. Bengt-Arne Wickström and Prof. Balázs Vizi);
- the researchers who were part of their teams, and who are also co-authors of chapters of this volume;
- the colleagues who acted as external referees for the 26 chapters of the book.

The coordination of the book was carried out in Geneva, more specifically at the *Observatoire Économie-Langues-Formation* (ÉLF), which is proud to contribute to tonight's reception. Although I cannot be present in person to represent the *Observatoire*, it is nevertheless represented through the presence in Budapest of Prof. Michele Gazzola, who is an associate fellow of the *Observatoire*.

In closing, I'd like to express my thanks to the organizers of the conference, in particular Prof. Bengt-Arne Wickström, for making the practical arrangements for this reception and for enabling me to address you from a distance of about 1,000 km.

I'll see you tomorrow afternoon on-line again to deliver a joint presentation with another colleague from the *Observatoire ÉLF*, but for now, I'd like to wish you all a pleasant evening. So – in French, “santé”, in English, “cheers”, and in Hungarian – trying my best not to mispronounce what I know to be a potentially risky word to utter, *egészségedre!*