

Helsinki Initiative of Multilingual Scholarly Communication

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ABSTRACT

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The Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication was launched in 2017. It is an initiative that values multilingual scholarly communication, science communication and language diversity. The long-term goal of the Helsinki Initiative is to ensure that research results are published in all languages needed across the world for effective communication in academia.

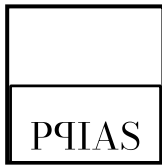
The Helsinki Initiative arose from the joint effort of the COST-Action ENRESS (European Network in the Social Science and the Humanities), Universities Norway, and three Finnish Learned Societies, the Committee for Public Information in Finland and the Finnish Publishing. Signatories from over 70 countries agree that multilingualism in scholarly communication is not just a national or local concern.

Helsinki Initiative has three main goals:

1. to promote multilingual dissemination of research knowledge within and beyond national borders
2. to ensure sustainable open access transition of non-profit scholarly publishers where possible
3. to promote language diversity and multilingualism in research assessment and funding

It is important to communicate research results to international expert audiences in all languages of each discipline. However, if research is communicated exclusively in English, it limits the reach and responsibilities toward society. In addition to international excellence, it hinders Research and Innovation and Open Science. Broad access to scientific knowledge and its use is possible only if research is communicated and used in multiple languages.

Why we need multilingual scientific knowledge



According to statement by the European University Association supporting particularly relevant for Europe, as its research is characterized by geographical application of globally and locally produced knowledge requires critical discussion community familiar with the local conditions and different actors within society need for multilingual communication, not only between researchers, but also citizens.

To cope with grand challenges and to meet sustainable development goals, we communicated in languages and formats suited for the diverse audiences. Especially important part of research is contextualised, creating a need for original research citizens who are affected by this research. It is impossible to imagine that all Finnish or French society, history and culture would be published only in local publishers.

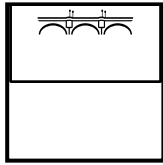
A study of users of open access journals on the Finnish Journal.fi platform showed that case Finnish and Swedish) are vital for reaching important users of research but users participated in the survey, and the two largest groups were students (40% citizens, other experts, teachers, journalists, civil servants, entrepreneurs and people in academia were focused on articles available in Finland's national languages.

Why we need the infrastructure of journals and books in different languages?

The national journals and book publishers across Europe play a vital role in research communities outlets for publishing and critically discussing research in different languages. Peer-reviewed journals and books are published in the local language such as learned societies or research institutions, relying on voluntary work. Professional operations without subscription fees is a real sustainability challenge for the scholarly publishing.

It is of utmost importance that multilingualism for European scholarly publishing implementation and the impact of Open Science policies and practices across Europe. Artificial intelligence technologies are part of the solution for facilitating multilingual communication. The action plan to promote and implement multilingualism needs also to address how to support journals publishing locally relevant research and developing scientific terminology.

Why it is important to address language bias and funding?



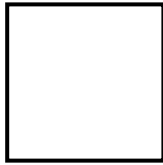
Ideally, language is a non-issue in assessment. Researchers should be recognised for the impact of their research, despite the language of application or publication. It is often far from language-neutral, and this is an issue with metrics as well as expert trust that high-quality research is valued regardless of publishing languages, and even if they spend time on writing to policy-makers, professionals or generalist or language journals.

Because assessments steer research through distribution of resources, rewards, and compromise equal opportunities for individual researchers and institutions. If an assessment may lead to systemic undervaluation of SSH research compared to the production of locally relevant research and knowledge transfer beyond academic circles, multilingual scientific knowledge in all researchers' and citizens' main languages is a reform needs to address well-known language biases in metrics and expert-assess

Recommendation of the Helsinki-Initiative

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.
 - Make sure researchers are merited for disseminating research results beyond national culture, and society.
 - Make sure equal access to researched knowledge is provided in a variety of languages.
2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.
 - Make sure not-for-profit journals and book publishers have both sufficient resources and standards of quality control and research integrity.
 - Make sure national journals and book publishers are safeguarded in their transition to digital.
3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.
 - Make sure that in the process of expert-based evaluation, high quality research is recognized in the peer review or publication channel.
 - Make sure that when metrics-based systems are utilized, journal and book publication is taken into account.

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