

Job description: PhD Position

DC6 – Title of IRP6:

Language policy on the European level: LA and digitality from a discourse analytical approach

Researcher profile: Doctoral candidate

Research fields: Language Policy, Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics, Contrastive Linguistics

Type of contract: Temporary

Job status: Full-time

Duration: 36 months

Application deadline: 8 July 2026, 11:59 pm (CEST/Brüssel)

Envisaged job starting date: 1 November 2026

How to apply:

See application process and application form on the project website: www.multilawa.eu, <Recruitment>, <https://www.multilawa.eu/recruitment-for-applying/general-information/>

Hiring organisation and offer posting contact details

Organisation: Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen

Number of positions available: 1

Country: Germany

Address: Institut für Romanistik, Prof. Dr. Ludwig Fesenmeier, Werner von Siemens-Str. 61, 91052 Erlangen

This PhD position is part of a double-degree programme. Upon completion, candidates will be awarded two PhD diplomas, following research stays at both institutions: **Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg** (diploma conferred by the **Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg**) and **University of Vienna** (diploma conferred by the **University of Vienna**).

Offer description

In brief:

We are looking for 1 Doctoral Candidate (DC) to join our project at multiple sites in the EU with a master's degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field with appropriate background for the doctoral project, such as a **Master of Arts, Master of Translation, Master of Education**, or a **Master of Science** in Linguistics or a closely related discipline.

MultiLAWa:

The MultiLAWa initiative is an interdisciplinary research programme that promotes the concept of **Multilingual Language Awareness** as it investigates Language Awareness in multilingual contexts, zooming in on Critical Language Awareness, Metalinguistic Awareness, and Practical Language Awareness. Adopting a broad understanding of Language Awareness as a general, socially embedded competence, the project addresses major language-related challenges in a rapidly digitalising society and contributes to the development of sustainable, inclusive, and pluri-/multilingual ecosystems across Europe.

MultiLAWa capitalises on the diverse expertise of its 26 interacting partners and can rely on a solid and highly experienced **multi-stakeholder partnership**. Thanks to the exceptional collaboration between 10 universities in 8 European countries and 16 associated partners, the DC will benefit from an international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral training, including in-depth training in key research skills in the fields of (Applied) Linguistics, Digital Linguistics and Language Technologies, Gender Linguistics, Interactional Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Lexicography, Terminology, LSP, Didactics and Language Policy and transferable skills (e.g. Open Science, Intellectual Property Rights, Ethics, Scientific Presentation, etc.).

The consortium will train 14 DCs as **plurilingual ambassadors of plurilingualism** in research excellence by using both **English** and **German** for internal communication during the training events and to achieve the respective research objectives in their multilingual Individual Research Project.

Scientific context of the Individual Research Project IRP6:

IRP6 is embedded into **Work Package 2 (WP2)** ‘Dynamics of language policy: Enhancing Language Awareness in Europe’. WP2 conducts cross-cultural analyses of language management strategies and regulation in language policy regarding the promotion of the individuals’ plurilingual repertoire and the implementation of assumed pluri-/multilingual goals in digital resources and tools as well as AI technologies at the European, national and regional levels with an openness to the (endangered) indigenous regional and minority languages. By using a discourse analytical approach combined with corpus linguistics methods on the collected data, WP2 will model the diversity of the actors, positions and goals in language policy on the three target levels in the language policy framework of the Language Management Theory. The aim is to establish the theoretical and empirical basis for making research-based recommendations for a multilingual concept of Language Awareness that considers the different dynamics of each level.

In this context, IRP6 investigates Language Awareness and digitality from a discourse analytical approach in the context of Language Policies at European level.

Recruiting University: Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Germany
Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: University of Vienna (UNIVIE), Austria

Objectives:

The CoE’s Recommendation on “a comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages” (2019/C 189/03) introduced the concept of ‘language awareness’, thus being a relatively new priority. IRP6 aims to analyse the relevance of LA, especially Metalinguistic Awareness and Critical Multilingual Language Awareness, in the realm of a European language policy, i.e. the value and attitudes associated with it and the measures proposed to reach the relevant goals. DC6 will:

- 1) compile an exhaustive corpus of (official EU and CoE) digital documents;
- 2) analyse the texts with respect to relevant parameters such as ‘functions attributed to LA’, ‘relations between language and identity/identification/positioning in society (cf. the ‘language dimensions of social cohesion’¹), ‘role of technologies’, by using a discourse analytical approach.

Expected Results:

- In-depth analysis of the coherence, but also of possible gaps & discrepancies in the conceptualisation of LA in European language policy;
- A comprehensive overview of how Language Awareness and its relation to digitality has been conceptualised;
- Recommendations, together with the Associated Partner, that can contribute to a systematic integration of Language Awareness and digitality into the European language policy and increase the awareness of the actors for the necessity of developing a coherent, overarching concept of Language Awareness.

Secondment:

- Charles. University, Prague (Czech Republic), 4 months

Special selection criteria for the IRP6:

Languages: English and German at level B2 (written and spoken), Knowledge in one other European Language is an asset

Methodology/Digital skills: Knowledge of discourse analysis methods. Knowledge in MAXQDA is an advantage.

For further information contact the co-supervisors of IRP6:

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¹ See e.g. Meier, G. / Smala, S., 2022. *Languages and Social Cohesion. A Transdisciplinary Literature Overview*. Routledge.