

Job description: PhD Position

DC7 – Title of IRP7:

Language policies in France, Germany and Luxembourg: A Multidimensional Comparative Analysis of Institutional Actors and Critical Multilingual Language Awareness

Researcher profile: Doctoral candidate.

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

Type of contract: Temporary.

Job status: Full-time.

Duration: 36 months.

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

Envisaged job starting date: 1 November 2026.

How to apply:

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

Hiring organisation and offer posting contact details

Organisation: Université de Lorraine, Nancy

Number of positions available: 1.

Country: France.

Address of the organisation: Université de Lorraine, 34 Cours Léopold, 54000 Nancy, France

Workstation address: Laboratoire de recherche Analyse et Traitement Informatique de la Langue Française | [ATILF](#) (CNRS & Université de Lorraine/UMR 7118) 44 Avenue de la Libération, 54000 Nancy, France

This PhD position is part of a double-degree programme. Upon completion, candidates will be awarded **one joint doctoral degree**, on two PhD diplomas, following research stays at both institutions: **Université de Lorraine** (diploma conferred by the **Université de Lorraine**) and **University of Mannheim** (diploma conferred by the **University of Mannheim**).

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 IRP7:

IRP7 is embedded into **Work Package 2 (WP2)** ‘Dynamisms 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, IRP7 investigates language policies in France, Germany and Luxembourg with a focus on Critical Multilingual Language Awareness from the point of view of Institutional Actors.

Recruiting University: Université de Lorraine (UL), Nancy, France

Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: University of Mannheim (UMA), Germany

Objectives:

Whereas France has been undertaking the codification of FR since the 16th century, supported by legal state institutions for language policy, Germany has no such centralised institutionalisation,

(see, e.g., Kamocki/Lobin/Witt/Wöllstein 2023¹). In Luxembourg, the linguistic situation is characterised by the use and recognition of three official languages: FR, DE and national language LB (cf. the law from 1984 and article 4 of the Constitution, amended 2023). To compare these approaches, IRP7 will explore Critical Multilingual Language Awareness by:

- 1) analysing the different actors and forces involved to codify a standard written language use at a national level;
- 2) conducting an empirical study of statements or judgements on / about language and language norms and ideologies in FR and DE, in connection with IRP2, on the basis of i) institutional language policy texts and ii) online dictionaries;
- 3) comparing the results to language policy in Luxembourg and its implementation in the plurilingual *Lëtzerbuerger Online Dictionnaire* of the Zenter fir d'Lëtzebuenger Sprooch (ZLS).

Expected Results:

- New theoretical insights into the Critical Multilingual Language Awareness form in order to advance Language Awareness research regarding the institutional national level;
- A comprehensive comparison of the language ideologies and actors at the heart of regulation in language policy in 3 neighboring EU countries;
- In-depth analysis of the normative and/or descriptive positions behind the codification of standard writing in FR/DE/LB;
- Recommendations to increase Critical Multilingual Language Awareness of institutional actors, enabling citizens of each country to develop plurilingual competences in an equitable manner

Secondments:

- Leibniz Institute for the German Language (IDS), Mannheim (Germany), 3 months
- Zenter fir d'Lëtzebuenger Sprooch (ZLS), Luxembourg (Luxembourg), 3 months

Short Stay:

- French Ministry of Culture, Délégation Générale à la langue française et aux langues de France (DGLFLF), Paris (France)

Special selection criteria for the IRP7:

Languages: English and German at level B2 (written and spoken). Knowledge of French at level B1 is an advantage.

For further information contact the co-supervisors of IRP7

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Henning Lobin, hlobin@mail.uni-mannheim.de

¹ Kamocki, P. / Lobin, H. / Witt, A. / Wöllstein, A., 2023. Legal status and regulation of the German language in the Federal Republic of Germany. In: *Current Issues in Language Planning*, 26(1), 7–21.