



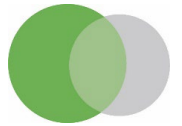
European Research Centre on
Multilingualism and Language Learning

FRYSKE  AKADEMY

Activity Report

2022





Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

Activity Report

2022

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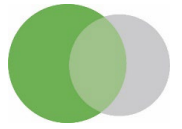
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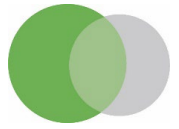
1. Introduction

In this activity report on the year 2022, the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning is looking back on its activities. From its origin in 1987, when Mercator was initiated by the European Commission, the Mercator European Research Centre is oriented towards research with a clear focus on multilingualism and language learning specially linked to Regional and Minority Languages in Europe and beyond. Mercator has an open eye for other developments in the field of multilingualism, such as sign languages and immigrant languages.

The Mercator European Research Centre categorised its work in so called 'product groups' to fulfil the demands for what is called the framework of 'boekjiersubsydzje' (subsidy) of the province of Fryslân. The product groups can also be found in the financial report. For the period 2021-2024, the following six product groups are used:

- Networks
- Regional Dossiers and Research
- Communication and publications
- Activities, congresses, seminars
- Acquisition and matching projects
- EBLT

The content-wise part of the product groups will contain some overlap because the activities are often strongly connected. Some references between the paragraphs are made. The structure of the product groups has changed in the current period and might change in the future, this depends very much on experiences and the constant search for best practices concerning reporting.



2. Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

The Mercator European Research Centre is part of the Fryske Akademy and is based in Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden. The Fryske Akademy is a multidisciplinary institute whose main task is to conduct fundamental and applied scientific research in the areas of the Frisian language, its culture, its history and society. The Mercator European Research Centre aims at the acquisition and creation, dissemination and application of knowledge on various aspects of language vitality and multilingualism in a wider context.

The Mercator European Research Centre focuses on research, policy and practice in the field of multilingualism and language learning. Its activities can be divided into research, documentation services, applying results of research, (international) events and (joint) projects. Documentation services are a continuation of services such as the library, a database of experts and organisations and the answering of incoming questions. Research projects are usually externally funded.

Through the years the Mercator European Research Centre achieved an increasing reputation as a reliable project partner in the field of multilingualism in Europe. This results in an increasing amount of special requests for expertise, conference (key) presentations and to become partner in projects. The high profile of the Mercator European Research Centre's activities and the good reputation it gained in Europe and beyond also reflects in a positive way on the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden.

2.1. General description 2022

Like all institutes Mercator also had to deal with the extended Covid pandemic in early 2022. Staff members were merely working at home, staff meetings were organised online and travelling was in practice difficult. Planned conferences had to be cancelled or organised online. In these circumstances we are lucky that Mercator's international work and activities can pretty well be done online.



Nevertheless, doing research - especially if you had to collect data through interviews or when you had to make interventions in class-rooms - were not or not always possible. In most cases the deadline of these projects had to be postponed. In hindsight we still may be proud of what has been achieved during the pandemic.

Guidelines for the general focus of Mercator in 2022 can be found within the framework of several documents, such as 'Mei Hert, Holle en Hannen' of the provincial government, including policy papers such as 'Deltaplan Frysk'. Besides these policy papers, own studies, EC documents, evaluations and the mission and vision of Mercator are leading for the development of activities and work plan of Mercator. The activities, products and work plan of Mercator are, in their initial stage, discussed with the provincial government. Twice per year in the meetings with the civil servants and once a year with the deputy minister of the provincial government and the councillor of the municipality of Leeuwarden.

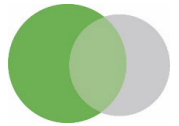
2.2. Current state and ambitions

The Mercator Research Centre focuses on research, policy and practice in the field of multilingualism and language learning. Its activities can be divided into research, documentation services, the application of research outcomes, (international) events and (joint) projects. Research projects are usually externally funded. They are a good way for the Mercator Research Centre to further improve its reputation in the field.

In the next decade, Mercator aims to broaden its – already very extensive – networks throughout the province as well as those across Europe (and beyond). This will involve further strengthening its collaboration with international project partners as well as with partners in Fryslân (such as University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences, Afûk, and Cedin).

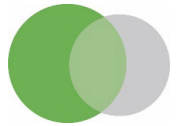
Mercator will continue to offer internships to qualified candidates, including graduates of the degree programmes at the faculty Campus Fryslân of the University of Groningen, and international graduates. Additionally, Mercator will continue to facilitate Master students' work if their theses are based on Mercator-related topics. One of the advantageous by-products of this is the frequent retention of talent in Fryslân. Overall, the ambition is for Mercator to intensify its collaboration with existing partners in the province and beyond, and to find new partners where possible.

In addition to this, Mercator will continue to increase its visibility by organising guest lectures and talks, hosting conferences, and offering to give presentations and



share good practices. Mercator has already been highly successful in Europe and Fryslân in this regard.

The nature and future direction of Mercator's research, the dissemination of its research outcomes, and the expansion of key networks in Fryslân and beyond will help Mercator to consolidate and strengthen the position of Fryslân as a site and disseminator of cutting-edge research.



3. Networking: Bringing Europe to Fryslân and Fryslân to Europe

The Mercator European Research Centre is situated in the minority-language province of Fryslân. As a research institute, Mercator wants to make use of the excellent opportunities the Frisian situation has to offer as a living laboratory on multilingualism. At the same time, Mercator makes state-of-the-art research and interesting developments from other minority language regions available to relevant stakeholders in Fryslân.

In this chapter, you will find an alphabetical overview of the international and local partners Mercator works with and the networks in which Mercator is involved.

3.1. International collaboration

3.1.1. Mercator Network

Mercator's longest-running partnership is the Mercator Network, with research partners in Cataluña (Spain), Sweden, Wales (UK) and Hungary. Since 2016, the partners in the Mercator Network published over 189 editions of the monthly Mercator Network Newsletter, which is sent to almost 2,500 subscribers all over the world. The Mercator European Research Centre in Leeuwarden compiles and publishes these newsletters.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Creating and publishing the monthly Mercator Network Newsletter (2500 subscribers): 11 editions were published in 2022 (see: <https://www.mercator-research.eu/en/news-and-events/newsletter/>).



3.1.2. European Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism (ECSPM)

The European Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism is a very active platform. Mercator European Research Centre is a member of the board. The ECSPM is an alliance for the languages spoken in Europe, as well as for research, policies on and practices of multilingualism, making possible the cooperation between European, national, and international networks, organisations, federations, research units (e.g., university centres and institutes) that view multilingualism as an asset for European economic, social, cultural development, and as a facilitator for intellectual growth, social, and personal development.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.

3.1.3. Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is the European umbrella organisation of the autochthonous, national minorities/ ethnic groups in Europe. Mercator cooperated with FUEN, for example, in campaigning for the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative, a petition (1.1 million signatures across the EU) demanding a protection package for national minorities.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.

3.1.4. Interdisciplinary Centre for Social and Language Documentation (CiDLeS - Portugal)

The cooperation between the Mercator European Research Centre and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Social and Language Documentation (CiDLeS) from Portugal is functioning very well: the institutions complement each other in an effective way.



Regular contacts resulted in the past in successful conferences and seminars throughout Europe, where Mercator researchers were always invited to give presentations.

In 2022, Mercator, CiDLeS and other international research partners started with the OWL+ project, 'Ownership and Leadership (OWL+): Pathways for (Endangered) Languages' Use in School', that was awarded in 2021 by the European Erasmus+ Programme 'KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices'.

Also in 2022, initial preparations were made by Mercator and CiDLeS, with the Endangered Language Archive as third partner, to organise a joint international congress in Leeuwarden: *Minority Languages in the City* in March 2023.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Jointly working on the new Erasmus+ project OWL+, 'Ownership and Leadership (OWL+): Pathways for (Endangered) Languages' Use in School' and organising two Transnational Project Meeting in Leeuwarden and Tallinn.
- Starting preparations for the joint international conference *Minority Languages in the City* in 2023.

3.1.5. LANGSCAPE

The Mercator European Research Centre has been a member of the LANGSCAPE network since 2014. LANGSCAPE is an international research network engaging in plurilingualism, language education and language learning. The Erasmus+ funded ENROPE project has emerged from the co-operative activities within the LANGSCAPE group (see the chapter on Regional Dossiers and Research). The LANGSCAPE network publishes its own online scientific and peer-reviewed journal, 'Language Education and Multilingualism'.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Three times a LANGSCAPE & ENROPE Online Colloquium: in June, September and December 2022.



3.1.6. Language Academies throughout Europe

The Mercator European Research Centre works closely with different language academies throughout Europe.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.

3.1.7. LITHME (COST Network)

The Mercator European Research Centre joined the LITHME Network in 2020. The focus of LITHME lies on the ethical implications of emerging language technologies. LITHME is a so called COST Network (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), funded through the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020, which provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges.

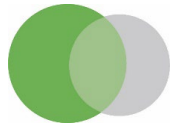
Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.

3.1.8. Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD)

The Mercator European Research Centre is a long-standing associate member of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), a Europe wide network that in some cases receives co-EU funding. Mercator's representative is a member of the steering committee of the NPLD.

In 2019, Mercator started working on a research project, funded by the NPLD and in cooperation with the Department of Culture of the Government of Catalonia, on the accessibility of European programs and subsidies for Regional and Minority Languages. The research report (2021) was presented by one of the authors at the NPLD Networking Breakfast in Brussels in 2022.



Noteworthy in 2022

- Presentation research report 'H. Kuipers-Zandberg & Schukking, A.F. (2021). *Accessibility for regional or minority languages to EU programmes: A practical assessment*' in Brussels (March).
- The managing director of the Fryske Akademy and the manager of the Mercator project were invited by NPLD to attend the Conference 'Safe spaces to encourage language use', Cardiff (UK) (October).

3.1.9. Network of Schools

The Network of Schools (NOS) is an online network of multilingual schools in Europe, maintained by the Mercator European Research Centre. It brings together more than 98 member schools divided over 22 countries.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Mercator is exploring a new structure and new partners for this long-term project, focusing on the benefits for the participating schools.

3.1.10. Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) & High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

Contacts with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) are positive, professional and quite frequent.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.



3.1.11. School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS University of London) & Endangered Languages Archive (Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

The cooperation between the Mercator European Research Centre and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) from the University of London were functioning very well. The department with which Mercator has collaborated the most, the Endangered Languages Archive & Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, moved to Berlin and is now part of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Berlin.

In 2022, initial preparations were made by Mercator and the Endangered Language Archive to organise a joint international congress in Leeuwarden, with CiDLeS as third partner: *Minority Languages in the City* in March 2023.

Noteworthy in 2022

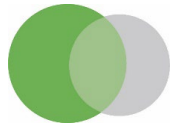
- Starting preparations for the joint international conference *Minority Languages in the City* in 2023.

3.1.12. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

The Mercator European Research Centre values its cooperation with UNESCO. This cooperation is most commonly focused on the development of a World Language Atlas, for which Mercator published a technical working paper in 2017, after a meeting with a UNESCO representative took place in Leeuwarden. The Atlas of World Languages will be a long term process.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.



3.1.13. Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia)

For a number of years, the Mercator European Research Centre has an agreement for co-operation with the Yamal-Nenets region in Russia.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Existing contacts have been maintained.

3.2. Regional collaboration

3.2.1. Afûk

Afûk is an organisation in Fryslân that promotes the Frisian language and culture. The Mercator European Research Centre and Afûk have common goals in the field of minority languages and therefore like to cooperate with each other in provincial and international projects.

In 2022, the two partners have jointly worked on two projects: ‘New Speakers of West Frisian: Promoting Language Learning and Use to Foster Revitalisation’ and ‘Wikiwomen’. You can read more about these projects in chapter 4.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Joint project: ‘New Speakers of West Frisian: Promoting Language Learning and Use to Foster Revitalisation’
- Joint project: ‘Wikiwomen’

3.2.2. DINGtiid

Mercator has enjoyed working with DINGtiid, the Advisory body for the Frisian language, for several years. Commissioned by DINGtiid, Mercator has already carried out several research projects on the Frisian language and education in Friesland, whether or not in a broader European context.



Noteworthy in 2022

- ‘Hoe kinne de Europeeske ôfspraken ús helpe om de universitêre frisistyk duorjend te boargjen?’ (‘How can European agreements help us sustainably safeguarding university fristics?’)

3.2.3. Europeesk Bureau foar Lytse Talen (European Bureau for Small Languages)

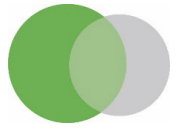
The Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen (EBLT) in Leeuwarden provides promotion and protection of Frisian and Low Saxon in the Netherlands and in the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe. The EBLT consists of representatives of 22 organisations. In 2009, the EBLT and the Mercator European Research Centre established a cooperation agreement, that made Mercator responsible for e.g. the secretariat and the website of EBLT.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Meeting with the Advisory Board of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)
- Organised events at International Mother Language Day (21 February) and the European Day of Languages (26 September)
- For a complete list of activities from the EBLT in 2022, see Chapter 8

3.2.4. Fryske Akademy

The Mercator European Research Centre is hosted by the Fryske Akademy (Frisian Academy), the centre for scientific research on all aspects of Frisian language, history and culture. The Fryske Akademy is affiliated with the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW). In 2022, organisational and communication cooperation intensified even further, as seen in the organisation of the three-day Conference on Frisian Humanities.



Noteworthy in 2022

- Mercator and Fryske Akademy and partners organised the second Conference on Frisian Humanities in Leeuwarden in 2022, which featured a multilingualism track, hosted by Mercator. Multiple Mercator researchers presented a paper at this conference.

3.2.5. Learning Hub Friesland

Learning Hub Friesland is an organisation that aims to be the education and training gateway to and from the Frisian region: exporting good initiatives developed in Friesland to other European regions and importing strong examples from elsewhere. Learning Hub Friesland is the coordinating partner in the WikiWomen project.

Noteworthy in 2022

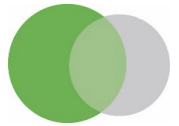
- Learning Hub Friesland, Mercator and Afûk are the three Frisian partners in the WikiWomen project (see Chapter 4) and jointly organised the first transnational partner meeting in March 2022 in Leeuwarden.

3.2.6. Lectorate Multilingualism and Literacy/ NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences

The Lectorate Multilingualism and Literacy at the NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences in Leeuwarden collects and researches the knowledge and experiences of professionals and students in the field of multilingualism and literacy and offers tools and solutions for educational practice. Mercator worked together with the Lectorate on various projects.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Mercator and researchers from the Lectorate Multilingualism and Literacy worked together in the EU-funded project VirtuLApp, the result of which (the game) was used during the Expeditie Next Science Festival for Children in Franeker (NL) in 2022.
- The Lectorate Multilingualism and Literacy was partner in the organisation of the second Conference on Frisian Humanities in September 2022.



3.2.7. Multilingualism Laboratory Network

Already for some time, academic institutes in the north of the Netherlands dealing with the Frisian language and issues of multilingualism (University of Groningen, NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences, Fryske Akademy, University Campus Fryslân and the Mercator European Research Centre) have expressed their intention to work more closely together to create a Multilingualism Laboratory Network.

3.2.8. Campus Fryslân/ University of Groningen

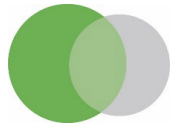
Campus Fryslân, also called the 11th faculty of the University of Groningen, is a unique faculty based in Leeuwarden.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Mercator worked together with students of the University of Groningen (Master Multilingualism) to write fact sheets for the Mercator Wiki on Minority Language Education.
- Mercator and Campus Fryslân/ University of Groningen work together in the COLING project, a European Horizon 2020 funded project that promotes and develops sustainable measures for language revitalisation and maintenance.
- Mercator is also one of the associated partners in the project 'Revoicing Cultural Landscapes: narratives, perspectives, and performances of marginalised Intangible Cultural Heritage' (RCL-ICH). The project received funding from the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPICH).
- The department of Frisian Studies of University of Groningen, and the department Language Technology and Culture of Campus Fryslân/University of Groningen were partners in the organisation of the second Conference on Frisian Humanities in September 2022.
- In 2022, Mercator researchers provided multiple guest lectures and talks at the Campus Fryslân/University of Groningen.

3.2.9. Tresoar

Since 2017, the catalogue of Mercator European Research Centre Library has been completely integrated in the catalogue of Tresoar, the Frisian centre for cultural and linguistic heritage in Leeuwarden. It includes more than 7000 books and articles concerning minority languages, bilingual and multilingual education, language learning,



language policy and related subjects. The collection is on open display in the reading room, making it accessible to everyone.

Tresoar uses the catalogue and management system of OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), named Worldshare, which makes the catalogue of the Mercator European Research Centre Library available all around the world via Worldcat (www.worldcat.org).

Noteworthy in 2022

- Talks with Tresoar were initiated in 2022 to figure out how to expand the Mercator book collection, but also how to better bring it to the attention of students.
- Tresoar, Mercator and Afûk worked together in setting up workshops for secondary school students, as part of the 'WikiWomen' project.



4. Regional Dossiers and research

The Mercator European Research Centre represents an internationally recognised, independent reference centre, where policy makers and stakeholders can obtain information and advice about multilingual education, policy and legislation in Europe, based on academic research. To obtain reliable information about small languages spoken in other European countries, Mercator closely cooperates with other European experts, institutions and universities.

In this chapter, In this section, you will find an overview of the Regional Dossiers published or expected to be published in 2022/2023, an overview of the research projects Mercator is involved in and an overview of the studies Mercator has carried out, either on its own initiative or commissioned by third parties.

4.1. Regional dossiers

The Regional Dossiers series give detailed descriptive information and basic educational statistics about minority language education in Europe. The focus lies on the educational system in European regions that have an autochthonous lesser-used language, and on how the lesser-used language is embedded in this system. The online Wiki on Minority Language Learning complements the Mercator Regional Dossiers.

4.1.1. Publications of Regional Dossiers 2022

In 2022, the editors of the Regional Dossier series prepared an updated design for the series. They also started a 'Highlights series' on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) to showcase a different Regional Dossier every month.

The Regional Dossiers that were published in 2022:



Title	Edition	Year
<i>The Croatian language in education in Austria</i>	2nd	2022
<i>The Latgalian language in education in Latvia</i>	2nd	2022

Regional Dossiers in the editing process in 2022 (expected to be published in 2023):

Title	Edition	Year
<i>The Lithuanian language in education in Poland</i>	2nd	2023
<i>The German language in education in France (Alsace)</i>	3rd	2023
<i>The Asturian language in Spain</i>	3rd	2023

The expected drafts of Regional Dossiers in 2023 (expected to be published 2023/24):

Title	Edition	Year
<i>The German language in Belgium</i>	2nd	23/24
<i>The German language in Poland</i>	1st	23/24
<i>The German language in Romania</i>	1st	23/24
<i>The Maltese language in education in Malta</i>	2nd	23/24
<i>The Slovak language in education in Hungary</i>	2nd	23/24



4.2. Research projects

Together with renowned research partners from home and abroad, Mercator is continuously preparing and carrying out research projects in the area of multilingualism and language learning. The projects are all funded differently: sometimes the financing comes from a research programme of the European Union or from the province of Fryslân, and other times Mercator is asked to carry out a study by commission. The projects in the overview below are listed in alphabetical order.

4.2.1. 3M: Meer kansen met meertaligheid / More opportunities with multilingualism

The 3M project, carried out by the Lectorate Multilingualism and Literacy at the NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences in Leeuwarden, was finished in 2021 with the presentation of the 3M Toolbox, the multilingual platform e3M and an online videobox (made available in the spring of 2022). The goals of the 3M project were to develop, experiment with, and evaluate new approaches and didactic tools for multilingual education.

Duration: 01/09/2017-31/08/2021

Coordination: NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (NL)

Funding: Province of Fryslân, Regieorgaan SIA,
Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre (NL), AFUK (NL), Universities of Groningen (NL), Gent (BE) and Utrecht (NL), Cedin (NL), European Center for Modern Languages (AT), Nuffic (NL), Rutu Foundation (NL), Frisian primary schools and others.

Noteworthy in 2022

- The 3M Toolbox was expanded and supplemented with assignments and videos.
- The project team gave a presentation about 3M at the Conference on Frisian Humanities in September 2022 in Leeuwarden.



4.2.2. COLING - Minority Languages, Major Opportunities: Collaborative Research, Community Engagement and Innovative Educational Tools

Mercator joined the European Marie Curie Rise project COLING in 2018. This project's objectives mostly focused on developing and sharing expert knowledge on language revitalisation programmes and developing efficient teaching methodologies, teacher training, and curricula for minority languages.

The project has officially ended, but the partners in the consortium are still active in organising and supporting events for scholars and others interested in minority language and culture.

Duration: 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2021

Coordination: University of Warsaw (PL)

Funding: Marie Skłodowska-Curie RISE/ HORIZON 2020

Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre (NL), Adam Mickiewicz University (PL), Universities of Groningen and Leiden (NL), Gruppo di Azione Locale per lo Sviluppo Rurale dell'Area Grecanica (IT), Latgolys Studentu centrs (LT).

Associate partners: the Universities of Texas, North Carolina and Yale (US), the Smithsonian Institute (US), Aretet (MX), Instituto de Docencia é Investigación Etnologica de Zacatecas (MX).

Noteworthy in 2022

- Minority Languages, Major Opportunities Summer School, University of North Carolina (USA)
- Preparations for the *Minority languages: legal protection, vitality and identity* conference in Messina (Italy) in March 2023, to which some colleagues from Mercator/ Fryske Akademy have been invited to speak.



4.2.3. ENROPE - European Network for junior Researchers in the field of Plurilingualism and Education

ENROPE was an international, cooperative project aiming to provide high-quality qualification and networking structures for professional development for junior researchers in the field of language education and plurilingualism. Mercator was the leader of the Quality Assurance Team.

The project has officially ended, but the partners in the consortium are still very active in organising and supporting events for scholars and others working in the field of plurilingualism and education, especially to maintain and expand the new research network built up. In 2022, the Enrope group invited scholars to eight public events and one keep-in-touch meeting.

Duration: 01/09/2018 - 31/08/2021

Coordination: Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (DE)

Funding: Erasmus+ Programme - KA 203 - Strategic Partnerships for higher education

Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre (NL), Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (DE), İstanbul Üniversitesi-Cerrahpaşa (TR), Tallinna Ülikool (EE), University of Exeter (UK), Universitat Ramon Llull Barcelona (ES), Universität Siegen (DE), Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3 (FR).

Noteworthy in 2022

- ENROPE Keep-In-Touch Meeting: 8 February, 2022.
- LANGSCAPE & ENROPE Online Colloquium, on 17 June 2022, 16 September 2022 and 16 December 2022.
- Five activities by Special Interest Groups: Research Methodology and Ethics, 19 Aug, 2022 / Language Policy, 14 Oct, 2022 / Language Teacher Development, 24 Oct, 2022 / Research Methodology and Ethics, 7 Nov, 2022 / Language Teacher Development, 8 Dec, 2022.
- Starting preparations for the 2023 Summer School in Berlin.



4.2.4. Global Citizenship and Multilingual Competences

The Global Citizenship and Multilingual Competences (GCMC) toolkit started in 2020. The aim is to provide online teacher development resources for secondary teachers of all subjects about how to integrate global citizenship goals and plurilingual pedagogies into their practices in a sustainable way. Global Citizenship Education (GCE) has become part of many international educational policies appears explicitly in UNESCO's global or sustainable development goals (SDGs) for quality education.

Duration: 01/09/2020 - 31/08/2023

Coordination: Universität Graz (AT)

Funding: Erasmus+ Programme - KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices / KA201 Strategic Partnerships for school education

Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre (NL), University Newcastle Upon Tyne (UK), Alma Mater Studiorum of the Università di Bologna (IT), Neosmart GmbH (AT/DE).

Noteworthy in 2022

- IO2: the online toolkit for teachers – both the teacher module and the teaching module were finalized (the modules developed by Mercator can be found [online](#)). That includes downloadable teaching materials, ready-to-use handouts in five languages (English, Frisian, Dutch, German, Italian) and teaching materials for specific subjects (idem).
- IO3: the manual for teachers and teacher educators – start developing this manual, that includes case studies of trial lessons using the online toolkit and guidelines how to use the teacher and teaching materials.
- Two transnational project meetings, in Bologna (April 2022) and Newcastle (October 2022), where the progress on all matters concerning the GCMC project was discussed.
- Giving a presentation about the GCMC project at the Frisian Humanities Conference on 15 September 2022 in Leeuwarden in a programme track that was co-created by Mercator and NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences.
- Promotion of the GCMC project during guest lectures for master students Multilingualism at the University of Groningen.
- Working on an article on global citizenship and multilingualism as an intellectual spin-off from the GCMC project (in progress).



4.2.5. Lingotell

Lingotell is a project about the tradition of telling stories in minority languages (storytelling) and about new ways to pass on such (folk) stories to the young generation, either through recitation, poetry, spoken word, music or drama. In this way, Lingotell wants to contribute to

the transfer of small languages to young people. Mercator, together with partners in the Norwegian South Saami region and in Hungary, received funding for the project from Creative Europe.

In each of these regions, activities will be organised that have to do with storytelling and the challenge of translating this ancient tradition into the 21st century. Among other things, there will be a workshop on creating podcasts as a way of digitally conveying the stories of minority languages and cultures to a young audience. There will also be a training on the technique of storytelling. Finally, a festival will be organised (which can also be joined digitally) where artists will present their stories, poems, music etc. in their minority language. The sustainable end product of Lingotell is a toolkit in the form of a podcast, with tips, guides and ideas for other minority groups to make cultural heritage in minority languages interesting for young people. The project starts in 2023.

Duration: 2023-2025

Coordination: Sijti Jarng (NO)

Funding: Creative Europe

Partner institutions: Mercator/ Fryske Akademy (NL), Pro Progressione (Hungary), Sijti Jarng (Norway)

Noteworthy in 2022

- Co-writing and co-editing the successful bid for the Lingotell project, financed from Creative Europe, a European Commission's flagship programme to support the culture and audiovisual sectors.
- Looking for a third party to execute parts of the project, i.e. the organisation of a cultural event with regard to storytelling. This project is very much in its initial stages.



4.2.6. New Speakers of West Frisian: Promoting Language Learning and Use to Foster Revitalisation

This project focuses on new speakers of West Frisian in the province of Fryslân, in the north of the Netherlands. The participants are 264 adults who are/were enrolled in Frisian language courses at the Afûk – the General Frisian Education Commission. A questionnaire was used to

Duration: 2020-2023

Coordination: Mercator European Research Centre/ Fryske Akademy and Afûk

Funding: Provinsje Fryslân: research grant (grant number 01774057) for Ruth Kircher and Mirjam Vellinga (investigators).

gather quantitative as well as qualitative data regarding these new speakers' motivations for learning West Frisian, their attitudes towards the language, their ideological evaluations of its different varieties, and their language use patterns.

The project findings are written up in three academic articles, all of which discuss the implications of the findings for potential language planning measures to encourage the learning and/or use of West Frisian amongst new speakers. Moreover, the project outputs include research-informed teaching materials for Afûk educators, a research report for the government of the Province of Fryslân, and a research-informed language promotion campaign (2023).

Noteworthy in 2022

- The investigators have been preparing a campaign to promote the use of West Frisian amongst new speakers. This campaign will launch in 2023 but the conceptualisation took place in 2022.
- Presentation by Mercator researcher Ruth Kircher, 'New speakers' attitudes towards West Frisian: Lessons for language planning' at the Conference on Frisian Humanities; Leeuwarden, Netherlands (September).
- Invited talk by Mercator researcher Ruth Kircher, 'New speakers' attitudes towards West Frisian: Implications for language planning' at the Language Diversity Research Group, University of Groningen (November, online).
- Invited talk by Mercator researcher Ruth Kircher: 'Language attitudes and ideologies amongst new speakers of West Frisian' at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Warwick; Coventry, England (November, online).
- Article: Kircher, R., Kutlu, E., & Vellinga, M. 'Linking language attitudes, ideologies, and revitalisation: Evidence from new speakers of West Frisian' [submitted in 2022].
- Article: Kircher, R., Kutlu, E., & Vellinga, M. (under review). 'Promoting minority language use to foster revitalisation: Insights from new speakers of West Frisian' [submitted in 2022].



4.2.7. OWL+ - Ownership and Leadership: Pathways for (Endangered) Languages' Use in School

The objective of OWL+ is to innovate in curriculum building for and about endangered languages by contextualising them within the big picture of language diversity in Europe and by providing stakeholders with practical tools to help them foster the transmission of the language.

The project will develop tools and resources to innovate school curricula and offer materials that enable teachers and educators to accommodate endangered languages in their classrooms and other learning settings. Teachers and educators will also be equipped with skills to take ownership of their cultural heritage. As endangered languages are viewed as a vital social factor for their communities, the project targets next to school staff also community leaders, which are an integral part of endangered languages' support structure.

Duration: 2022-2025

Coordination: Mercator European Research Centre / Fryske Akademy (NL)

Funding: Erasmus+ Programme - KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

Partner institutions: Interdisciplinary Centre for Social and Language Documentation (PT), Nord University (NO), Rēzekne Academy of Technologies (LV), and Tallinn University (EE).

Noteworthy in 2022

- 1st Transnational Project Meeting (kick-off) hosted by Mercator/ Fryske Akademy on 24-25 March 2022 in Leeuwarden.
- 2nd Transnational Project meeting hosted by Tallinn University on 26-27 September 2022 in Tallinn, Estonia.
- Development of PR1: OWL+ platform (website, ongoing).
- Development of PR2: The Module: Teaching and Learning in Linguistic Diversity (developing the Frisian unit of PR2, ongoing).
- Presentation at the Conference on Frisian Humanities in Leeuwarden (September) to promote OWL+ (Session 'Multilingual projects in Fryslân').



4.2.8. Open World Research Initiative (OWRI): Cross-language dynamics: reshaping community

The Open World Research Initiative (OWRI) project consisted of four major research programmes, funded by the UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council. The University of Manchester has been awarded £3.9 million to develop a large interdisciplinary programme of research titled 'Cross-language dynamics: reshaping community'.

Duration: 2016-2019

Coordination: University of Manchester

Funding: UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council

Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre (NL), SOAS University of London (UK), INALCO Paris (FR), Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (DE), American Councils for International Education (US).

Together, the SOAS University of London (UK), Mercator European Research Centre and a few other European institutes applied for these OWRI funds and received a grant in 2016. The research they wanted to do focused primarily on translingual communities, on the intersection between multilingualism, 'heritage' languages and higher education. The overall aim was to explore how new forms of multilingualism and linguistic hierarchies are emerging, and how they have an impact on university language education.

Noteworthy in 2022

- Mercator will be mentioned as co-author in three papers related to the OWRI researches written by Prof (Em.) Anne Pauwels (School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics SOAS, University of London), all three to be published in 2022/2023.



4.2.9. Revoicing Cultural Landscapes

This project applies a fresh lens to the interplay of identity and minority-majority cultures through the lens of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). ICH is a key medium through which minority cultures are enacted and expressed. Often less visible than tangible heritage, ICH is used to describe the 'traditions or living

expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts' (UNESCO 2020).

The team of researchers working on this project at the University of Groningen has observed and investigated three forms of Frisian-spoken theatre; a village-based amateur performance (Fordivedaesje Top & Twel), a semi-professional open-air performance (Iepenloft Jorwert), and a professional performance (Tryater), on top of a pilot study conducted with Tryater. The team has engaged in conversations with organisers, policy-makers, audience members, and others that surround or influence these cultural events. Publications on these observations are to be expected in 2023.

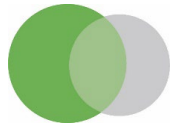
Mercator is associate partner in this project, focused on dissemination strategies and co-operates with the University of Groningen in these.

Duration: 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2023

Coordination: University of Falmouth

Funding: Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (JPICH) and Horizon 2020

Partner institutions: University of Groningen, University of Falmouth, and University of Tartu. Mercator is one of the associated partners.



4.2.10. Speakaboo

Speakaboo is a tool that allows a speech therapist to screen the speech development of a multilingual child in the age of 3-6 years in only 10 minutes. The application can be used to elicit target words with the help of small interactive games.

Duration: 2019-2022

Coordination: Royal Kentalis

Funding: De Friesland Foundation (app development), Fryske Akademy Foundation (phonological research)

Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre/ Fryske Akademy (NL).

A Mercator/ Fryske Akademy researcher was involved in developing and translating the Frisian version of the application. This specific language version is made in cooperation with the company Royal Kentalis, that supports people who are hard of hearing, deaf or deafblind, and with the De Friesland Foundation, affiliated with the health insurance company De Friesland.

Noteworthy in 2022

- To follow up on this project, opportunities for further research are being explored.



4.2.11. Virtual Language App (VirtuLApp)

The VirtuLApp (Virtual Language App) project group has developed an innovative multididactic approach which teachers can use in the classroom in any situation, by providing knowledge on multilingual didactics, application of that knowledge and tools to use in the classroom.

The outputs developed for this were the multiplayer, multilingual Augmented Reality game BabelAR, the quiz with Babel, and the digital teacher toolkit with didactical videos with best

practices of multilingual approaches across European schools and experts answering Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Eventhough the project has officially ended, the results of VirtuLapp are still available online and will be for the coming few years.

Duration: 01/09/2018 - 31/12/2021

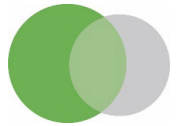
Coordination: Mercator European Research Centre (NL)

Funding: Erasmus+ Programme - KA2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices / KA201 Strategic Partnerships for school education

Partner institutions: ATiT Audiovisual Technologies, Informatics and Telecommunications (BE), Luca School of Arts (BE), Trinity College Dublin (IE), Universidad del Pais Vasco/ Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (ES).

Noteworthy Mercator activities 2022

- February: BabelAR winner of the Gold Award in the category Digital Product in the Henry van de Velde Awards '22.
- For two months, VirtuLApp's AR-game BabelAR was part of an exhibition at Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels (BE) (February-April).
- Final report VirtuLapp has been delivered to the Erasmus+ Agency.
- Multilingual activity with the VirtuLapp game BabelAR at the national children's science fair Expeditie NEXT: Het Nationale Wetenschapsfestival in Franeker.
- *VirtuLApp: meertaligheid in (basis)onderwijs*. Article on website [Erasmusplus.nl](https://www.erasmusplus.nl), with interview C. van der Meer & Y.R. Scarse.
- Presentation VirtuLApp during visit of BAQONDE project team.
- Presentation VirtuLApp at the Conference on Frisian Humanities in Leeuwarden.



4.2.12. Wiki on Minority Language Learning

Mercator's Wiki on minority language learning by Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning is an online factsheet system which provides information on minority language education. The Wiki complements the Mercator Regional

Dossiers, and offers information on the education of minority languages that have only a (very) small place in the national education system, or none at all.

The main goals of the Wiki on Minority Language Learning are to: share knowledge on minority language learning; increase the visibility of minority languages online; reflect the institutional support for minority language education in different contexts; and collect and offer open resources for minority language learning. Currently, the Wiki offers information on the education of 37 languages

Duration: 2015 - ... (ongoing)

Coordination: Mercator European Research Centre (NL)

Co-operation with: bachelor study Minorities and Multilingualism and master study Multilingualism of the University of Groningen/ Campus Fryslân.

Noteworthy Mercator activities 2022

- Ongoing maintenance and updates of existing Wiki sheets.
- September-November 2022: collaboration with University of Groningen, the Netherlands, with the Master Multilingualism programme for a student assignment on the Wiki. The Wiki and assignment was presented to the group, and twelve students wrote a Wiki sheet on their minority language of choice.



4.2.13. WikiWomen

The Erasmus+ funded project WikiWomen brings together schools, Wikipedia foundations and language organisations in minority language regions of Europe to use Wikipedia as a tool to teach digital literacy, social engagement and language skills.

Pupils will be guided through the process of researching women who are not yet featured on Wikipedia and writing articles on them in their national and minority languages to redress this balance. In the process they will gain vital digital and research skills plus added confidence in using their minority language, as well as contributing to the online presence of their language. Mercator European Research Centre is coordinating the WikiWomen GLAM Toolbox, with information and best practices for Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums.

Duration: 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2025

Coordination: Algemene Fryske Ûnderrjocht Kommissje (AFÛK) (NL), Learning Hub Friesland (NL)

Funding: Erasmus+ Programme KA220-SCH - Cooperation partnerships in school education

Partner institutions: Mercator European Research Centre / Fryske Akademy, Wikimedia Ireland (IE), Coláiste Oiriall (IE), Euskal Wikilarien Kultura (ES), Antigua-Luberri institute/ Gobierno Vasco (ES).

Noteworthy in 2022

- 11-12 March 2022: first Transnational Partner Meeting WikiWomen, Leeuwarden (NL).
- 26 June-1 July 2022: WikiWomen Teachers Edit-A-Thon, Donostia (ES) with cooperating secondary school teachers from the three different European regions.
- 13 October 2022: WikiWomen Workshops, HAVO/ VWO Science Festival, Tresoar, Leeuwarden (NL).



4.3. Research

4.3.1. Overview of laws, agreements and institutions related to Frisian: 'Sa leit it lân derhinne'

The Mercator researchers worked on on a leaflet about the position of Frisian in governance, justice and education, targeting an audience of politicians, officials and generally interested readers.

Fryslân is a multilingual province: Dutch and Frisian are both official languages. That makes Fryslân, but also the role of the Provincial Council, special. No other province in the Netherlands has a comprehensive language and culture policy with as many powers of its own as Friesland. This also means that Provincial Councils have a special responsibility to monitor the province's implementation of this policy and to keep the state on its toes when it comes to fulfilling obligations towards Frisian that the Netherlands has entered into via agreements, laws and European treaties.

But what do these laws actually say and what exactly are these European obligations, and how is Frisian actually regulated in education? The legal protection, administrative agreements and institutional embedding of Frisian can be somewhat confusing at first glance. With the handout 'Sa leit it lân derhinne', Mercator wants to give State members of the Province of Fryslân and others a handy overview of the laws, agreements and institutions related to Frisian. We hope that this information can help the Frisian Parliament in carrying out their monitoring task.

4.3.2. 'Hoe kinne de Europeeske ôfspraken ús helpe om de universitêre frisistyk duorjend te boargjen?'

Commissioned by DINGtiid, the Advisory body for the Frisian language, Mercator has carried out research on safeguarding university frisistics. It is a comparative study on the possible sustainable safeguarding of university frisistics in a European perspective. The research was carried out by Ydwine R. Scarse en Cor van der Meer. The report '*Hoe kinne de Europeeske ôfspraken ús helpe om de universitêre frisistyk duorjend te boargjen?*' ('*How can European agreements help us sustainably safeguarding university frisistics?*') was presented in September 2022 for further processing and dissemination to DINGtiid. The report is not (yet) available for download.



4.3.3. Research report 'Accessibility for regional or minority languages to EU programmes: A practical assessment'

This report, written by two Mercator researchers, Helga Kuipers-Zandberg and Anna Fardau Schukking, represents a first attempt to investigate how funding opportunities for RMLs have been used and allocated over the period 2014-2020.

It is the joint result between the Mercator European Research Centre and the Directorate-General for Language Policy of the Government of Catalonia, with the financial support of the European Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity. The report was published in the spring of 2021, but in 2022 author H. Kuipers-Zandberg was invited to present the research at the NPLD Networking Breakfast in Brussels (BE) in September.

4.3.4. 'Safeguarding and Preservation of Sound Material in Sound Archives of St Petersburg' Endangered Languages and Archives

In the past, two of Mercator's senior research fellow Tjeerd de Graaf's projects have been supported by the Endangered Archives Programme at the British Library, respectively EAP089 ('Safeguarding and Preservation of Sound Material in Sound

Duration: 2003 - 2038

Cooperation with: UNESCO, Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL), Foundation for Siberian Cultures (FSC), Centre for Russian Studies (NL).

Archives of St Petersburg') and EAP 347 ('Vanishing Voices from the Uralic World: Sound Recordings for Archives in Russia (in particular Udmurtia), Estonia, Finland and Hungary').

Both projects are related to the recordings in the Phonogram Archive of the Russian Museum of Literature, the Pushkinski Dom in Saint-Petersburg. Part of these projects has been concerned with the study of endangered arctic languages and cultures of the Russian Federation, which need to be documented before they become extinct. The research team is still working on the metadata project 'Safeguarding and Preservation of Sound Material in Sound Archives of St Petersburg' on the languages of Afghanistan, such as Balochi, Dari, Farsi, Kati, Parachi, Pahsai, Pashto, Shugni, Tajik, Vaygali and Wakhi that were recorded by Gruenberg in the period 1979-89.



5. Communication and publications

The dissemination and application of knowledge in the field of language learning at school, at home and through cultural participation, is part of Mercator's mission. Visible by publishing newsletters and scientific articles in paper and online journals, and findable by being up-to-date on various digital channels. This chapter gives an overview of Mercator's online activities, of the newsletters that are sent out, of the wide variety of publications that the Mercator researchers have produced, and of the press attention that Mercator has received in 2022.

The publications of the Regional Dossiers are mentioned in Chapter 4 and are left out of this overview.

5.1. Mercator online

5.1.1. Websites

The Mercator European Research Centre builds, hosts and maintains multiple websites. These are general websites for the research centre itself, but also websites for projects and one-off conferences.

The main website of Mercator is www.mercator-research.eu. Via this site, Mercator communicates its identity and goals, shares its knowledge and publications, and announces events. With new website statistics software, we could see that 158,468 people visited our Mercator website pages.

To this day, the outdated Mercator Network website (www.mercator-network.eu) still functions as an archive and repository for older publications. The final products of the Mercator Network's LEARNMe project from 2016 for instance, were still downloaded a several dozen times in 2022. The website was visited 13,331 times.

The Wiki on Minority Language Learning page was visited 80,586 times, the VirtuLApp website 133,180 times. The website for the second Conference on Frisian Humanities in 2022 was made and maintained by Mercator. It was visited 31,997 times in 2022.



5.1.2. Social media

The Mercator European Research Centre is proud of the projects it carries out and therefore does its best to be visible on social media as well. Mercator has its own Facebook page (@MercatorResearch), LinkedIn page (company/mercator-research/), Instagram (@MercatorResearch) and Twitter account (@MercatorCentre). These accounts are used to post its own messages, but also to share messages distributed or suggested by the international project teams. In general, the projects all have their own websites and social media channels.

More than 1,500 Facebook users have indicated that they would like to be kept informed of Mercator updates, which is a rise of 14% compared to 2021. The Mercator LinkedIn page was started in the beginning of 2020 and has now 341 followers (a rise of 98% compared to 2021). The Mercator Twitter account (@MercatorCentre) has now about 9500 followers (due to an adjustment of statistics in Twitter's software, the exact dates of 2022 cannot be ascertained). The Instagram account was started in March 2022 and has almost 90 followers.

The Mercator Network has its own Twitter account (@MercatorNetwork with almost 1850 followers, 5% more than in 2021), and that account is maintained by the Mercator Network partner CUSC/ University of Barcelona and is also available for the Mercator European Research Centre.

For the Conference on Frisian Humanities, Mercator created and maintained a Facebook page and event (@frisianhumanities, 57 followers) and a Twitter account (@FrisHumanities, 97 followers).

5.1.3. Newsletter

The monthly Mercator Network Newsletter (10 editions a year) is compiled by the web editor of the Mercator European Research Centre. The Mercator Newsletter is sent to the subscribers by email, but is also published on the Mercator website. The Mercator social media channels are used to announce the newest edition. Almost 2550 email addresses were in the Mercator Network Newsletter mailing list in 2022.



5.2. Publications

The research work that Mercator carries out within the framework of a specific research assignment generally takes shape in voluminous research reports. When the research and the stakeholders allow it, the research is summarised in an article and submitted to scientific journals for publication.

During the period of most Erasmus+ projects, data is being collected. In the case of Mercator, this data is almost always collected within Fryslân or from Frisian-speaking volunteers. Sometimes also comparative data from partner areas in Europe is available. These data, too, form a solid basis for an interesting scientific article.

In addition, Mercator researchers write opinion articles for regional or national newspapers, and are regularly invited to contribute to a research or scientific article on the basis of their expertise (as author or as peer-to-peer reviewer).

Noteworthy publications by Mercator researchers 2022

Reports

- **Kircher, R.** & Zipp, L. (Eds.). (2022). [Research methods in language attitudes](#). Cambridge University Press.
- **Robinson-Jones, C., & Scarse, Y. R.** (2022). [Report on the West Frisian Language \(Language Technology Support of Europe's Languages in 2020/2021 - European Language Equality project\)](#). European Language Equality Consortium.

Book chapters

- **Kircher, R.** (2022). [Questionnaires to elicit quantitative data](#). In R. Kircher & L. Zipp (Eds.), Research methods in language attitudes (pp. 129-144). Cambridge University Press.
- **Kircher, R., & Hawkey, J.** (2022). [Mixed-methods approaches to the study of language attitudes](#). In R. Kircher & L. Zipp (Eds.), Research methods in language attitudes (pp. 330-345). Cambridge University Press.
- **Kircher, R., & Zipp, L.** (2022). [An introduction to language attitudes research](#). In R. Kircher & L. Zipp (Eds.), Research methods in language attitudes (pp. 1-16). Cambridge University Press.

Articles

- **Kircher, R., & Kutlu, E.** (2023). [Multilingual realities, monolingual ideologies: Social media representations of Spanish as a heritage language in the United States](#). Applied Linguistics. [Preprint]
- **Kircher, R., Quirk, E., Brouillard, M., Ahooja, A., Ballinger, S., Polka, L., & Byers-Heinlein, K.** (2022). [Quebec-based parents' attitudes towards childhood multilingualism: Evaluative dimensions and potential predictors](#). Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 41(5), 527-552.



- Ahooja, A., Brouillard, M., Quirk, E., Ballinger, S., Polka, L., Byers-Heinlein, K., & Kircher, R. (2022). [Family language policy among Québec-based parents raising multilingual infants and toddlers: A study of resources as a form of language management](#). *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 0(0), 1-20.
- Bayat, Z., Kircher, R. & Van de Velde, H. (2022). [Minority language rights to education in international, regional, and domestic regulations and practices: The case of Frisian in the Netherlands](#). *Current Issues in Language Planning*, 0(0), 1-21.
- Fibla, L., Kosie, J., Kircher, R., Lew-Williams, C., & Byers-Heinlein, K. (2022). [Bilingual language development in infancy: What can we do to support bilingual families?](#) *Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 9(1), 35-43.
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- Fibla, L., Kosie, J. E., Kircher, R., Lew-Williams, C., & Byers-Heinlein, K. (2022). [Supporting bilingual families around the world](#). *International Congress of Infant Studies – Baby Blog*:
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5.3. Mercator in the press

In addition to the publications issued by Mercator itself, as described in the previous section, the research centre regularly appears in the regional, national or even international press. The articles in the table below are written in response to press releases, opinion pieces on multilingualism, reports of conferences or special events, and so on.

Noteworthy press coverage of Mercator's activities and projects in 2022

- 'Mercator krijt Europeeske subysdzje foar learmiddels foar bedrige talen', *Omrop Fryslân*, 26 January 2022.
- 'Subsidie om bedreigde talen te onderwijsen', *Leeuwarder Courant*, 27 January 2022.
- 'Mercator krijt geld voor leermiddelenproject', *Friesch Dagblad*, 27 January 2022.
- 'Henry van de Velde Gold Award Winners voor design bekendgemaakt', *VRT*, 9 February 2022.
- 'Spelenderwijs veertien talen ontdekken', *Friesch Dagblad*, 17 February 2022.
- 'Meer Frysk en meer vrouwen op Wikipedia', *Friesch Dagblad*, 9 March 2022.
- 'De toan fan Nelleke IJssennagger: "Ynternasjonale froulju"', *Omrop Fryslân*, 11 March 2022.
- 'VirtuLApp, meertaligheid in (basis)onderwijs. Internationaal aan de slag met meertaligheid in de klas', *Erasmusplus.nl*, section 'Inspiratie en resultaten', 9 May 2022.
- 'Nije sprekkers fan it Frysk brûke de taal mar tige sporadysk', *Omrop Fryslân*, 16 August 2022.
- 'Japanske delegaasje nei Fryslân foar fiering freonskipsbân mei Snits', *Omrop Fryslân*, 23 August, 2022.
- 'Wetenschappers uit heel Europa naar WTC', *Friesch Dagblad*, 6 September 2022.
- 'Europeeske dei fan de lytse talen: "Jawis bestiet it Frysk oer hûndert jier noch", interview with Mercator researcher J. Dijkstra, *Omrop Fryslân*, 26 September 2022.



6. Activities, congresses, seminars

In this chapter you will find an overview of the conferences (co)organised by Mercator, the presentations given by the Mercator researchers, the visits to and from other minority language regions, and the guest lectures given by the Mercator researchers. A part of the year 2022 was still dominated by the COVID pandemic. This also affected the diaries of the Mercator researchers.

The events that took place within the framework of the projects, such as the transnational partner meetings, the multiplier events and other online events, are not mentioned below. Please see Chapter 4 for more specific project information and project activities.

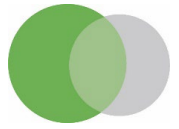
6.1. (Co)organised conferences

6.1.1. Second Conference on Frisian Humanities (September 2022, Leeuwarden)

Mercator European Research Centre and the Fryske Akademy took the initiative to organise the second Conference on Frisian Humanities in Leeuwarden (NL) in September 2022. The conference had four main tracks: linguistics, literature, medieval Frisian, and multilingualism and was visited by approximately 150 researchers working on the Frisian case.

Other partners in the organisation were NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (department Multilingualism & Literacy), the University of Groningen (department of Frisian language and literature) and the University of Groningen/Campus Fryslân (department Language, Technology and Culture).

The Mercator team took care of much of the organisation, such as the call for papers, the programme, the hosting facilities, the communication, the website and the social media.



6.1.2. Mercator Multilingualism Lecture 2022 (online)

The second Mercator Multilingualism Lecture, which took place in November 2022, was given by Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele from Birkbeck, University of London – lecture title: *Learners' experience of flow in foreign language classrooms*. This lecture was attended by almost 100 people, including academics from around the globe as well as practitioners from Fryslân.

The first edition of this Mercator Multilingualism Lecture, in November 2021, was given by Krista Byers-Heinlein, a Professor of Psychology at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. She gave a lecture that examined the role of language quantity and quality in language acquisition.

6.1.3. Conference Minority Languages in the City (March 2023, Leeuwarden)

The Mercator European Research Centre, the Endangered Languages Archive (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, DE), and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Social and Language Documentation (Minde, PT) started the preparations for the Conference Minority Languages in the City in March 2023 in Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden (NL).

The Mercator team handled the Call for Papers, created a website and registration options, arranged all facilities in Friesland and put together the programme. Mercator researcher Ruth Kircher will be one of the keynote speakers in March 2023.



6.2. Conference presentations

The Mercator researchers are proud of the work they do. It is no coincidence that they are keen to seek out opportunities to bring their research to the attention of a wider audience on an international stage. This does not go unnoticed, as they are in turn invited to sit on selection committees (scientific committees) of international conferences.

Noteworthy conference presentations by Mercator researchers 2022

- **R. Kircher**, *Quebec-based parents' attitudes towards childhood multilingualism: Evaluative dimensions and potential predictors*. International Conference on Language and Social Psychology; Hong Kong – with A. Ahooja, S. Ballinger, M. Brouillard, K. Byers-Heinlein, L. Polka, & E. Quirk (June, online).
- **Y.R. Scarse**, *Panel discussion Minority language protection in the EU as a citizen's right: promoting language protection through multilevel governance practices*. Conference 'Minority language protection in the EU & the Right to Speak', organised by Coppieters Foundation, Bastia, Corsica, France (June).
- **R. Kircher**, *'Your French makes you sound smart': Children's attitudes towards speakers of French dialects in Alberta*. Development 2022: Canadian Conference on Developmental Psychology; Calgary, Canada – with T. Pospisil, A. Noomani, B. Wynn, A. J. Villeneuve, & K. A. Marchak (June ; presented by T. Pospisil).
- **R. Kircher**, *Beyond the binary of status and solidarity: The cognitive dimension of attitudes towards childhood multilingualism*. Sociolinguistics Symposium; Ghent, Belgium – with A. Ahooja, S. Ballinger, M. Brouillard, K. Byers-Heinlein, L. Polka, & E. Quirk (July, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *Multilingual realities, monolingual ideologies: Twitter representations of Spanish as a heritage language in the U.S*. Sociolinguistics Symposium; Ghent, Belgium – with E. Kutlu (July, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *Language practices of caregivers raising a multilingual infant or toddler in Quebec*. International Congress on Infant Studies; Ottawa, Canada – with A. Ahooja, S. Ballinger, M. Brouillard, K. Byers-Heinlein, N. Phillips, L. Polka, & E. Quirk (July; presented by N. Phillips).
- **R. Kircher**, *The concerns of parents raising multilingual infants and toddlers in Quebec*. International Congress on Infant Studies; Ottawa, Canada – with A. Ahooja, S. Ballinger, M. Brouillard, K. Byers-Heinlein, N. Phillips, L. Polka, & E. Quirk (July; presented by E. Quirk).
- **Y.R. Scarse**, *The Dynamics Between Recognition, Policy and Practice Concerning West-Frisian in the Netherlands*. Soillse Conference, Stornoway/Steòrnabhagh, Scotland (August).
- **K. Thomas**, *OWL+ - Ownership and Leadership: Pathways for (Endangered) Languages' Use in School*. Conference on Frisian Humanities; Leeuwarden, Netherlands (September).
- **J. Ybema**, *Global Citizenship and Multilingual Competences*. Conference on Frisian Humanities; Leeuwarden, Netherlands (September).



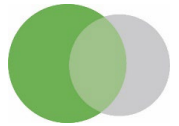
- **R. Kircher**, *New speakers' attitudes towards West Frisian: Lessons for language planning*. Conference on Frisian Humanities; Leeuwarden, Netherlands – with E. Kutlu & M. Vellinga (September).
- **Y.R. Scarse**, *VirtuLApp*. Conference on Frisian Humanities; Leeuwarden, Netherlands (September).
- **H. Kuipers-Zandberg**, *Accessibility for regional or minority languages to EU programmes*. NPLD Networking Breakfast, Brussels (BE) (September).
- **J. Dijkstra**, *Speakaboo: sustainable and inclusive speech therapy screening of speech development in multilingual children (3-6 years)*. Conference on sustainable and inclusive education, Leeuwarden (NL) (September).

6.3. Guest lectures & talks

From time to time, Mercator researchers are invited to give guest lectures at universities in the Netherlands and abroad, or informative talks by invitation.

Noteworthy guest lectures & talks by Mercator researchers 2022

- **R. Kircher**, *Official language planning and family language policies in Quebec – M.A. level*. Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Brussels, Belgium (March, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *Family language policies in Quebec: How and why parents raise multilingual children*. School of Linguistics and Language Studies, Carleton University; Ottawa, Canada (March, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *Supporting the transmission of heritage languages: Insights from multilingual family language policies in Quebec*. Department of Linguistics, University of Iowa; Iowa City, United States (April, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *Raising the next generation of heritage language speakers: Insights from multilingual family language policies in Quebec – M.A. level*. Department of Linguistics, University of California Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara, United States (May, online).
- **Y. R. Scarse & C. van der Meer**, *Workshop A closer look at Frisian language policy and practice*. Summer School, Campus Fryslân., Leeuwarden/Ljouwert (June).
- **R. Kircher** (keynote speaker), *Ideologies, discrimination, and the discursive construction of difference: Twitter representations of Spanish as a heritage language in the United States*. Borderlands, Minorities, Migrations; Warsaw, Poland (June, online).
- **C. van der Meer**, *Sociolinguistics and minority languages*. Master students Multilingualism, University of Groningen/ Campus Fryslân, Leeuwarden (NL) (October).
- **R. Kircher**, *New speakers of West Frisian – M.A. level*. Faculty of Arts, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen / Campus Fryslân; Leeuwarden, Netherlands (October, online).
- **J.E. Dijkstra & Y. R. Scarse**, *Frysk - een vitale taal*. RuG alumni event, Campus Fryslân., Leeuwarden/Ljouwert (October).



- **R. Kircher**, *New speakers' attitudes towards West Frisian: Implications for language planning*. Language Diversity Research Group, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen; Groningen, Netherlands (November, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *Language attitudes and ideologies amongst new speakers of West Frisian*. School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Warwick; Coventry, England (November, online).
- **R. Kircher**, *New speakers and the revitalisation of West Frisian*. Séminaire tournant de linguistique intergermanique; Dijon, France (December, online).

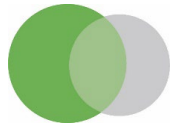
6.4. Collegial visits and more

Mercator regularly received requests from delegations from minority language regions to facilitate a visit to Leeuwarden, which naturally includes a guided tour at Mercator, or to provide support in putting together a tour of the province of Fryslân and of Fryslân's cultural institutions focused on minority languages.

Other special activities, which do not fall under the categories listed above, are also mentioned here.

Noteworthy in 2022

- For two months, VirtuLApp's AR-game BabelAR was part of an exhibition at Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels (BE) (February-April).
- Mercator, EBLT & Slieker Film organised the Dutch premiere of the multilingual film 'Der Krug an der Wiedau/ Kroen ved Vidâen' with Frisian subtitles on Mother Language Day (February).
- Visit by members of the Provincial Council, with a presentation about the Mercator European Research Centre by **Y.R. Scarse**. (March)
- DINGpetear: Dingtiid, Mercator, Fryske Akademy and other Frisian knowledge partners talked about the Frisian knowledge infrastructure. Leeuwarden (NL) (March).
- Mercator worked together with the national Expeditie Next Science Festival for Children (free) in Franeker (NL) to showcase the VirtuLApp game Babelar (May).
- Presentation of Mercator European Research Centre by **Y. R. Scarse**. Week van de Uitwisseling, Leeuwarden/Ljouwert (May).
- Meeting with the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Leeuwarden (June).
- Visit from South African project team BAQONDE: lecturers from 4 different South African universities come to visit Mercator and Fryske Akademy to discuss the implementation of multilingual policies in higher education (June).



- Lecture by guest researcher Robert McKenzie (Associate Professor in Sociolinguistics, Northumbria University, UK): *Linguistic prejudice and attitude change in England*. Fryske Akademy, Leeuwarden (August).
- Mercator and the Fryske Akademy were invited by the Province of Fryslân to meet with the Japanese delegation from Kurobe City (September).
- Mercator & EBLT celebrated the European Day of Languages with a special focus on a multilingual learning environment, with Poet of Fryslân Sigrîd Kingma and troubadour Jan Henk de Groot (September).
- The managing director of the Fryske Akademy and the manager of the Mercator project were invited by NPLD to attend the Conference 'Safe spaces to encourage language use', Cardiff (UK) (October).
- Fryske Akademy and Mercator were visited by a delegation of the Nederlands Gebarententrum (Dutch Sign Language Centre) (November).



7. Acquisition and matching projects

Mercator is always looking for new partnerships to find answers to challenging issues in the multilingual society. Together with national and international partners, problems are formulated, plans and budgets are made and project applications are written. An estimation is made as to which funding program the application fits best and should be targeted.

The table below shows an overview of all the grant applications in the year 2022. A description of the projects that were awarded can be found in Chapter 4. Descriptions of the projects that were not awarded, are left out of this report.

7.1. Project applications 2022

Year	Project	Funding	Status
2022	101094864 — BRIDGE-DIVERSE	Horizon Europe - HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01	Not granted, objection lodged
2022	Read with MEE	Erasmus+ KA2	Application procedure started in July 2022, submitted in March 2023
2022	101100377 — Lingotell	Creative Europe, CREA-CULT-2022-COOP	Granted in 2022, the Grant Agreement was received in 2023
2022	COLING - Minority Languages, Major Opportunities	HORIZON 2020 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie RISE	Deadline is extended until September 2023 for reasons of COVID.



8. Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen (EBLT)

Since its foundation in 1984, The Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen (European Bureau for Small Languages – EBLT), provides promotion and protection of Frisian and Low Saxon in the Netherlands, the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe and their institutions. For this, legal and political support is sought at European, national, and provincial level. EBLT also works on behalf of Bildts and Papiamentu. Since 2009, the EBLT and the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (MERC) of the Fryske Akademy have been collaborating, and EBLT has been a member of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) since 2012.

In 2022, the General Assembly (GA) of EBLT met two times. The Board of EBLT consists of Jelle Bangma (It Skriuwersboun; interim-president & treasurer), and Gerard de Jong (Taalplatfoarm Waadhoeke) and Tonko Ufkes (SONT). In 2022, Amarins Geveke (De Moanne) and Mirjam Günther (NHL Stenden Hogeschool) stepped down as board members. Onno Falkena and Cor van der Meer (MERC) are advisors of the board, and Ydwine Scarse (MERC) takes care of the secretariat.

8.1. EBLT Activities in 2022

EBLT has been active for the rights, use and visibility of minority languages in the Netherlands. EBLT engages with (Frisian) minority language organisations, has active discussions with provincial representatives and bodies, and sends written correspondence to the national government and Council of Europe. Examples are the attendance of the Dutch Symposium Erkende Talen (Symposium of Recognised Languages) and the meeting with the Advisory Board of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

To promote linguistic diversity, EBLT has organised events in light of International Mother Language Day (21 February) and the European Day of Languages (26 September). On International Mother Language Day, EBLT, Slieker Film and MERC organised the Dutch premiere of *Der Krug an der Wiedau* at Slieker Film. North Frisian, South Jutish,



Low German, Danish and German are spoken in this multilingual film, and subtitles were provided in West Frisian by EBLT. The film was shown twice that day, with free attendance for EBLT-member organisations. EBLT gave away 2x2 tickets in the Frisian radio programme Op en Ut.

On the European Day of Languages, EBLT and MERC organised a public event at Tresoar. Speakers Hilda Heyde en Janke Singelsma of the Rutu Foundation and NHL Stenden Hogeschool spoke about multilingualism in the classroom. Poet of Fryslân Sigrîd Kingma read a poem and Groninger singer Henk Jan de Groot performed.

8.2. EBLT agenda in 2022

Activities Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen in 2022

- 21 February: Première of multilingual film *Der Krug an der Wiedau* in Slieker Film;
- 11 April: meeting with deputy Sietske Poepjes;
- 12 April: attendance network event with Italian minority language cultural organisations;
- 19 April: GA EBLT, with speakers Nelleke IJssennagger-van der Pluijm (Fryske Akademy) and Elsmarie Beukenboom (Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu);
- 21 April: attendance Symposium Erkende Talen;
- 18-19 May 18-19: GA NPLD;
- 25 June: attendance anniversary Stichting Stellingwarver Schrieversronte;
- 29 June: meeting Advisory Board of the FCNM and the Committee of Experts of the ECRML;
- 11 July: meeting with Ried fan de Fryske Beweging;
- 11 July: books *Kneppelfreed 2021: ferline en takomst fan de Fryske taal* sent to stakeholders;
- 27 July: letter to political parties in Fryslân concerning Frisian/linguistic diversity for provincial elections in March 2023;
- 26 September: Event for European Day of Languages in Tresoar;
- 25 October: GA EBLT, with speaker Abel Darwinkel (Stichting Stellingwarver Schrieversronte);
- 31 October: meeting with Ried fan de Fryske Beweging;
- 24 November: attendance Rede fan Fryslân;
- 28 November 28: meeting with deputy Sietske Poepjes.

In addition, EBLT had regular board meetings and representatives attended meetings of e.g. Taalplatfoarm Waadhoeke, and maintained contact with NPLD and FUEN (Federal Union of European Nationalities). Moreover, the board has started on a renewal of the statutes.