

University of Belgrade
Faculty of Philology

Vulnerable and Endangered Languages in Europe

VELE2024

Belgrade, 2–4 October 2024

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The conference “Vulnerable and Endangered Languages in Europe” (VELE2024) aims to cover various aspects of language vulnerability and endangerment, ranging from topics in geolinguistics, sociolinguistics, language policy and planning, and revitalization of minority languages, across language attitudes, language ideologies, linguistic repertoires and domains of language usage, to contact linguistics and language change.

The studies presented in the twenty-nine contributions take different theoretical approaches and apply various methodologies. Numerous linguistic varieties are represented, such as Aromanian, Banat Bulgarian, Bulgarian, Fiuman, Greek, Irish, Kashubian, Istriot, Istro-Romanian, Ladino, Masurian, Podhalanian, Podlachian, Romani, Rusyn, Silesian, Štovoroto, and Vlach.

The program consists of a single session, taking place at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. The present volume contains the abstracts of the presentations (plenary and conference talks), ordered alphabetically by their first author.

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The organizers of the VELE2024 conference

The Importance of Mother Tongue Learning

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Mother tongue is very necessary for a person's comprehensive development. Being fluent in the mother tongue, which is also known as the native language, benefits the person in numerous ways. It associates humans to culture, ensures enhanced cognitive development, and supports learning of other languages. Hence, having a strong basis in the mother's language equips the skill to learn extra languages. Children achieve this by transferring the different structures of language to other languages. Grammar that advances when a child learns their native language is easily transferable, whereby a child can easily guess the meaning or read the meanings of words in different languages. To improve the quality of education, language policies need to take account of mother-tongue learning. This paper is about the main reasons for using the mother tongue. Models of education which ignore the mother tongue in the early years can be unproductive, ineffective and have a negative effect on children's learning.

Keywords: communication, linguistic gap, mother tongue

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