

Conference programme

The 4th International Conference on Early Language Learning Education in Early Childhood (ELLME'26)

Gdańsk, 8-9 September 2026

Day Before/ Monday, 07.09.2026

19:00: A pre-conference meeting with a tour in the Gdansk city centre with a kick-off party at the local pub (*costs covered individually*) Venue: The Neptune's Fountain (Fontanna Neptuna in Długa Street).



You will recognize the party guide easily. He will have a card with the ELLMEnet logo with him (Dr. Michał Daszkiewicz).



Day One/ Tuesday, 08/09/2026

8.30–9.30	Registration, Wydział filologiczny, ul. 80-308 Gdańsk, ul. Wita Stwosza 51, the main lobby on the ground floor	
9:30 – 10:00	Official Opening (Organizers, University of Gdańsk officials and ELLMEnet representatives) Venue: Sala Teatralna im. prof. Jerzego Limona	
10:00 – 10:45	Plenary Lecture	<i>Five Years On: How the EAN Project Reimagined Early English Education</i> Prof. Thomai Alexiou
10:45 – 11:15	Plenary Lecture	<i>Pre-primary language learning in diverse plurilingual contexts</i> Prof. Joanna Rokita-Jaśkow
11:15 – 11:30	Discussion	Chair: Prof. Beata Karpińska-Musiał
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break	

Parallel sessions				
	Section 1 Early bilingual language learners Room 270 Chair: Thomai Alexiou	Section 2 Multilingual Multilingual repertoires among children Room 272 Chair: Joanna Rokita-Jaśkow	Section 3 Teacher education Room 273 Chair: Beatriz Cortina-Pérez	Section 4 Language, heritage and identity Room 275 Chair: Mila Schwartz
12:00 – 12:20	Adriana Biedroń <i>A Review of Research on Developing Foreign Language Aptitudes in Children</i>	Anna Katrin Eiriksdottir & Kristin Jonsdottir <i>Multilingual student's participation and agency in home-school collaboration</i>	Marta Janachowska-Budych <i>Voices of Multilingual Childhood: Literary Testimonies and Their Role in Teacher Education</i>	Magdalena Olpińska-Szkiełko & Svitlana Romaniuk <i>Drawing Multilingual Identities: Ukrainian Refugee Children in Poland</i>
12:20 – 12:40	Weronika Magdalena Zbrzeźniak <i>Teacher Reflectivity as a Prerequisite for Implementing Multilingual Pedagogy in Early Language Education</i>	Maria Rogahn-Beckmann <i>Multilingual routines in early childhood Settings: Conditions for successful and inclusive collaborative material development</i>	Sophia Gorla <i>Designing for Multilingual Classrooms: Early Childhood Student Teachers' Interdisciplinary Scenarios during Practicum</i>	Olga Nenonen <i>Navigating Third Generation Heritage Language Across Borders in Early Trilingual Childhood</i>
12:40 – 13:00	Paulina Ogórek <i>Supporting early language and pre-writing skills in the age of AI: A framework for responsible classroom practice</i>	Paulina Pawłowska <i>Taboo language in contact: English swear words as markers of social meaning in emerging multilingual speakers</i>	Mateja Dagarin Fojkar, Tina Rozmanič, Katarzyna Brzosko-Barratt, Yvette Coyle & Paulina Marchlik <i>Preparing Pre-Service Primary Language Teachers for Virtual Exchange with Young Learners in European Contexts</i>	Emilia Wąsikiewicz-Firlej <i>Emotion and relational work in early Polish HL transmission across diverse migration contexts</i>
13:00 – 13:20	Judy Kupersmitt & Sharon Armon-Lotem <i>Profiles of narrative discourse abilities in young Yiddish-Hebrew bilinguals</i>	Natalia Ringblom <i>Morphosyntactic performance in child heritage Russian across multiple bilingual contexts: Evidence from a sentence repetition task</i>	Tomoko Hashimoto <i>Becoming an English-Teaching Early Childhood Education and Care Teacher: A Motivational Perspective on Early Career Educators</i>	Ewa Komorowska, Monika Stapor & Nina Gram Garmann <i>Between Guidelines and Practice: Polish Immigrant Parents' Experiences with Language Development Follow-Up in Norway</i>
13:20 – 14:10	Lunch Break			

Parallel sessions				
	Section 1 Family language policy Room 270 Chair: Emilia Wąsikiewicz-Firlej	Section 2 Early education oriented research Room 272 Chair: Marta Janachowska-Budych	Section 3 Teaching young learners Room 273 Chair: Natalia Ringblom	Section 4 Bilingualism Room 275 Chair: Ewa Komorowska
14:10 – 14:30	Monika Stapor <i>Home Languages at the Ideological Interface: Linking Family Language Policy and ECEC Practices in Norway</i>	Weronika Król-Gierat & Isaak M. Papadopoulos <i>Pre-Service Early Childhood Teachers' Self-Efficacy in Teaching Foreign Languages: A Comparative Study between Greece and Poland</i>	Johanna Buitrago Peña & Melinda Dooly <i>Tiny movements, big adventures: The use of Google Cardboard in early language classrooms</i>	Magdalena Olpińska-Szkiełko & Gustaw Miksa <i>Can AI Support Non-Native Bilingual Parenting? Designing an AI-Assisted Tool for Early Bilingual Development</i>
14:30 – 14:50	Larissa Aksinovits <i>Family Language Policy among Estonian Diaspora Families in Finland: Maintaining the Home Language for Future Generations</i>	Monica Perotto <i>Analysis of translations from the 'Cultural Bridge' competition using parallel corpora</i>	Dorota Gaskins <i>Generating a metaphorical mindset in four-year-olds</i>	Julia Reznick & Sharon Armon-Lotem <i>Acquiring Hebrew Verb Morphology in Bilingual Development: The Role of Regularity</i>
14:50 – 15:20	Kriselle Lou Suson Jónsdóttir <i>Language Snapshots for Families and Preschools: Supporting multilingual upbringing in early childhood through collaborative consultation</i>	Jesus Lasheras-Balduz <i>Socioeconomic Status, L2 Motivation, and Reading Comprehension in Young CLIL Learners</i>	Tomoko Hashimoto <i>Playful Learning through English Kamishibai: Pre-Service Teachers' Perceptions in Early Childhood and Primary Education</i>	Ekaterina Protassova <i>Institutional Childhood Bilingualism in Russia</i>
15:20 – 15:40	Kosmas Vlachos <i>Understanding and Operationalizing Digital Pedagogy in Early L2: Evidence from Practising Teachers in Postgraduate TESOL Education</i>	Marie-Ange Dat <i>How is foreign language (L2) instruction organized in French elementary schools and for which results in terms of spontaneous oral production?</i>	Magdalena Dybiżbańska-Klinkosz <i>Virtual Exchange in preschool: opportunity for a real life communication in foreign (English) language learning in preschool education</i>	Jennifer Uí Dhuibhir <i>Enhancing Interaction and Language Promoting Practices in Irish Medium Early Years Settings: Pilot-test of Online Training Module</i>
15:40 – 16:10	Coffee break			
20:00 Conference Dinner (the place will be communicated later)				

Day Two/ Wednesday/ 09/09/2026

8.30–9.00	Registration, Wydział filologiczny, ul. 80-308 Gdańsk, ul. Wita Stwosza 51, lobby			
9:00 – 9:15	WELCOME DAY 2 & ANNOUNCEMENTS, Vanue: Sala Teatralna im. prof. Jerzego Limona			
9:30 – 10:15	Plenary Lecture	Mila Children as Agents in Multilingual Classrooms: Rethinking Learning, Participation, and Belonging Prof. Mila Schwartz		
10:15 – 10:30	Discussion	Chair: prof. Emila Wąsikiewicz-Firlej		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break			
Parallel sessions				
	Section 1 Multilingual education Room 270 Chair: Dorota Gaskins	Section 2 Language awareness and teacher agency Room 272 Chair: Magdalena Olpińska-Szkielko	Section 3 Education policies Room 273 Chair: Weronia Król-Gierat	Section 4 Storytelling in early education Room 275 Chair: Dorota Werbińska
11:00 – 11:20	Bisiri Effrosyni & Peggy Manoli Navigating Plurilingualism and Multiliteracies in the Greek Early Childhood Education and Care: Insights from Teachers	Gulden Tleuberdina & Viktoriya Barybina Metalinguistic Awareness and Lexical Motivation in Bilingual and Multilingual Children: Evidence from Northern Kazakhstan	Edith Nicolas Policy vision, ecological reality: Supporting first-language maintenance in Australian ECEC	Małgorzata Pilecka Let them create, let them speak: Practical tools for storytelling in early education
11:20 – 11:40	Natalia Martínez-León & María Teresa Zarza Díaz From policy to practice: Ecological approaches to early plurilingual education in Mexico	Claudia Vallejo Rubinstein, Melinda Dooly & Denise Holguin It's a Bug's Life: Promoting Children's and Families' Plurilingual Awareness through Art	Bettina Hermoso-Gomez & Sofia Martinho Civic Engagement to promote multilingualism in Early Years.	Angeliki Voreopoulou & Thomai Alexiou Making Language Learning Interactive Through AR Storytelling for Young EFL Learners
11:40 – 12:00	Alexander Okondugba Indigenous Play and Multilingual Development in Early Childhood: Evidence from a Quasi-Experimental Study in Nigeria	Soon Young Jang Pre-Service Teachers' Agency Development for Multilingual Children and Families	Sviatlana Kharkevich How do ECEC directors perceive staff members' multilingual competence as contributing to the pedagogical work in Norwegian ECEC settings?	Ioannis Karras Fostering Key Cultural and Intercultural Awareness Notions in Young EFL/EIL Learners through Fairytales.
12:00 – 12:20	Marina Tzakosta The teaching of English in dialect-speaking preschool settings	Milica Mastilo Becoming a Task-Based Teacher: Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Development in Early Foreign Language Education	Anna Szczepaniak-Kozak Classroom-based scaffolding for young multilingual pupils	Thomas Bardakis Developing didactic proposals for Greek language as L2/FL through animated Aesop's Fables
12:20 – 13:10	Lunch Break			

Workshop sessions

13:10 – 13:40	Juliana Çyfeke <i>Integrating Multimodal Pedagogy and Teacher Cognition in Early Childhood EFL: A Workshop on the “Smart Kids” Pre A1 Coursebook Room: 30 minutes only</i> Room: 261	For conference participants and local teachers of early education
13:40 – 14:40	Julie Waddington, Alexandra Bos-Solé & Hadrian Lankiewicz <i>Building reflective teacher identities in early childhood language education: Strategies to combat native speakerism (Research- and pedagogy-oriented WORKSHOP)</i> Room: 261	
14:40 – 15:40	Yuki Otsuki, Mila Schwartz & Cristina Corcoll López, Ekaterina Protassova <i>Language Education Policy in ECEC: A Comparative Discussion</i> Room: 261	
15:40 – 16:10	Coffee break	
	5 min Transition to Sala Teatralna im. prof. Jerzego Limona	
16:15 – 17:15	Business Meeting and Conference Closing	

“The conference is ending, but our collective work is just getting started.”