explores multilingualism in the European Union and its implications in terms of inclusion and mobility, two goals that sometimes clash and need to be reconciled so as to guarantee that Euro- integration fully respects the Union’s linguistic and cultural diversity. The objective of the MIME project is to formulate a consistent set of policy proposals, offering well-targeted solutions for the multilingual challenge facing European citizens and society.

The core assumption of the MIME project is that “mobility” and “inclusion” are not incompatible, but that they do not necessarily converge, and that societies (and even individual citizens) are often confronted with a trade-off between them. In general, more mobility may compromise inclusion and cohesion, while a focus on inclusion may lead to reduced mobility. Therefore, a more ambitious response is to use policies not just to find the “best” point along an existing constraint (the solid straight line), but to design policies that nudge society along the solid straight line (“the realm of the possible”) so as to reach the highest possible curve (which means achieving society’s objective to the highest degree possible, given the constraint).

The solid straight line summarises social constraints at a given time. More “mobility” may often only be achieved by sacrificing some “inclusion”, and vice versa. The basic response to this situation is to adopt policies that nudge society along the solid straight line (“the realm of the possible”) so as to reach the highest possible curve (which means achieving society’s objective to the highest degree possible, given the constraint).

However, a more ambitious response is to use policies not just to find the “best” point along an existing constraint (the solid straight line), but to design policies to relax the constraint and move it outwards (to the dotted straight line). In the example, this allows more mobility (M2) for any given level of inclusion.

The curves, known as “indifference curves”, represent the degree of attainment of these objectives; they symbolise what is “desirable”. In general, more mobility and more inclusion are both considered desirable.

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THE MIME PROJECT REQUIRES THE PARTICIPATION OF SPECIALISTS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES AND, ACCORDINGLY, AN ELABORATE PROJECT DESIGN.

Our Six Thematised Areas (Politics, Society, Education, Migration, Policy, Frontiers of Multilingualism) Are Organised in a Systematic Fashion, with Clear Sets of Interconnections, This Is Represented by the MIME Cartwheel. It Highlights the Project’s Strongly Integrated Scientific Design, in Which Policy Questions Play a Structuring Role. Dissemination Activities Are Central to the Project’s Comparative Work.