

MIME

Mobility and Inclusion
in Multilingual Europe

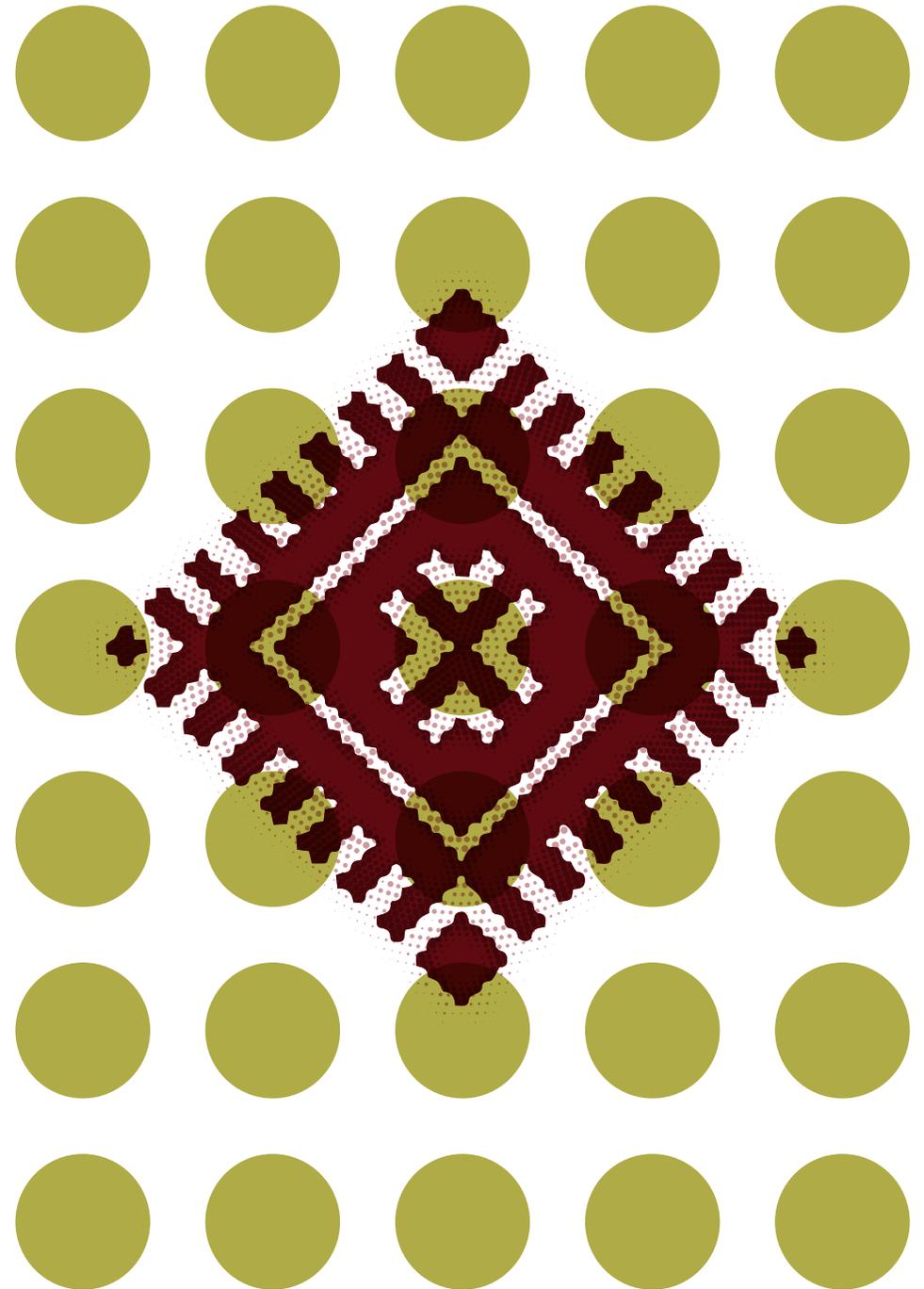
Third Stakeholder Forum Meeting

21 June 2017

Riga

Stakeholder Profiles

www.mime-project.org





Baiba Bela

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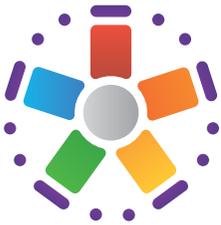


Vija Buša

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Baiba Bela is Senior Researcher at the Advanced Political and Social Research Institute, and Associate Professor in Social Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Latvia. Her research and publications focus on oral history, identity and migration, and recently also on sustainable development and social security in Latvia. She is the author of more than 40 articles and has co-authored and edited several publications, among them the book “We didn’t go to Sweden to become Swedes” (Bela (ed.), 2010, in Latvian) and “Latvia. Human Development Report. Sustainable Nation” (Bela (ed.), 2014).

From 2009 to 2015 she was local coordinator of Erasmus Mundus programme International Migration and Social Cohesion (MISOCO).

About the Department of Sociology

The Faculty of Social Sciences was established in 2000 and approximately 1,000 students began their studies in the faculty. Today the Faculty is among five biggest faculties at UL, it has more than 2,000 students and offers studies in the fields of Sociology, Political Science, Information and Library Studies and Communication Science at all levels – bachelor, master and doctoral. FSS offers a four Master study programmes.

Vija Buša works at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia. She is currently Counsellor of the Policy Planning Unit with responsibility for the Latvian diaspora issues. Prior to this posting, she was Deputy Head of the Embassy of Latvia to Ireland. Vija Buša is a career diplomat, who joined the Foreign Service in 1991. She has held the positions of Head of the Consular Assistance Division and Schengen Division at the MFA, and served as diplomat in Russia and Lithuania. As a member of the Foreign Service she was involved in the preparation of the Latvia’s accession to the Schengen Agreement, the US Visa Waiver Program and was committed to prevent human trafficking.

About the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia

In view of the massive emigration flow over the past two decades, cooperation with the Latvian diaspora has become one of the priorities of the Ministry work aimed at promoting political and civic participation of the diaspora, preserving Latvian identity and bonds with Latvia, and strengthening cooperation with compatriots abroad. The network of diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia is instrumental for strengthening the links connecting Latvia with our compatriots living abroad, the diaspora organisations and the media – which includes building and sustaining dialogue.



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In May 2017, Svetlana Djackova joined the Labour Market Policy Department of the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia as a Senior Expert with specialisation on labour migration and social and economic integration of refugees. She holds a E.MA in Human Rights and Democratisation and a M.A. in Sociology (University of Latvia). S. Djackova worked as a researcher at the NGO Latvian Centre for Human Rights for more than 15 years. She conducted various studies and prepared publications on asylum, migration, integration, citizenship, non-discrimination, and language policy issues.

About the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia

The Ministry of Welfare is the leading institution of the state administration in the areas of labour, social security, children’s and family rights as well as equal rights for people with disability and gender equality. The Labour Market Policy Department deals, inter alia, with various aspects of migration, including the free movement of labour in the EU, employment of third-country nationals and social and economic inclusion of asylum seekers, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection.

Eyvor Fogarty’s commitment to the translation profession has been continuous over many years of work as a translator, interpreter and prime mover in the committee life of associations. She has given talks in many countries, from Argentina to Uzbekistan, and has been involved in several European projects to modernise university Translation and Interpreting departments. Currently, she teaches revision and translation skills and ethics as part of postgraduate and lifelong-learning programmes. She is on the board of FIT Europe, with a remit for Life-Long Learning, and is a member of LIND, the language industry web platform.

About FIT Europe

FIT Europe unites the interests of around 35,000 language professionals, through its member associations of translators, interpreters, terminologists, and associated researchers and trainers, right across Europe. It is one of the regional centres of the Fédération internationale des Traducteurs and serves as a forum for exchanging information and experience, finding solutions to shared problems and agreeing on measures to heighten public awareness of good professional practice. FIT Europe’s principal objectives are to promote the interests of translators and interpreters in Europe, to encourage recognition of the benefits society derives from translation, and to coordinate national efforts to achieve formal recognition of the title and status of Translator.



Signe Groza

EC Representation in Latvia

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Signe Groza works within the Political section of the Representation of the European Commission in Latvia. She has extensive EU affairs experience acquired in different functions at various EU institutions working at national, EU and international levels. Signe became interested in EU migration policy issues during her engagement in the organization of a conference on “Improving Intra-European Mobility and Circular Migration” during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2015. Prior to joining EC Representation in Latvia as reinforcement to the Presidency team, Signe worked within the Political section of the EU Delegation in India. Signe has also worked for the European Commission’s Directorate General for Translation; as a judge’s assistant at the General Court of the European Union; an assistant at NATO Supply Agency; and as Senior Account Executive at one of Brussels’ leading public affairs and public relations consultancies ‘Grayling’.

Signe Groza holds a MA degree in European Public Affairs from the University of Maastricht and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA).

About the EC Representation in Latvia

EC Representation acts as the European Commission’s voice in Latvia. It has the function of monitoring public policy developments and public opinion in Latvia, in addition to providing objective information about the EU and its policies.



Aleksandra Kjakste

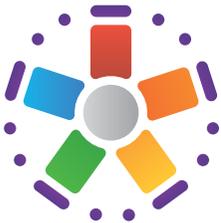
Latvian Association of Political Scientists

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Aleksandra Kjakste is a 3rd year PhD student at the University of Latvia, Social Science Faculty, Department of Political Science. Her academic interests include public administration, modernization theories, transformation and modernization process in post-Soviet space (Central Asia), and education process in Latvia.

About LPb

Latvian Association of Political Scientists (LPb) is a non-governmental organizational joining political scientists. It was established back in 2003 as a professional organization aimed to promote the development of political science. Currently, there are more than 40 members in the Association actively taking part in the promotion of political sciences and educating general public on political processes in Latvia and in the world. Many of our members are employed in the education sector, therefore improvement of teaching political sciences is one of the priorities for the Association. The researchers of the Association have always been interested in issues related to EU and its various policies.



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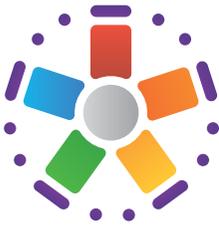


Elita Kresse

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Anita Kleinberga has worked in Social Integration policy planning and implementation coordination for more than 10 years. Being responsible for integration measures for different groups of society, such as national minorities, including Roma, third countries nationals, and civil society, she understands that the most important way of promoting intercultural understanding between different groups of society is creating dialogue, discussing problems and finding solutions together.

About the Ministry of Culture of Latvia

Ministry of Culture, Social Integration Department, Social Integration and Development of Civil Society Division. Ministry of Culture is responsible for planning and coordination of implementation Social Integration Policy.

Elita Kresse has been working for the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) since 1996. She is an Adviser on Foreign Affairs.

About LALRG

The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) is an organization associating local governments of the Republic of Latvia on a voluntary basis. It was founded in December 1991. In accordance with the Article 96 of the law "On Self-Governments" the LALRG has authority to represent local governments in the negotiations with the Cabinet of Ministers as the LALRG associates more than half of all types of local governments. Out of the total of 119 local governments in Latvia, 118 are the LALRG members – 9 cities and 110 municipalities.

The LALRG functions as a representative, advocate and advisor of the local governments in Latvia and Europe. We contribute to the development of municipal policies, solve common problems and defend interests of local governments.



Agnese Lace

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Agnese Lace currently works as policy analyst in the areas of migration and integration at the Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS, as well as a consultant for UNHCR Northern Europe. Her professional experience includes positions of research assistant at the Office of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Marie Curie researcher at Migration Research Institute at Koc University, and migration and diversity expert at Society Integration Foundation in Latvia. She holds a masters in political science from the University of Latvia, and a joint European masters with specialization in international migration and social cohesion MISOCO. Agnese Lace is a PhD Candidate in political science at Koc University in Istanbul.

About PROVIDUS

The mission of PROVIDUS is to promote evidence-based policy making, starting from the initial preparation phase until implementation and review. PROVIDUS aspires to be a source of expertise and an “agent of change” in areas of good governance, internal security and inclusive public policy. PROVIDUS aims to work not only within Latvia but also seeks to share their insights internationally. Civic participation and governance in the European Union are horizontal features in all activities.

Inta Mierina is Associate Professor at the University of Latvia and the director of the Centre for Diaspora and Migration Research. In 2014-2015 she was the director of the ESF-supported research grant “The Emigrant Communities of Latvia: National Identity, Transnational Relations, and Diaspora Politics,” in which 14,068 Latvian emigrants were surveyed in 118 countries, receiving the 2014 University of Latvia Annual prize in science. Dr. Mierina has just completed her research visit as Juris Padegs Research Fellow at the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University and her Fulbright visit to the University of Washington where she studied the civic and political participation of Latvian youth abroad.

About the Centre for Diaspora and Migration Research

The mission of the Centre is to contribute to the long-term sustainable development of the Latvian state and Latvian society, researching the questions concerning diaspora migration in Latvia and Europe.

The work of the Centre is based on innovative interdisciplinary cooperation among various faculties at the University of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other Latvian and international institutions, as well as diaspora researchers across the world.



Bernadette O'Rourke

COST Action "New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe"

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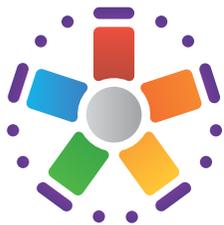
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Bernadette O'Rourke is a Professor of Sociolinguistics at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh with a research interest in multilingualism, linguistic diversity, minority languages and language policy. She is Chair of a COST Action on New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe: Opportunities and Challenges.

About "New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe"

This COST Action focusses on the dynamics involved in becoming a "new speaker" of a language in the context of a multilingual Europe. From this perspective, new speakers are multilingual citizens who, by engaging with languages other than their "native" or "national" language(s), need to cross existing social boundaries, re-evaluate their own levels of linguistic competence and creatively (re)structure their social practices to adapt to new and overlapping linguistic spaces.

The research network facilitates structured dialogue and collaboration amongst researchers and stakeholders linked to three different multilingual strands: regional minorities, immigrants and transnational workers

Dr. paed. Liesma Ose works as a Lead Researcher and programme director for doctoral studies in Paedagogy at the Riga Teacher Training and Educational Management Academy. Dr. Ose served as an advisor to the Minister of Education and Science of Latvia on social cohesion matters, and led the group of experts on social cohesion launched by the President of Latvia. She also has rich experience in social inclusion policy development and implementation. Dr. Ose's current scientific interest lies in the realm of intersection between education policy and pedagogy, diversity and migration studies and she aims to foster inter-cultural competence among teaching professionals.

About RTTEMA

Riga Teacher Training and Educational Management Academy (RTTEMA) is a public higher education institution, founded in 1994 with the aim to provide excellent quality professional and academic education in pedagogy, psychology and business management at all study levels – BA, MA and PhD.



Uldis Priede

European Commission,
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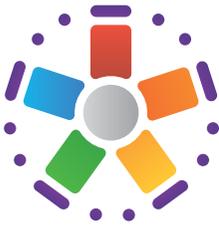
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Uldis Priede represents European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation in Riga. He has a linguistic background and has worked in translation industry since 1995, including 10 years in management positions.

About DG Translation

Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission (DGT) is the largest translation service in the world. It translates legislation, Web content and other types of documents between the EU's 24 official languages. It has around 2500 staff and its annual production is typically close to 2 million pages. DGT has developed its own customized machine translation service and hosts events in all EU Member States to promote the translator profession.

Dr. Iveta Reinholde is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia. She teaches public administration and policy analysis. Her professional interests involve policy analysis and public administration reform issues in Europe. Iveta Reinholde has been involved in several international projects researching modernisation of social policies, in particular several international projects with involvement of scholars from Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Poland. Her publications cover policy issues like urban transport policy, urban governance, human security and empowerment of local communities.

About Department of Political Sciences

The Department of Political Sciences has considerable experience and important results in security policy, policy transfer and governance. One of the key directions is research related human security issues covering local, regional and national level, in the context of global development trends like international relations, and economic crisis of 2008. Furthermore, the staff of the Department has specialised in specific topics in the field of gender and human security. The Department of Political Sciences has strong expertise in developing policy recommendations for policy makers at national and international levels.



Annica Ryngbeck

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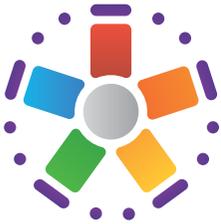


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Annica Ryngbeck is an Advocacy and Policy Adviser for Social Platform, her field of expertise is human rights, equality, anti-discrimination and migration. Before joining Social Platform in 2010 she worked on policy and advocacy in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBT rights, in both Swedish and European contexts. She has been involved in NGOs since 1999, holding various board positions and project management posts. Annica holds a Bachelor and a Master's degree in International Migration and Ethnic Relations from Malmö University (Sweden).

About Social Platform

Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 47 pan-European networks of NGOs, Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

Antonella Sorace is Professor of Developmental Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. She is a world leading authority in the field of bilingual language development across the lifespan, where she brings together methods from linguistics, experimental psychology, and cognitive science. She is also committed to disseminating the findings of research on bilingualism in different sectors of society. She is the founding director of the information centre Bilingualism Matters, which currently has 17 branches all over Europe and in the US.

About Bilingualism Matters

Bilingualism Matters is a research and information centre founded and directed by Professor Antonella Sorace. Established in 2008, Bilingualism Matters aims to bridge the gap between research and different sectors of society, enabling people to make informed professional or personal decisions on bilingualism and language learning that are based on facts rather than prejudices, misconceptions, or misinterpretation of current research findings. The Centre also carries out specific research projects sponsored by stakeholders. Bilingualism Matters is regarded as a model of research-based public engagement world-wide: it operates an international network of 16 branches (and 3 more currently under negotiation) in the UK, in other European countries, and in the United States.



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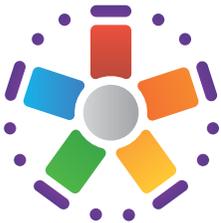


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Dimitra Stafilia holds a degree in Translation Studies from the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece. She also holds an MA in European Business and Languages from South Bank University, London and the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA), Venice. She has been the President of the Panhellenic Association of Professional Translators Graduates of the Ionian University since 2008. The Association was established with the aim to promote the translation profession in Greece as well as the interests of graduate translators. She has been Treasurer for FIT Europe since 2014.

George Woodhams is an outreach volunteer for NaTakallam, supporting the organisation to build institutional partnerships to promote use of the platform. He is currently completing an MSc in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies at the LSE and is particularly interested in engaging with the policy and ethics debates that lie at the intersection between humanitarian response and emerging digital technologies. He holds a degree in Social and Political Sciences from the Cambridge University and previously worked in the UK Government and at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.



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About NaTakallam

NaTakallam ("we speak" in Arabic) connects language learners around the world with displaced individuals for language practice over Skype.

Presently, NaTakallam is focussing on displaced Syrians mostly in Lebanon, but also in Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Italy, Iraq, Germany and Turkey. As NaTakallam conversation partners, they gain access to an income, staff training and marketable skills by working with Arabic learners around the world. On the other end, the platform offers language learners affordable, flexible, tailored language practice with native speakers. Along the way, students and their conversation partners engage in a powerful intercultural exchange, frequently developing friendships between worlds often polarized in the media and political spheres.