



Dear Madam/Sir,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Fifth Annual Conference of the International Association of Language Commissioners that will be hosted by the Office of the Language Commissioner of the Republic of Kosovo on May 4th, 2018, in Pristina.

The theme of this year's conference will be "Multilingualism: value and/or obligation", which will offer the possibility to exchange ideas and good practices to overcome the challenges in protection and promotion of linguistic rights. Specifically, the focus of the conference will be put on the language status in post conflict societies, enhancement of service delivery in official languages through the active offer, as well as on challenges and possibilities of learning official languages through education.

We look forward to your participation in this event.

Sincerely,  
Slaviša Mladenović

Language Commissioner

## FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMMISSIONERS

### AGENDA

Conference Room "Diar"  
Swiss Diamond Hotel  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

#### "MULTILINGUALISM: VALUE AND/OR OBLIGATION"

**08:30 – 09:00 – Registration and Coffee**

**09:00 – 09:30 – Welcome Remarks**

**H.E. Ramush Haradinaj**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

**Slaviša Mladenović**, Language Commissioner, Kosovo

**Meri Huws**, Welsh Language Commissioner and Outgoing Chair of the Association

**09:30 – 11:00 First Session**

**Enhancing service delivery in official languages: Active offer**

**Raymond Théberge**, Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada, Ottawa, Canada  
"Enhancing service delivery in Official Languages: Active offer"

**François Boileau**, Language Commissioner, Ontario, Canada

**Rozafa Ukimeraj- Çuni**, Secretary General, Ministry of Local Government Administration

*Chair of Session: Ivan Nikolić, Director of NGO "CSD", Kosovo*

**11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break**

**11:15 – 11:30 Honorary speeches**

**Jan Braathu**, Ambassador to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo

**Jean-Hubert Lebet**, Ambassador of Switzerland to Kosovo

**11:30 – 13:00 – Second Session**

**Encouraging learning of official languages through education: challenges and opportunities**

**Sadik Idrizi**, Professor, University of Prizren, Kosovo  
"The importance of higher education in the minority languages. Case Study: The University of Prizren"

**Lowri Wynne Williams**, Senior Policy Officer, Wales, UK  
"Welsh medium education – to fly or to flounder?"

**Órla de Búrca**, Communications Manager, Ireland  
"The challenges accessing Irish language education and the possibility of overcoming them"

**Dukagjin Pupovci**, Expert on Education, Kosovo  
"Challenges of learning the local languages in Kosovo"

*Chair of Session: Adrian Zegiri, Executive Director of NGO "ECMI", Kosovo*

**13:00-14:00- Lunch break**

**14:00 – 15:30 – Third Session**

**Dealing with the past: Language status in post conflict societies, and its effect on reconciliation**

**Hilmi Jashari**, Ombudsman, Kosovo

**Rafael Sainz de Rozas Bedialauneta**, Head of the Language Rights Department, Basque Country  
"Looking into the future: Normalizing bilingualism as a path towards reconciliation in the Basque Country"

**Shkumbin Munishi**, Associate Professor, University of Pristina, Kosovo

**Nexhmedin Spahiu**, Political Sciences Professor, Kosovo

*Chair of Session: Remzije Istrefi, Professor, University of Pristina, Kosovo*

**15:30 – 15:45 Online Learning Language Platform**

**Veljko Samardžić**, Project manager of "Vocup"

**15:45 – 16:15 Wrap up session**

**Remzije Istrefi**, University of Pristina, Kosovo

**16:15 – 16:30 Closing remarks**

**Slaviša Mladenović**, Language Commissioner, Kosovo

**Rónán Ó Domhnaill**, Irish Language Commissioner and Chair of the Association