



## Press release

On 18-19 September 2015, as the member of the international Mercator Network, the Research Centre for Multilingualism of the Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences organised the international closing conference of the Mercator LEARNMe project in Budapest, with the title **EVERYDAY MULTILINGUALISM, SUSTAINABLE LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND MULTI-ENGAGEMENT --MINORITY LANGUAGE RESEARCH, EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE AND POLICY. REVISITING METHODOLOGY, LEARNING AND ESTABLISHED CONCEPTS**. The two-day long event focused on the linguistic diversity of Europe, which has been undergoing radical changes. Numerous renowned international and Hungarian experts participated in the event, enhancing thereby the novel, bottom-up, community engagement-based approach towards the maintenance and empowerment of the regional and minority languages of the European Union.

The event - honoured by the attendance of the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, Ádám Kósa, MEP and László Lovász, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - provided an excellent opportunity for researchers, politicians, practitioners and the members of minority communities from Hungary, Central-Eastern Europe and the EU to meet and enter into a dialogue while focussing on the legal, language policy and media aspects of linguistic diversity from the perspectives of education, learning and access to knowledge in the broadest possible sense. The social issues specific to the Central-Eastern European region and its best practices also came to show, among others, the SIGNificant Chance project concentrating on Hungarian Sign Language. The conference aimed to convey the message that the linguistic diversity of Europe can only then be sustained long term, if new perspectives and forms of knowledge and competence exchange were involved, and if in addition to political, legal, academic and educational experts, also the new roles of the affected communities as well the best practices of grassroot movements were drawn into it.