



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Centro Linguistico di Ateneo

Ca' Foscari University of Venice
University Language Centre

Venice, 25th and 26th June 2026

XIV AICLU International Conference 2026

New Learners, New Challenges, New Methods and New Expectations

University Language Centres (The University Language Centre of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, in collaboration with the Italian Association of University Language Centres (AICLU), is pleased to announce the XIV AICLU International Conference, "*New Learners, New Challenges, New Methods and New Expectations*," which will be held on June 25 and 26, 2026, at the premises of Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

CLA) are today at the centre of rapid evolution, acting as a crucial hub for the internationalisation and competitiveness of higher education. The emergence of new student profiles, such as internationally mobile students, as well as students in English Medium Instruction (EMI) programmes (Macaro and Rose, 2023; Mastellotto and Zanin, 2021; *inter alia*), heritage speakers, senior students (Cardona and Luise, 2018), and students with disabilities (Howard, 2023); the technological acceleration, from Distance Learning (DAD/FAD) to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching (Cinganotto and Montanucci, 2025; Pan et al., 2025; UNESCO, 2023; *inter alia*); and the changing global and socio-linguistic scenarios have redefined the landscape of university language learning and teaching.

This conference aims to offer a platform for discussion and critical reflection on the responses that University Language Centres (CLAs) are developing to face the new challenges posed by new learners as well as increasingly multilingual contexts (Cenoz and Gorter, 2021; *inter alia*). There will be particular focus on investigating the effectiveness and sustainability of new teaching methods for promoting learner autonomy (CoE, 2001 and 2020; Menegale, 2015; Montanaro, 2023; *inter alia*). In parallel, the conference intends to deepen the role of CLAs and their staff in developing plurilingual and intercultural academic competences (Borghetti, 2023; *inter alia*) with a view toward the internationalisation of the university system (Ballarin et al., 2018; Garzelli and Ghia, 2018; *inter alia*). Furthermore, it is essential to analyse the new expectations that students, lecturers, and institutions place on university language services, which range from language certifications (ALTE; EAQUALS), to Italian L2 (as a second language), and Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP), in line with the needs of contemporary society (Bevilacqua et al., 2021; Rossi, 2019; *inter alia*) and European language policies (CoE, 2020; Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)1). We invite researchers, lecturers, trainers, technicians, and staff from University Language Centres (CLAs) to submit contributions ranging from theory to practice, and from critical analysis of

language policies to technological innovation.

Note: Gender-neutral names and the use of the masculine as an inclusive, umbrella term are intended to include both male and female subjects, as well as those who do not identify with the preceding genders.

THEMATIC AREAS

Proposals for presentations at the conference should focus on the following thematic areas:

1. New Learners: Profiles and Needs

- The multilingual and multicultural identity of today's university student;
- Analysis of linguistic needs for international mobility and employability;
- Inclusion, support, and teaching for students with specific learning disorders (SLD/DSA) or special educational needs (SEN/BES);
- Language learning in the third and fourth age: specific teaching methodologies for senior learners (University of the Third Age, adult courses, lifelong learning);
- Language learning in non-specialist contexts (CLIL, EMI, etc.).

2. New Challenges: Assessment, Certification, and Quality:

- Evolving models of formative and summative assessment.
- The impact of external certifications and the accreditation of CLAs.
- Strategies for quality assurance and self-evaluation of language services.

3. New Methods: Didactic Innovation and Technology:

- Hybrid (blended), distance learning, and synchronous/asynchronous teaching.
- The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning tools in language learning.
- Development of OER (Open Educational Resources) and digital teaching materials.
- Gamification, virtual/augmented reality, and the use of corpora and digital language tools.

4. New Expectations: Services, Competences, and Professional Development:

- The role of CLAs as service centres and their relationship with Departments.
- Professional development and continuous updating of teaching staff (CEL) and technical-administrative staff in CLAs.
- Stakeholder expectations (University, students, the working world) regarding the services provided.
- Sustainability and economic management of university language services.

Speakers will have 15 minutes to deliver their contributions, and each presentation will be followed by a maximum of 5 minutes for discussion.

Proposals can be in Italian and English, while presentations can be given in Italian, English, French, Spanish, and German.

To submit the abstract, the [Template Name] template must be used, available on the web page: unive.it/aiclu2026. Each abstract can be a maximum of 300 words (excluding bibliography) and must be sent via email to the address aiclu2026@unive.it by **31th January 2026**.

The abstract must indicate the category, from the thematic areas listed above, to which the contribution refers.

Each proposal must include the name, surname, affiliation, and email of the author(s). The evaluation will be conducted by the Scientific Committee using a double-blind review process.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

From 15/12/2025 to 31/01/2026: submission of presentation proposals

By 16/03/2026: communication of proposal evaluations

From 15/12/2025 to 30/04/2026: conference registration

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Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 February 2022 at the 1423rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies):
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