



Facing Babel: A Lecture on Multilingualism in Contemporary Europe

On 25 October 2025, the University of Cyprus Language Centre welcomed Dr Thomas Vogel, former Director of the Language Centre at European University Viadrina, President of the Association of University Language Centres in Germany, and founder of the Wulkow Group, a network of directors of university language centres across Europe. Dr Vogel delivered a public lecture titled “*Facing Babel: The Challenges of Multilingualism in Europe.*” Opening remarks were given by Prof. Fryni Kakoyianni-Doa, Acting Director of the Language Centre.

The event brought together students, academic staff, and members of the university community for an engaging discussion on Europe’s growing linguistic diversity and the broader implications for education and society.

Multilingualism as Both Challenge and Opportunity

Dr. Vogel explored how migration, globalisation, and demographic shifts have made multilingualism a central feature of contemporary European life. Drawing on student surveys and public policy examples, he raised important questions about the role of higher education institutions in this evolving landscape:

How can – and how should – universities respond to this multilingual reality?

Emphasising the value of students’ existing linguistic repertoires, Dr. Vogel framed multilingualism not only as a communication tool, but also as a powerful asset for

personal development, identity, and employability. His talk resonated strongly with attendees and sparked meaningful reflection across disciplines.

The Language Centre's Role in a Multilingual University

The Language Centre plays an active role in supporting and promoting multilingualism at the University of Cyprus. Through a wide range of language courses, academic support services, and recognised certification pathways, we aim to enhance linguistic competence, intercultural understanding, and equal access to learning opportunities.

We warmly thank Dr. Vogel for his valuable contribution to this ongoing conversation and for sharing his insights with such clarity and enthusiasm.

Explore What the Language Centre Offers

We invite students, teaching staff, and all members of the university community to explore the Language Centre's services and take part in upcoming courses and events. Language learning is not just an academic goal—it is a path to openness, inclusion, and success.

Learn more: <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/langce/>

Contact us: language.centre@ucy.ac.cy