



PLURILINGMEDIA

Language Plurality
in Europe's Changing
Media Sphere



Call for Papers

Minority Language Media and Language Vitality

With this book, we aim to contribute to the discussion on how media can support speakers of lesser-used languages and the vitality of minority, regional, minoritized, contested, and other languages. In the 21st century, the role of media in language use, maintenance, revitalization, and development appears crucial, as media are an integral part of everyday life. This applies to different types of media - traditional (TV, radio, print), established digital channels, and social media.

While traditional legacy media inform audiences, strengthen collective identity, and facilitate the development of receptive language skills (e.g. listening and reading), digital media reach broader audiences beyond traditional spaces where a variety is used. Social media platforms, in turn, also function as spaces for active communication and community building. They create (safe) environments in which minority/minoritized languages can be used, performed, and experienced within communities of speakers.

Media are used not only by individuals, but also by institutions representing minority and minoritized communities. They play an important role in education as facilitators of language learning, and their contribution to the development of individual and social literacy cannot be overstated. Media content is also part of everyday language practice within families, language activist circles, and community organizations while also developing grassroots literacy. Media outlets are increasingly considered in language planning and often play a key role in both top-down and bottom-up language policy.

Today, minority language media are, to some extent, supported by new technologies. However, their actual role in sustaining language vitality remains an open question since media may also strengthen national and international languages (English) to the detriment of lesser-used varieties. Another important issue concerns language attitudes and ideologies: how are they produced and reproduced through media? How do media shape the reception and representation of minority/minoritized languages and communities?

In this vein, we welcome contributions on topics situated at the intersection of media use, development, and planning, and the vitality of regional, minority, and minoritized languages. We are interested in all types of media, diverse geographical contexts in which these languages are used, and perspectives from both media producers and media users.

Editorial team: Nicole Dołowy, Sanita Martena, Lara Sorgo, Heiko Marten, Craig Willis



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At the core of the book is a comparative perspective on language vitality and media. We therefore encourage authors, particularly Working Group 3 members, to submit chapter proposals that:

- address a particular issue or aspect related to regional/minority/minoritized language media, their production, content, or use;
- involve collaboration with co-authors working on similar topics in different geographical or linguistic contexts in order to develop a comparative perspective.

In this way, the preparation of chapters becomes a collaborative work in progress. We expect authors to reflect on what emerges from the comparative perspective on minority language media and vitality; what can be learned through comparison; to what extent socio-political contexts shape the functioning of minority language media; and which challenges are shared across different minority language communities.

What do we expect?

We invite prospective authors to:

- find potential co-authors working on similar topics but focusing on different languages and/or regions*
 - *Here you find the [list of WG members](#);
 - *In case you are interested in contributing but don't have a potential co-author, please get in contact with us and we will try to give you some suggestions.
- discuss what insights emerge from such comparisons;
- submit, by **30 September 2026**, a short abstract of the proposed chapter including:
 - the list of authors;
 - the topic related to language vitality and minority language media, including the type of media discussed;
 - the list of languages addressed in the chapter;
 - a short description of the main idea and the comparative approach (and, if applicable, in the context of the COST action).
- Submissions should be sent to plurilingmedia@gmail.com

What next?

- After receiving the abstracts, the editors will decide on acceptance or contact authors with suggestions for revisions.
- The editors may also propose additional authors or linguistic contexts to strengthen the comparative perspective of the chapter.
- Once we have decided on the chapters and a draft structure of the book, we will get into further discussions with the Multilingual Matters publishing house (with whom we have, for the time being, provisionally agreed on a publication)
- In October/November 2026, an online workshop with all authors will be organized to discuss common structures and thematic points across the chapters and to suggest ways how to address common topics, reflections, or results.
- Final chapters are expected by **31 March 2027**.