

Proposal for a paper

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Title: Minority languages in Europe: The role of universities in creating a dynamic for the future

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Abstract: A number of studies show that the demographic strength of many so-called "regional" or "minority" language groups is declining across Europe, despite a trend towards greater acceptance in mainstream discourse of the concept of linguistic diversity.

An example is given of a university that owes its very existence to the refusal to allow the use of a language other than the official language of the state in a state-run university, and to the response of a regional government committed to supporting its own language. This is the [Universitat Oberta de Catalunya](#).

The role of a university in helping to develop a suitable dynamic favourable to the recovery of a so-called "minority language" is discussed in the framework of a model of sociolinguistic change that puts the individual and his/her perceptions at its centre.

Some relevant bibliography:

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