

Dr. Christian Timm

European Association for International Education / Ulm University (Germany)

ctimm@zsp.uni-ulm.de

Why just English? - Some short chapters on thin lines, unavoidability and reconciliation

English is now the dominant or official language in over 60 countries and is represented in every continent. From this fact it can be understood that the English language is a vital means of communication for millions of people around the world in all spheres of communication – including higher education.

The presentation aims to elaborate how to manage the split (or the dilemma?) between an urgently needed (and still established) lingua franca and its special speech community on the one hand, and a linguistic and cultural diversity (also in the landscape of higher education) that is worth preserving as a rich potential for the future on the other.

It is intended a) to report on experiences collected over a decade as a (German and European) teacher, linguist and administrator (dealing, for example, with international affairs in the complex world of global higher education) and therefore b) to provide as representative of the European Association for International Education (EAIE) and as chair of its professional section “Languages for Intercultural Communication and Mobility” (LICOM) views, priorities, strategies and (of course) questions related to bi- and multicultural higher education.