

FIPLV / NBR Conference  
*Future of Languages*  
June 11 - 12, 2020



### Call for Papers

The conference *Future of Languages* will take place in Reykjavík, Iceland, in 2020. The venue is at the University of Iceland, “Veröld – the home of Vigdís” building,<sup>1</sup> named after Iceland’s former president, Madame Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, the first and only UNESCO Ambassador of Languages.<sup>2</sup> The program will be partly theoretical and partly practical as we join forces to learn from each other’s experiences and practices, while simultaneously gaining knowledge about future perspectives and challenges. Panels will be organized in different languages, even if English will be the main language of communication.

The daily program will open and close with a plenary lecture, while numerous parallel sessions will operate simultaneously within the same building. Suggestions for outstanding speakers are still welcomed (send to holmfr@hi.is).

### Schedule

- October 15 - Last day for submitting abstracts (infovigdis@hi.is / Subject: NBR abstract)
- November 15 - Last day for notification of acceptance
- January 30 - Draft Program / Registration / Practical Details
- March 30 - Final Program / Practical Details
- May 15 - Last Circular Letter
- June 11/12 - Conference Dates

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<sup>1</sup> Please see: <https://vigdis.hi.is/en/verold/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vigdís-Finnbogadóttir>

## Regarding “Future of Languages”

For decades scientists have confirmed that at least half of the world’s population is bilingual (Grosjean, 1984/2010)<sup>3</sup> – while a third is considered multilingual. Simultaneously, one of the world’s 7000 language goes extinct every other week. The case of Iceland and its population of 340.000 inhabitants falls somewhere in between, making it quite fitting that the NBR conference on the *Future of Languages* be organized in on the island. The official language, Icelandic, is spoken daily by most, the school system from pre-school to university is conducted primarily in Icelandic, the language of administration, arts and sciences is Icelandic, while English has been gaining grounds in higher education and business the last few years.

The conference will give teachers of languages and others interested in its theme an opportunity to simultaneously evaluate the past, re-evaluate the present and consider the future of languages, language learning and teaching, as well as policy making – keeping the Baltic and Nordic educational authorities particularly in mind.

### Abstracts

Proposals for presentations should be submitted prior to October 15, 2019. Please include: Name, affiliation, title and language of communication, followed by a short description of content. Maximum 200 words. Please send to: [infovigdis@hi.is](mailto:infovigdis@hi.is) / Subject: NBR abstract.

### Topics of interests

What are the roles of systematic language learning and teaching?

What languages to teach in near future / long term?

Means to promote language learning and cultural literacy?

How to teach languages / to whom / where and when?

What are the main challenges / what are we good at?

How can language teachers contribute to ...:

- Educational and school authorities...?
- Society / community / humanity ☺

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<sup>3</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674530928>