Multilingualism
in Scholarly Communication:

Main Findings and Future Challenges

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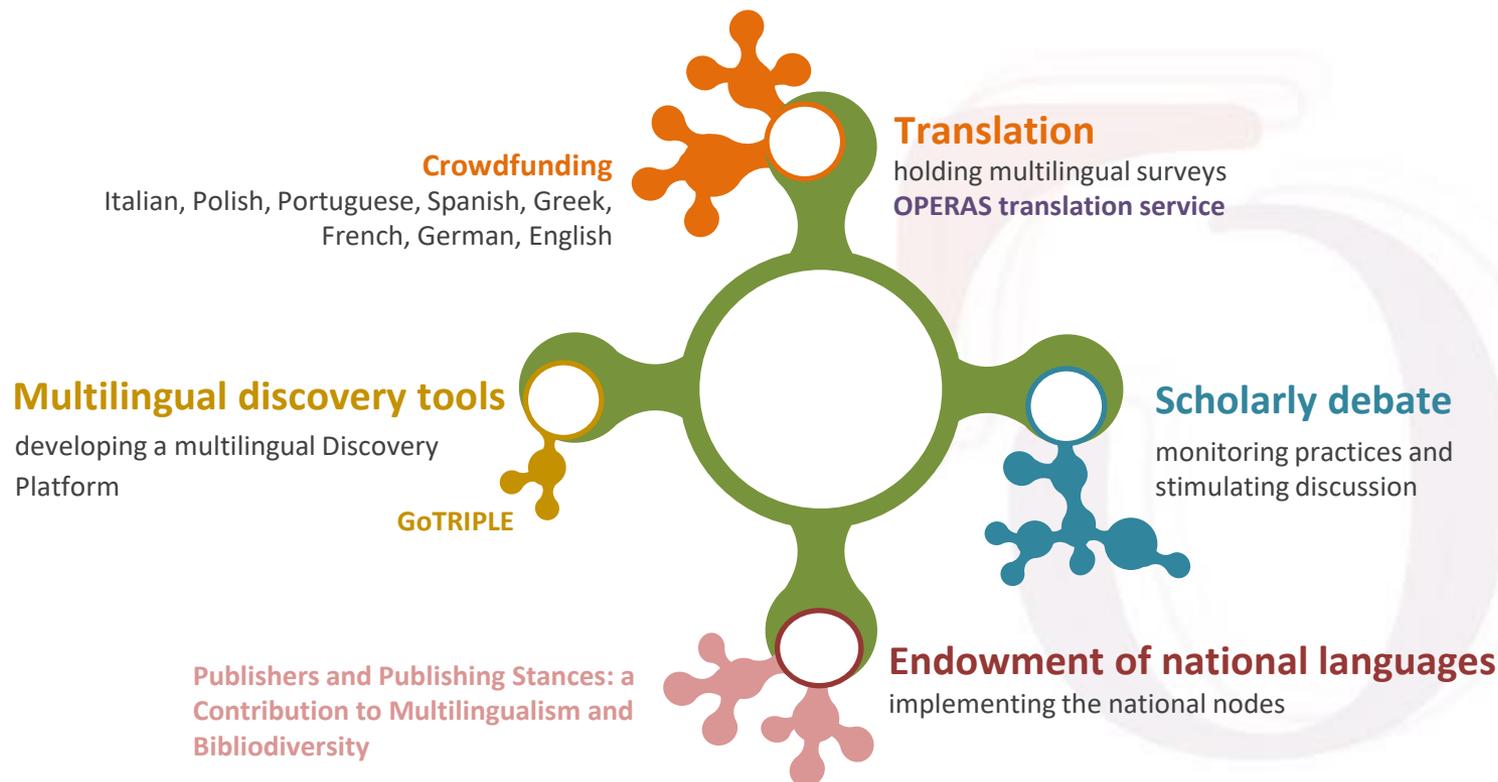**University of Coimbra - OPERAS**

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Increasing Language Scope

Translation
holding multilingual surveys
OPERAS translation service

Crowdfunding
Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Greek, French, German, English

Multilingual discovery tools
developing a multilingual Discovery Platform

GoTRIPLE

Scholarly debate
monitoring practices and stimulating discussion

Publishers and Publishing Stances: a Contribution to Multilingualism and Bibliodiversity

Endowment of national languages
implementing the national nodes

OPERAS
open scholarly communication in the european
research area for social sciences and humanities

Main Findings

Literature Review:

• the **categorisation of the _corpus_** regarding the dynamics between multilingualism and scholarly communication in SSH was identified _in vivo_ and structured into **four categories**:

• research relevance
• content curation
• reputation
• balanced multilingualism in scholarly communication

Main Findings

Literature Review:

• **research relevance**

Englishisation does not seem to fully address research intended main goals, concerning information sharing and discussion, as well as co-construction of knowledge, for which **multilingualism** can pose as an important asset, while promoting **inclusiveness** and **equity** of researchers.

• **content curation**

The possibility of having **reliable multilingual research information** definitely contributes to an **efficient dissemination** of research (and research data) produced in **national languages**, as well as communication among publishers and researchers – thus promoting the development of intercultural, comparative and/or complementary studies in SSH. In this context, **multilingual content curation** is crucial and very sensitive.

Main Findings

Literature Review:

• **reputation**

Given that a considerable amount of SSH research is published as **monographs** and/or in **local languages**, the use of English databases to evaluate research and establish the researchers' or the institution's reputations is necessarily **fallacious** and **limited** if it does cover multilingual scholarly production.

• **balanced multilingualism in scholarly communication**

It poses as a **golden breakthrough** to embrace **information-sharing**, **collaborative knowledge construction** and **equity** by enabling global interaction with **multinational and multidisciplinary research** (and researchers), thus **mitigating** the hurdles underlying static, poor **translations**, while **bridging research** worldwide.

Main Findings

Survey

• There is a **strong openness** among **researchers**, **translators** and **publishers** in viewing the **amplification of multilingualism** as an advantage both for fostering international collaborative works and for **promoting interculturality** and **equity**, highlighting that:

• a **collaborative system** that uses expertise in specific areas to support and facilitate translations could **mitigate the risks** of consumption of **time**, the **price** and the **flaws** that may be attached to the **translation process**.

• The exchange of experiences and specificities among researchers from **different languages**, but **sharing the same areas of study**, has the potential to make a relevant contribution for **enriching** the **international collaboration** and **visibility** of works.

Challenges

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Boost balanced multilingualism

• **Multilingualism** must be perceived as a strong manifestation of **bibliodiversity**, particularly important in SSH.

• This does not preclude the usage of English as a communication language, as long as the **advantages of using a *lingua franca*** do not imply the **risk of turning it into a *lingua unica*** in terms of scientific and scholarly communication.

• Instead of that**, innovative solutions** must be implemented with the ability of **enhancing balanced multilingualism** in scholarly communication, in information-sharing, and in collaborative knowledge construction.

Lingua franca
is not
lingua unica.

Challenges

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Develop a Community Based Translation Platform

• boost the collaborative work of **researchers**, **translators**, and **publishers**

• create conditions for **cooperation**

• **share** tools, experiences, methodologies.

• conceive the **platform as a social infrastructure**

• **federate** technical knowledge and scholarly expertise

• test and improve by a **broad users community**

Make national scholarly production internationally relevant.

Recommendations

Funders and research performing organisations: Advocate the **implementation of innovative solutions** that have the ability of **enhancing balanced multilingualism** in scholarly communication, in information-sharing, in **collaborative knowledge construction,** and in **careers recognition and credit**.

Scholars

View the **amplification of multilingualism** as an advantage for **fostering international collaborative works** and for **promoting interculturality, inclusion and equity**.

Publishers

Improve the **scholarly communication landscape** on an **international scale**, helping what tends to be considered '**national**' (the usage of local languages) to **become more clearly 'international'**.
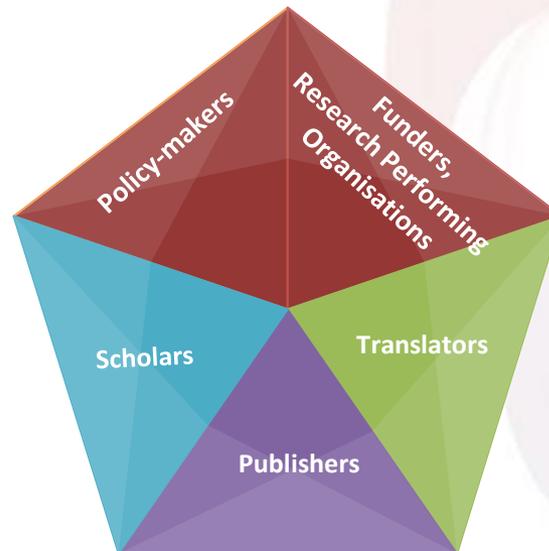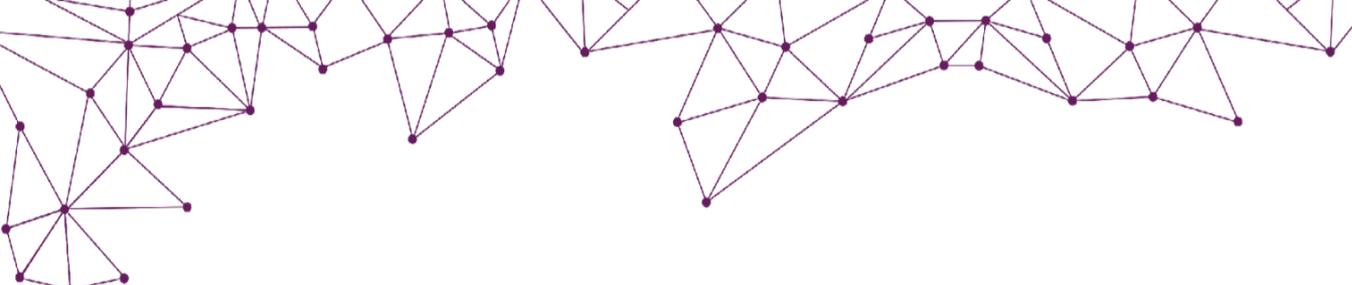
Policy-makers

Perceive and value **multilingualism as a strong manifestation of bibliodiversity**, particularly in SSH.

Translators

Enhance expertise, particularly when it is combined with **reciprocity**, as an indicator of a feasible positive impact from **networking**.

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