



Press release

28 May 2009

Cambridge host international discussion on multilingualism and other language trends in Catalonia and the rest of Europe

Barcelona, 28 May: The relationship between regional and global languages in Catalonia was just one of the themes discussed at a seminar this week by Cambridge ESOL, part of the University of Cambridge. The worldwide language assessment experts brought together international academics, professionals, commentators and delegates in Catalonia and the rest of Europe to discuss current language trends and associated challenges.

Chaired by eminent Catalan philologist Sr Carles Duarte i Montserrat, the event on 27 May at the Palau Centelles was attended by a number of Catalan and international speakers with common interests concerning European language trends. A keynote opening speech from distinguished British linguist David Graddol gave an overview of global trends in language use, and how they affect the role of English as a world language.

Dr Nick Saville, Director of Research and Validation at Cambridge ESOL spoke on how global standards of English can be set for local contexts. Focussing on the Catalan example, Dr Saville discussed ways in which common European standards can be applied to local settings.

Speaking at the event, **Dr Saville** explained why he found the Catalan example particularly fascinating:

"In an increasingly multilingual Europe, Catalonia's experience has many lessons for the rest of the continent, and it is very encouraging to see the high level of public awareness of this issue. It will be particularly interesting to see the outcome of the current debate about not dubbing films into Catalan, a move which should help to raise the standard of English speaking and comprehension."

Other presentations included a look at language competency in Higher Education and the workplace from ESADE's Dr Juan Ramis Pujol. There was also an insightful case study on language education policy in the Italian region

of Lombardy presented by Ms Gisella Langé from the Italian Ministry of Education.

This was followed by a panel discussion and a unique opportunity for the international participants to ask the speakers questions.

Ends

About Cambridge ESOL

Cambridge ESOL offers the world's leading range of certificates for learners and teachers of English - taken by over 3 million people in 130 countries. They help people gain entrance to university or college, improve job prospects or measure progress in English. More than 8,500 employers, universities and government bodies around the world [recognise Cambridge ESOL qualifications](#).

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