

XVII Euralex International Congress

The XVII Euralex International Congress of the European Association for Lexicography will be held on 6-10 September 2016 in Tbilisi by the Lexicographic Center of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

With the theme of *Lexicography and Linguistic Diversity*, the main objective of the congress is to highlight the importance of lexicography for the preservation of linguistic diversity and the promotion of cultural and scientific ties among different cultures and nations. Other objectives are to emphasize the role of lexicography as a rapidly developing interdisciplinary branch of science – incorporating multiple components, *viz.* semantic theories, corpus-based methods, techniques for natural language processing, e-lexicography, etc – and to explore the current status of lexicography as merely a *craft* or rather a full-fledged scholarly discipline

destined to fulfill multiple important missions in our rapidly developing multicultural and multilingual world. In addition, the Tbilisi congress aims at further popularization and sustainable development of lexicography in Georgia.

The Programme Committee has selected 115 papers by 190 authors from around the world. The papers were anonymously reviewed by at least two members of the Scientific Committee. Keynote lectures will be delivered by Jost Gippert, Patrick Hanks, Robert Ilson, Pius ten Hacken and Geoffrey Williams, and a round-table discussion will be moderated by Thierry Fontenelle. The programme includes also parallel sessions, software demonstrations, pre-congress tutorials and specialized workshops, a book and software exhibition, and social events. <http://Euralex2016.tsu.ge/>



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The Lexicographic Centre at Tbilisi State University

In May 2011 the Academic Council and the Council of Representatives of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University took the decision to grant the Lexicographic Centre at the university the status of University Centre for Bilingual Lexicography. The decision was part of the process of consolidating the role of Georgian as the national language and the language of science in Georgia. This is particularly important at this current moment in the history of Georgia as, following the restoration of independence in 1991, the Georgian language regained its function as the national language and began to develop and adapt to the realities of contemporary life, incorporating words and expressions connected with international politics and diplomacy, market economy and judicial procedures, as well as military, scientific and technical terms.

The Lexicographic Centre (LC) was originally established as an independent entity by the Department of English Philology back in 1995 and included the editorial team of the *Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary* (CEGD) that has been in place since the 1980's. The aim was to

edit and prepare CEGD for publication in volumes, and 14 volumes have been published so far, covering a total of 2,380 pages. In 2009 the LC started to work on an electronic platform for CEGD and in 2010 the *Comprehensive English-Georgian Online Dictionary* was posted on the Internet (<http://margaliti.ge/eng/index.htm/>). The online version is based on the published volumes and includes 110,000 entries.

In 2008 it was transformed into a faculty-level centre within the Faculty of Humanities and started the compilation of a series of specialized dictionaries. *English-Georgian Online Military Dictionary* (<http://mil.dict.ge/>) was created in 2009 at the request of the Ministry of Defence. Then, the LC editors compiled *English-Georgian Online Biology Dictionary* in 2011-2013 (<http://bio.dict.ge/>) and *English-Georgian Online Dictionary of Technical Terminology* in 2014-2016 (<http://tech.dict.ge/>), both funded by Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation.

One of the LC goals is the promotion of bilingual lexicography of Georgian and European languages, for which purpose MA and PhD programs were launched. In 2011 a joint MA program

was set up with the Department of the Italian Language and the work on a *New Italian-Georgian Learner's Dictionary* is the first one underway. The LC plans to initiate bilingual projects for other European languages, including old ones such as Gothic and Old English. In 2012 the LC started to work on a new project, Parallel Corpus of English-Georgian Scientific Texts (<http://corp.dict.ge/>).

The LC pays great attention to the promotion of lexicography as a branch of science. With that end in view, it delivers public lectures, gives presentations, has trainings with teachers of foreign languages, arranges contests, and aims to provide adequate education in this field. The LC has been a key force in transforming the approach of the authorities towards lexicography in Georgia. It was one of the initiators of setting up a State Committee for the Enhancement of Lexicography in Georgia at the Ministry of Education and Science. The Committee is developing the National Programme of Lexicography, which is intended to compile Georgian explanatory, historical and specialist terminological dictionaries, and to promote bilingual and electronic lexicography.