

## PRESS RELEASE

18 August 2005

*European Association for International Education*

### **New EAIE book debates the use of English in international education**

The significance of the use of English in international education will never be a matter of consensus. The debate tends to be informed as much by opinion and, perhaps, prejudice as it is by research and statistics. The latest book in the EAIE's Occasional Paper series, 'I gotta use words when I talk to you: English and international education' deliberately presents a wide variety of views on this controversial subject. The authors do not present their essays as expert perspectives but rather as participants in a debate that will not end this year, this decade or, perhaps, this century.

Hans De Wit (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Bernd Wächter (Academic Cooperation Association (ACA), Brussels, Belgium) present a historical and research perspective. They reflect, among other issues, on the challenges of teaching in a language that is not your mother tongue, and suggest that the use of English in higher education is perhaps not quite as widespread as one might think.

Christian Timm (Ulm University, Germany) and Maria Sticchi Damiani (Free International University of Social Studies (LUISS), Rome, Italy) passionately plead a case against the monolingual approach, believing a true study abroad experience involves exposure to another culture and another language.

Taking an oppositional view, Michael Woolf (Foundation for International Education, London, UK), argues that English is a necessary tool without which there is no means for an expansion of student mobility across numerous language communities. Both he and Nicolette DeVille Christensen (Guilford College, Greenboro, North Carolina, USA), who offers an American perspective, suggest that using linguistic integration as a measure of quality in study abroad is both unrealistic and archaic.

Dominic Janes (Foundation for International Education, London, UK) reminds us that there is no single 'English' and raises the possibility of enriching curriculum by teaching about English rather than simply confronting the need (or otherwise) to teach in English.

All of the authors share the view that the question of English in international education is a crucial one. In this book, they approach it through a contrasting set of national and professional perspectives. The debate will continue at the 17th Annual EAIE Conference in Kraków, Poland, where several of the contributing authors will participate in the Seventh Joint EAIE/ACA Seminar 'English as the language of international education'.

#### **EAIE Occasional Papers**

The EAIE's Occasional Paper series provides a medium through which topics of interest to EAIE members can be explored in depth. 'I gotta use words when I talk to you: English and international education' is number 17 in the series.

#### **Orders**

Copies of 'I gotta use words when I talk to you: English and international education', EAIE Occasional Paper 17, can be ordered from the EAIE at <http://www.eaie.org/publications/order.asp> and cost EUR 10 per copy (plus postage and packing).

#### **Further information**

More information regarding the EAIE and its publications can be obtained from the EAIE website, <http://www.eaie.org>, or contact the EAIE Secretariat, PO Box 11189, 1001 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel +31-20-525 49 99, fax +31-20-525 49 98, e-mail [eaie@eaie.nl](mailto:eaie@eaie.nl).

.....  
Not for publication:

For more information please contact Janny van Wijk at the EAIE Secretariat on tel +31-20-525 49 83, fax +31-20-525 49 98, e-mail [wijk@eaie.nl](mailto:wijk@eaie.nl)