

Acknowledgements

The objective of this book is to give a deep, clear and rigorous picture of the management of multilingualism in different European educational systems, taking into account the historical, sociolinguistic and political conditionings that have influenced and are influencing the current approach. Our ultimate goal is to offer a piece of work that is useful to a wide range of people, from scholars and professionals to students in the fields of languages and education, interested in the treatment of languages in the different European educational systems (in particular Catalonia, the Basque Country and Asturias, the Principality of Andorra, France, England, the Netherlands, Romania, Latvia within the framework of the Baltic Republics, and Finland). The book will be useful on any course that addresses education and/or bilingualism/multilingualism issues.

As with any academic work, this would not have been possible without the cooperation of a great number of specialists and institutions.

First of all, we wish to thank all the chapter authors for their work, as, through their meetings, exchanges and great effort, they have given shape to this work and enriched it. Our sincere gratitude goes to Montserrat Sendra, F. Xavier Vila, José-María Madariaga, Xosé Antón González-Riaño, Alberto Fernández-Costales, Josep M. Díaz-Torrent, Carolina Bastida, Juan Jiménez-Salcedo, Théophile Munyangeyo, Saâdia Gamir, Andreu van Hooft, Frank van Meurs, Ulrike Nederstigt, Berna Hendriks, Brigitte Planken, Sjoerd van den Berg, Adelina Ianos, Clara Sansó, Cristina Petreñas, Sanita Lazdiņa, Heiko F. Marten, John Smeds, Judit Janés, Ester Caballé, Maria Torres and Isabel Sáenz.

Secondly, we want to thank the Vicerectorate for Cultural Activities and University Outreach of the University of Lleida, the Obra Social La Caixa, the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Social Work of the University of Lleida and the Catalan Government, all of whom gave us the opportunity to organize the Symposium ‘Managing Multilingualism in European Schools’, a seed that has grown to be this book, among other things.

Thirdly, this publication has been made possible thanks to the development of two broader research studies funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (reference nos EDU2014-54093-R, EDU2017-82479-R and IJCI-2016-28250) and the Catalan Government’s

Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) (reference nos 2014 SGR 208 and 2017 SGR 322).

Finally, we wish to thank Multilingual Matters for accepting and publishing this work, and our special thanks to Laura Longworth for her relentless help throughout the editing process.