

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the **XVI CercleS Conference** organisers. We would like to thank you very much for all your support and kind words we have been receiving. All that has been strongly encouraging and we are extremely happy to be part of this fantastic community.

In consultation with the CercleS Executive, this email is to inform you about the preparations of the conference.

With belief that networking plays a vital role in our profession, with more than 200 abstracts from 25 countries and with the number of registered participants steadily growing, we continue to prepare the conference. We know that the coronavirus situation differs considerably country to country and region to region, and we would like to assure you that we monitor this complexity, we shape and re-shape diverse scenarios, and we are open to all feasible solutions in order to make the event as inclusive as possible. In this atmosphere, we would like to send three clear messages:

1) We care about the community of CercleS and language centres in general and we care about your individual needs. We would like to make the conference accessible to as many of you as possible under the given circumstances. Please, if you have any national, institutional or individual doubts, questions or enquiries, do not hesitate and ask (Cercles2020@cjv.muni.cz), we are flexible and ready to help with all types of specific issues that may arise from the challenging situation we are all in.

2) We plan responsibly. We are in constant contact with the CercleS Executive considering alternatives, which are, among others, (a) “run as planned” (if a miracle happens, and they do); (b) semi-virtual format (where those who can will come in person, those who cannot will be encouraged to join the conference virtually); (c) the same date but completely different programme format; (d) postponed conference within 2020; (e) postponed conference for September 2021; or (f) fully virtual format in planned dates. Careful planning is connected to effective communication, so, to make sure you get all the information needed, we have decided that apart from the information on the web (www.cjv.muni.cz/cercles2020/), we are also going to send regular updates. The organisational emails will be sent in mid-May, early June and on 26 June, when the main organisational decisions will be made. If you do not want to receive those emails, please, let us know at Cercles2020@cjv.muni.cz and we will exclude you from the mailing list.

3) We believe fun is an essential aspect of our work, too. We have been enjoying the conference preparations and being in contact with you enormously and we would like to share some of the fun with you. You have already heard the song, and there is more coming. At the moment, our webpages are undergoing a facelift, so, when that is ready, we'll get back to you with some more activities that you could join.

We are still looking forward to having you in Brno in September!

Kind regards,
The CercleS Conference Organisers