



## Teaching and Learning Heritage Languages: Multilingualism, Identity, and Innovative methods

Dear Colleagues,

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, the language centers at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and Goethe University cordially invite you to the **sixth Heritage Language Week 2026**. We would like to invite teachers, educators, coordinators, students, and experts in the field of heritage languages alike and join them under the title **“Teaching and Learning Heritage Languages: Multilingualism, Identity, and Innovative Methods.”**

The aim of the Heritage Language Week is to raise awareness concerning heritage languages. Furthermore, it provides a platform for the exchange of teaching and learning experiences in the field of heritage language teaching at schools and higher-education institutions.

The Heritage Language Week is conducted in the format of a **“Good Practice Exchange,”** which offers participants the opportunity to present, discuss, and further develop methods and techniques for teaching heritage languages.



The event will take place from **February 17 to 19, 2026**, in Frankfurt am Main at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences.

We look forward to welcoming everyone who works in the field of heritage languages at schools and higher-education institutions. Foreign language teachers are also cordially invited to attend the event.


Participation is free of charge, but **registration is required**. You will receive a certificate of participation after the event.

Take advantage of this opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues, gain new inspiration, and shape the future of heritage language teaching together!

Registration via [Heritage Languages Week](#)



Further information: [herkunftssprache@fra-uas.de](mailto:herkunftssprache@fra-uas.de)

 Together we protect the environment. You are welcome to bring your own paper and pen for notes.

## Program

<b>Tuesday, February 17, 2026</b>	
09:00–09:45	<i>Registration</i> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i>
09:45–10:00	<p>Welcome address:                      Prof. Dr. Maren Harnack, Vice President for Studies and Teaching, Frankfurt UAS                      Dr. Sabine Schmidt, Head of the Language Centre, Frankfurt UAS / Dr. Maria Kopp Kavermann, Head of the Language Centre, Goethe University Frankfurt  <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i></p>
10:00–11:30	<p><b>Keynote: Prompts in the Native Language: AI-Supported Material Development for Targeted Differentiation in Heritage Language Teaching</b>                      Prof. Dr. Grit Mehlhorn, Leipzig University  <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i></p>
11:30–13:00	<i>Lunch (at own expense)</i>
13:00–15:00	<p><b>Workshops (parallel sessions)</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 1: Slavic Languages: Multilingualism and Intercomprehension in Practice</b>                      Dr. Svetlana Ahlborn, Goethe University Frankfurt                      Language: German and Slavic Languages  <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 2, Room 363</i></p> <p>The workshop aims to explore the similarities and differences between Slavic languages from a didactic perspective and to strengthen interlingual skills within the framework of multilingual language education. Participants must have knowledge of at least one Slavic language at any level of proficiency.</p>

**Workshop 2: “You have consider what it has achieved—there is always something to praise.” Formative assessment and feedback methods in heritage language teaching**

Dr. Maria Sulimova, Leipzig University

Language: German

*Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 2, Room 477*

Motivation to learn is a key issue in heritage language teaching, which means that feedback also plays an important role. How can motivation be maintained and strengthened despite the necessary focus on written language skills and the challenges this entails? In this workshop, we will explore what constitutes constructive feedback in heritage language teaching, how it can be given in small steps in a way that promotes learning, and what options exist for motivational performance assessment and joint analysis of written work.

**Workshop 3: Material-Based Writing When Teaching Russian as a Heritage Language**

Uliana Retzlaff, Heritage Language Teacher, Düsseldorf School Authority; Nataliia Antonenkova, Author, Didactician

Language: Russian

*Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 2, Room 362*

This workshop deals with the implementation of the format *material-based writing* in Russian as a heritage and foreign language courses at state schools in Germany. The focus is on strategies for source analysis, information structuring, and the creation of texts tailored to specific audiences and tasks. Practical examples are used to illustrate possibilities for language support and performance assessment in a multilingual context.

**Workshop 4: Vocabulary Work in Heritage Language Teaching: Playful and Motivating Learning**

Viktoria Sokha, Ukrainian Saturday School in Mainz

Language: German

*Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 2, Room 478*

	The workshop “Working with vocabulary in heritage language teaching: playful and motivating learning” addresses the question of how vocabulary can be taught in an effective, interconnected, and fun way. The focus is on the mental lexicon as a cognitive network in which words are not isolated but are connected semantically, phonologically, and contextually.
15:00–15:30	<b>Coffee break, Building 2, Room 379</b>
15:30–18:00	<b>World-Café and Presentation of Results (for all participants)</b> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 2, Room 462</i>
Ab 18:30	<i>Joint dinner (at your own expense) &amp; Get in touch</i> <i>Please let us know when registering if you would like to attend the joint dinner</i>
<b>Wednesday, February 18, 2026</b>	
09:00–9:30	<i>Registration</i> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i>
09:30–9:45	Welcome address: Dr. Maria Sulimova, Institute of Slavic Studies; Herder Institute, University of Leipzig / Dr. Elena Tchernega Meinert, Heritage Language Coordinator, Frankfurt UAS <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i>
09:45–11:15	<b>Keynote: Between Linguistic Variation in a Migration Society and Linguistic norms: Perspectives on Critical Language Preservation Didactics</b> Dr. Erkan Gürsoy, University of Duisburg-Essen <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i>
11:15–11:45	<b>Coffee break, Building 2, Room 379</b>
11:45–13:15	<b>Working Groups: Part I (parallel sessions)</b>  <b>Bosnian/Croatian/Macedonian/Serbian as a Heritage Language</b> Language: Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 363</i>  <b>Promoting language awareness and identity-related language reflection in heritage language teaching</b> Olga Stojanović Fréchette, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**Adaptation of English as a Foreign Language Materials for BKS Teaching: A Practice-Oriented Presentation**

Anita Cvetkovic Kienle, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

**Russian as a Heritage Language**

Language: Russian

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 364*

**Science fiction in Russian lessons: experiences in creating teaching materials for bilingual Russian teenagers** Uliana

Uliana Retzlaff (HSU teacher, North Rhine-Westphalia), Nataliia Antonenkova (Portugal)

**Presentation of the courses “Adventure in the City of Grammar Masters” and “Traveling with Grammar” for bilingual children**

Dr. Alla V. Peeters-Podgaevskaja, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Ukrainian as a Heritage Language**

Language: Ukrainian

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 171*

**Intercultural bridges: a step towards each other to understand Ukrainian better**

Oleksandra Miasoutova, University of Göttingen

**Heritage language as the foundation: the potential of multilingualism**

Nataliia Barabash, Ukrainian Saturday School in Vienna (Austria)

**Learning Ukrainian during project weeks in schools in Hesse (using the example of the “Multilingualism” project)**

Prof. Dr. Galyna Nesterenko, NGO Taunusstein-Idstein-Untertaunus, HL-Teacher

**Turkish as a Heritage Language**

Language: Turkish

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 362*

**Zwischen Chat und Roman: Neue Lesewege für Herkunftssprachen**

Dr. Derya Nuhbalaoglu-Ayan, Frankfurt UAS

**Feedbackprozesse im Herkunftssprachenunterricht: Grundlagen, Herausforderungen, Perspektiven**

Hikmet Cenger-Dogan, RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau

**Identitätsentwicklung im Kontext der Herkunftssprache Türkisch**

Haci Bekir Topalak, HSU-Lehrkraft

**Research Section**

Languages: English and German

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 276*

**Accent perception in bilingual children acquiring Italian**

Paulina Hafner, University of Konstanz

**Challenges of teaching Hassaniya as Heritage language in diaspora: Mauritanian families in France and Spain as a case study**

Ould Ehine H'Meide, University of Belgrade (Serbia)

**Hmong Classifiers: Conceptualization of Noun Classifiers in Native Speakers**

Dr. May Vang, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (USA) Curriculum & Instruction



13:15–14:45	<i>Lunch (at your own expense)</i>
14:45–16:15	<p><b>Sektionen – Teil I (<i>finden parallel statt</i>)</b></p> <p><b>Section I: Methods in Heritage Language Teaching</b>                  Language: German/English  <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 477</i></p> <p><b>Between Heritage Language and Standard Language: Norms, Goals, and Negotiation Processes in Heritage Language Education</b>                  Dr. Onur Özsoy, University of Cologne; Michelle Vuong, Goethe University Frankfurt</p> <p><b>Activities in Italian lessons differentiated by level</b>                  Eliana Baldi, Humboldt University of Berlin</p> <p><b>Professionalization of teachers in heritage language teaching: An OER self-study course using the example of the Bulgarian language</b>                  Dr. Milena Minova, University of Duisburg-Essen</p> <p><b>Section II: Multilingualism in Everyday Life and Continuous Language Education</b>                  Language: German/English  <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 478</i></p> <p><b>Curriculum meets diversity: Curricular integration of heritage languages and the promotion of transcultural skills in foreign language teaching</b>                  Dr. Bastian Fuchs, University of Bonn</p> <p><b>Teachers` competences for plurilingual virtual exchange projects</b>                  Anita Cvetkovic Kienle, Frankfurt UAS</p>

	<p><b>Key data on heritage language teaching – From the ability to return to the education of bicultural people</b> Maurella Carbone, Migrant group Intercultural education GEW-Hessen</p>
16:15–16:45	<i>Coffee break, Building 2, Room 379</i>
16:45–18:15	<p><b>Transitions in multilingualism: Identity and Cultural Experience</b> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i></p> <p><b>Short film:</b> Philéas Laoutides' “My Own Private Eleusis” and discussion</p> <p>Reading by Cinzia Tanzella “<b>Like a Fish Out of Water</b>” Cinzia Tanzella's short stories show how quickly one can live in two cultures at the same time and get wonderfully lost in the process — episodes about linguistic misunderstandings, cultural pitfalls, and surprising moments that arise when one's own heritage language and a new language collide. The stories from Like a Fish Out of Water combine wit, self-irony, and intercultural sensitivity. In her reading for the Heritage Language Week, Cinzia Tanzella will present an excerpt from the collection.</p>
Ab 19:00	<p><i>Joint dinner (at your own expense) &amp; Get in touch</i> <i>Please let us know when registering if you would like to attend the joint dinner</i></p>
<b>Thursday, February 19, 2026</b>	
09:00–09:30	<p><i>Registration</i> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i></p>
09:30–10:45	<p><b>Keynote: Reading strategies in heritage language teaching</b> Prof.<sup>in</sup> Mag.<sup>a</sup> Julia Festman, Ph.D. habil., University of Education Tyrol (Austria) <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i></p>
10:45-11:30	<p><b>„Your Language Counts! “- Materials for Heritage Language Education</b> Dr. Tatjana Atanasoska, University of Teacher Education, Linz <i>Frankfurt UAS, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt, Building 1, Lecture Hall 401</i></p>

<p>11:15–12:30</p>	<p><b>Poster session and exhibition of learning materials</b> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 379</i></p> <p><b>More Languages — More Together: Experiences from the Multilingual Speaking Competition for Students</b> Ursula Csejtei, German Children and Youth Foundation</p> <p><b>The Use of Feature Films in Teaching Turkish to Russian-Speaking Students of Various Levels to Improve Their Speaking and Listening Skills English</b> Olga Sarigoz, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz</p> <p><b>COIL in Russian lessons: Concept, implementation, and experiences from the collaboration between the University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna and Frankfurt UAS</b> Dr. Elena Tchernega Meinert, FSZ Frankfurt UAS/SZ Goethe University Frankfurt; Anna Wolfauer M.A., University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna</p> <p><b>Functions of code-switching in heritage speakers and other bilinguals</b> Dr. Onur Özsoy, Universität Köln; Michelle Vuong, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt; Prof. Dr. Jacopo Torregrossa, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt; Prof. Dr. Edith Kaan, Universität Florida (USA)</p> <p><b>„Your Language Counts! “</b> Dr. Tatjana Atanasoska, University of Teacher Education, Linz</p>
<p>12:30–13:30</p>	<p><i>Lunch (at your own expense)</i></p>
<p>13:30–15:30</p>	<p><b>Working Groups: Part II (parallel sessions)</b></p> <p><b>Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian as a Heritage Language</b> Language: Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 363</i></p>

**Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian as the common language of the region of origin: Identity, multilingualism, and didactic practice using the example of the “Zmaj” school**

Dr. Jelena Angelovski, “Zmaj,” Association for Native Language, Education, and Culture, Switzerland

**Languages and voices of translation: On the role of the implicit author in a comparative reading of H. C. Andersen's *The Little Match Girl***

Zorica Mladenovic, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

**The role of bilingual children's books in language preservation**

Online bookstore for Serbian-language children's books “Kutak bibliotekarke Jeje”

**Ukrainian as a Heritage Language**

Language: Ukrainian

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 171*

**Ukrainian as a foreign language: Corpus-based analysis of cultural-historical content as a didactic tool**

Nataliya Popovych, TU Darmstadt

**Ukrainian lessons in Berlin: Scientifically based and practical approaches as well as empowerment at the German-Ukrainian School Berlin**

Oksana Potelchak, German-Scandinavian School Berlin

**Heritage language as a source of strength in a multilingual environment**

Roksolana Rakhletska, Frankfurt am Main

**Immersive strategies for passing on heritage languages in a diasporic context: experiences of the German-Ukrainian cultural and educational organization Oseredok Leipzig e.V.**

Liza Walther, Olha Baumann, Olha Voronsbekher, Cultural and Educational Organization Oseredok Leipzig e.V.

**Research Section**

Language: English

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 364*

**Selective Mutism in Bilingual Children and the role of school**

Alla V. Peeters-Podgaevskaja, Guldana A. Sarbassova, University of Amsterdam (Niederlande)

**The use of dative case by heritage speakers of Russian in the US and Germany**

Yulia Zuban, University of Stuttgart; Anna Ritter, University of Koblenz

**Speaking in Images: Making Everyday Multilingualism Visible in Art Education**

Luiza Mogosanu, Art and English (Gymnasium) - Teacher (Studienrätin), Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs - State of Berlin

**Sections: Part II (parallel sessions)**

**Section I: Methods in Heritage Language Teaching**

Language: German

*Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 477*

**Promoting multilingualism digitally: LMS self-study courses for heritage languages – design, implementation, and experiences (Arabic, Russian, Farsi, Serbian, and Kurdish)**

Dr. Elena Tchernega Meinert, Heritage Languages Coordinator (FSZ Frankfurt UAS in cooperation with SZ GU)



	<p><b>Cognates in multilingual acquisition: Opportunities and challenges of German-Ukrainian cognates</b> Dr. Natalia Oberste-Berghaus, University of Osnabrück</p> <p><b>Do you speak Wissenschaft? Parlez-vous universidad? – Multilingual self-study materials for academic language</b> Dr. Kristin Stezano Cotelo, Elena Prieto Gómez, International Study Center, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main</p> <p><b>Translanguaging as a Meaning-Making Strategy in the Context of Heritage Language Teaching English</b> Dr. Natalia Ringblom, Umeå University (Schweden), Dr Sviatlana Karpava, University of Cyprus</p> <p><b>Section II: Multilingualism in Everyday Life and Continuous Language Education</b> Language: German <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 478</i></p> <p><b>Creative German-Russian learning spaces in dialogue between visual and linguistic sign systems</b> Dr. Dennis Tark, Universität Rostock; Daria Dmitrieva, freelance artist</p> <p><b>Native language “homeopathic globules” in German as a second language courses: <i>application, effects, and side effects</i></b> Svetlana Poljakova, DaZ teacher, Frankfurt am Main</p> <p><b>More languages – more WE: How schools can make multilingualism visible</b> Davia Rosenbaum, Program Staff Member, “More Languages – More WE,” German Children and Youth Foundation</p> <p><b>Between two worlds – The power of multilingualism</b> Bisera Filipovski, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of North Macedonia, Primary and Secondary Education</p>
15:30-15:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Closing discussion</i> <i>Frankfurt UAS, Building 2, Room 462</i></p>