



IR-MultiLing second international meeting in Barcelona, 18th and 19th of June 2015

During this meeting, partners reviewed draft national reports on industrial relations in multilingual work environments. Among the commonalties, these reports highlighted language discrimination which appeared to be a critical issue yet one often ignored in collective bargaining.

While regulations do exist on the use of language in each of the six participating countries with some even having specific provisions regarding official languages in their constitution, pragmatism dominates company policies. These regulations are underpinned by a tension that exists between adopting an unique vehicular language (often English) and respecting the diversity of their labour force. This raises a number of problems, amongst which safety at work is significant.

Partners at the meeting reflected from court cases and trade union action, before discussing the case studies, based on empirical research, they will be conducting over the next few months in the different countries. The team meets again in February 2016 to compare the first fieldwork outcomes.