

ACCEPTED  
By the Senate EHU  
(protokol Nr. 30-07 from 2022.07.11)

APPROVED  
By order of the Rector of EHU  
No. 01-82 of 28.10.2021

## **EHU Declaration on Languages**

*Prepared by the Working group of the Senate with input from experts from EHU departments  
considered at the EHU Senate meeting on July 11, 2022*

### Preamble

Public institution "European Humanities University" (hereinafter referred to as the "University"), based on the goals and mission of the university, contributes to the development of civil society through education based on the ideas of humanism and liberal education (Humanity and Liberal Arts), both for students from Belarus and from the Eastern European neighbourhood region, who seek to learn the foundations of democratic citizenship and European values,

sharing the objectives proclaimed in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to preserve the historically common languages in Lithuania and in the region, including the Belarusian language, which, along with Lithuanian, as well as partly, Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish and Russian, since ancient times has been used by the population and by public authorities in communication and represent a common heritage that must be considered and developed as part of the cultural riches and traditions of Europe,

considering that the right to use a language in private and public life is an inalienable human right in accordance with the principles established in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

recognizing the importance of the use of other languages that are now common and can continue to be used in mutual cultural exchange among students, teachers and administrative staff of the University, and

considering that linguistic diversity is an important aspect of a liberal education based on humanistic values,

proclaims this Declaration a common standard to which all members of the university community must adhere in their actions and plans, and

adopts this Declaration in order for every student, teacher and employee of the university to have the opportunity, in the course of full communication based on multilingualism, mutual respect for rights and dignity, to exercise their right to education and effective communication at the university, in order to declare and adhere to the following:

1. The University recognises four languages as the official languages of the university: English, Belarusian, Lithuanian and Russian (alphabetical order) and ensures teaching in the languages stated in the respective curriculum of the study subjects.
2. Being on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, the University respects the status of the Lithuanian language as a state language, creates conditions for ensuring document flow and effective communication for all who should use it for administrative purposes, as well as those who wish to use it for educational and research purposes, taking into account the possibilities of the university and the format of the curriculum.
3. The Belarusian language is of particular importance for understanding the cultural heritage, identity and future development of the Belarusian society, as well as ensuring the democratic participation of Belarusian students in the affairs of their country on the basis of free choice in the use of the two state languages of Belarus — Belarusian and Russian, which imposes responsibility on the University for its preservation and development for current and future students and takes special measures for the realisation of these goals.
4. The University assumes responsibility for promoting multilingualism and multicultural environment at the university, and therefore aims to create equal opportunities and support learning these languages and/or their use in the academic process.
5. The legal framework of the University's activities in language matters is the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania (Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania 1992; The Law on the State Language of the Republic of Lithuania of 1995; Resolution of the Seimas on the state language policy of Lithuania for 2018-2022; The Law on Science and Education of

the Republic of Lithuania and the Resolution on Amendment of the Law of 2011), taking into account that this legislation is consistent with the UN Charter, as well as the basic conventions for the protection of human rights and freedoms, including issues of culture and the use of languages.

6. The provisions of the Declaration will be translated into the EHU Language Policy Implementation Plan, prepared by the University's services and departments under the auspices of the University's Rector and Senate. The Plan will take into account the results of discussions on language policy in the academic community of the university and will establish special procedures to monitor the implementation of the provisions set out in the Declaration.