



**UNIVERSITIES
SOUTH AFRICA**

CONCEPT NOTE

3rd COLLOQUIUM ON THE NEW LANGUAGE POLICY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

VICE-CHANCELLORS (VC) CONSULTATION SERIES

**Policy and Practice: Best Practices on the Implementation of Language Policy in
Higher Education - Monitoring and Evaluation**

1. Background

The Revised Language Policy Framework in Higher Education 2020 plays a crucial role in promoting linguistic diversity, inclusivity, and equitable access to education. South Africa is known for its rich linguistic diversity and its unique historical context. Language policy in higher education is instrumental in fostering access and success in higher education. It creates an enabling environment for meaningful social transformation. The South African language policy in higher education has undergone significant transformation over the years, this reflects the commitment to multilingualism and recognising the importance of indigenous South African languages.

However, the successful implementation of the language policy in higher education requires more than the mere existence of the policy document. In truth, meaningful implementation of the policy requires a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation approach that addresses the intersection between policy and practice. This interface ensures that the stipulations of the policy are effectively translated into meaningful actions and tangible outcomes.

Monitoring and evaluation play a pivotal role in assessing the progress, effectiveness, and impact of language policy in higher education. It provides a framework for systematically collecting, analysing, and utilising data to inform decision-making, improve performance, and enhance accountability. Furthermore, by examining the implementation of language policy in higher education, monitoring and evaluation can shed more light on the challenges, successes, and best practices in aligning the policy goals with practical realities.

Therefore, the colloquium aims to bring together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Language Policy in Higher Education. It provides a platform for sharing experiences, insights, and best practices in effectively aligning policy and practice and promoting linguistic diversity and inclusivity in South African Higher Education sector.

2. Objectives

This third VC colloquium aims to:

- a) Create a platform for executive management, academics, policymakers, and practitioners to share their experiences, insights, and best practices in implementing the language policy in higher education.
- b) Highlight monitoring and evaluation strategies that can be used to assess the intersection between policy and practice in the implementation of the language policy in higher education.
- c) Identify effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks that can inform evidence-based decision-making and policy adjustments.
- d) Engage all role players on the challenges public higher education institutions face in implementing the new language policy framework.
- e) Bring implementors together to reflect on their progress in implementing the new language policy for higher education as outlined by the framework.

3. Programme

The programme and contributors will be determined in collaboration with key stakeholders and the Steering Committee.

The following suggested stakeholders have been identified to participate in the colloquium:

- Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
- Language experts from the Community of Practice for the Teaching and Learning of African Languages (CoPAL);
- Senior University representatives;
- Department of Higher Education & Training;
- Department of Science and Innovation;
- Department of Basic Education;
- The National Language Service in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture;
- Pan South African Language Board on Language Development (PanSALB); and
- The South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLAR).

3.1 Thematic areas

- i. Best practices and progress being made
- ii. Funding & resource sharing models
- iii. Models for capacity development
- iv. Planning for impact, monitoring and evaluation

4. Outcomes

- a) Participants will appreciate the advances that institutions are making towards implementing the new language policy framework.

- b) Collectively develop a model for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the new language policy framework in all the HEIs.

5. Host Institutions

The third VC colloquium is taking place on 5-6 December 2023. The University of KwaZulu-Natal will be the host. The colloquium will be held in person at the Senate Chamber on the Westville campus.

6. Audience

A targeted audience comprising high-level participants with decision-making powers within their institution will be invited.

Vice-Chancellors will be invited to present on certain areas where their institutions are succeeding in a particular area.

7. Funding

The event will be funded jointly by UKZN and USAf.

8. Steering Committee

A steering committee comprising various stakeholder groupings has been appointed to guide the planning and is indicated below.

Name	Institution
Prof Nobuhle Hlongwa (Chair)	University of KwaZulu-Natal: CoPAL
Prof Loli Makhubu-Badenhorst	University of Cape Town: Deputy Chairperson: CoPAL
Dr Phethiwe Matutu	USAf: CEO
Dr Tebogo Ragogo	Tshwane University of Technology
Dr Buyi Makhanya	Mangosuthu University of Technology
Mr Khumbulani Mngadi	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Xoliswa Zulu	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Shakila Thukurpersad	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Tholani Ngema	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Nkosazana Manzi	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Ms Ntswalo Ngobeni	USAf
Ms Janet van Rhyn	USAf
Ms Mateboho Green	USAf

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