

Multilingualism in the Academy: Language Dynamics in Ukraine's Higher Education Institutions A Report

Olenka Bilash

Abstract: *In reporting on Ukraine's most recent act of language planning, journalists and analysts often made reference to a legal predecessor, the highly controversial 2012 law "On the Principles of the State Language Policy," which was deemed unconstitutional in February 2018 by Ukraine's Constitutional Court. Relatively less attention, however, was paid to the context provided by more recent laws related to state education with significant implications for language use in the country, especially the 2014 law "On Higher Education." This report explores some of the implications of this law with particular attention to testimonials of students and faculty in focus group interviews from multiple higher education institutions (HEIs) in Kharkiv and L'viv. It highlights the complexities of Ukraine's multilingual environment and some of the challenges in learning resource and research access and management. The report also points to the need for Ukraine's leaders to devote sustained attention to the variety of elements of language planning outlined in Nancy H. Hornberger's six-cell matrix and to couple goals and aspirations with circumspect benchmarks and strategies tailored to regional sociopolitical, cultural, and economic contexts.*

Keywords: *Ukrainian higher education institutions, language policy, multilingualism*

In May 2019, departing President Petro Poroshenko signed the law "On Ensuring the Functioning of the Ukrainian Language as the State Language," which had previously passed through the