ARLE stands for Association for Research in L1 Education

Dear ARLE Members

A year ago, the ARLE Board had to inform all ARLE members that the ARLE conference, which was planned for 2021 in Melbourne, had to be postponed due to the covid-19 pandemic. Since then we have all experienced a rather horrendous year with virus threats, lockdowns, re-openings and re-lockdowns.

However, we are now, hopefully, and expectedly, moving towards a more normalized situation as vaccination programmes are implemented all over the world. Consequently, we have decided in the ARLE Board to prepare for the next ARLE conference to take place next year in June 2022. The location has changed from Australia to Europe; later in this newsletter, we explain why the conference had to change location.

First, however, we want to announce, with great pleasure, that the next ARLE conference will take place next year at University of Cyprus, Nicosia, 14-17 June 2022.

The *pre-conference* is scheduled for 14 June 2022, and the *main conference* runs 15-17 June 2022. The conference will be chaired by associate professor Stavroula Kontovourki, supported by a local team.

We have also decided that the conference should and will be organized as a hybrid conference. This implies that the conference will be both physical and online. The physical pre-conference and conference will be organized, more or less, as normal. However, as a complementary, an online special limited programme for online participation will also be set up and integrated with the conference.

A first call will be announced next month, May 2021. We sincerely hope that you will participate in the event. So, save the dates 14-17 June in your calendar now!

Why we moved the next ARLE conference to Cyprus

Why did we have to change the location of the ARLE conference to Europe. As we have explained in a message which was uploaded on the ARLE website 15 March, our good colleagues in Melbourne, including chair Larissa McLean, had to withdraw the bid to host the next ARLE conference due to the covid-19 situation.

The alternative plan has been to relocate the 2022 ARLE conference to a university in Europe and set it up as a hybrid conference. The reason we opt for a hybrid conference, is that it will enable colleagues from the East, the West, the North and the South, not otherwise being able to attend due to covid-19 restrictions or other concerns, to participate in the event.

Having said that, we encourage members to participate physically, if possible.

The reason we aimed at locating the conference in Europe is that a majority of ARLE members are in Europe and therefore won't have to travel for a long distance. Furthermore, we hope and expect that the vaccination programmes have been completed in Europe at that time.

It is important for us as a community to make it possible for as many people as possible to be able to participate physically. The conference is a crucial event for generating not only new knowledge and sustaining the ARLE community. It is also an important event for generating an economic surplus that helps financing our non-fee membership organization as such.

Considering different alternatives, we decided to offer the University of Cyprus the possibility to become the host of the 2022 conference. We know the chair, Stavroula Kontovourki, as an engaged member of the ARLE community. She has attended the conference several times and is a member of the ARLE SIG TALE. The university fully supports hosting the conference and has experience hosting other semi-big conferences like ARLE's. Also, Stavroula has knowledge and competencies regarding digital communication due to her own research. So, in many ways, we are quite confident that University of Cyprus and Stavroula as chair will be a great solution.

We should note that we hope that Melbourne will become the future host of the ARLE conference following Nicosia, Cyprus.

Looking forward to seeing you in Cyprus!

Kind regards,

On behalf of the ARLE Board
Nikolaj Elf, Chair