

The Philological Section has four affiliate societies, which carry out research and high-level dissemination activities in their respective fields of specialisation: Catalan Society of Classics, Catalan Society of Language and Literature, Catalan Society of Terminology, and Catalan Society of Sociolinguistics.

Monitoring of the sociolinguistic situation

In its activities involving the monitoring of the Catalan language's sociolinguistic situation, the Philological Section collaborates with its affiliate society in this field, the Catalan Society of Sociolinguistics, and quite especially with the research network CRUSCAT (Knowledge, Representations and Uses of Catalan).

CRUSCAT was created on 14 October 2003 and has special ties with the Philological Section although it includes representatives of all the sections of the IEC. It is a scientific network attached to the Institut d'Estudis Catalans that encompasses diverse research centres and groups devoted to the sociolinguistic situation and its evolution.

The CRUSCAT network's main sphere of study is the use, knowledge and representation of the Catalan language. It carries out the following tasks:

- Gathering of existing information and its critical analysis.
- Establishment of criteria that promote the consensual assessment of the sociolinguistic situation and its short- and medium-term perspectives.
- Identification of crucial factors in the evolution of the Catalan linguistic community.
- Generation of synergies between the experts on language use studies.



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The Philological Section

This is one of the five present sections of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. It was created, together with the Science Section, in 1911 and ever since then it has carried out the function of academy of the Catalan language which is entrusted to the Institut.

The original members of the Philological Section included the two great Catalan linguists of the times: Antoni M. Alcover, who was the Section's first president, and Pompeu Fabra, who was to become the foremost codifier of the Catalan language. At their side, there were three great writers, representing different generations and trends: Àngel Guimerà, Joan Maragall and Josep Carner, who was the Section's secretary, together with a hellenist, Lluís Segalà, and a biblical scholar, Frederic Clascar.

According to Article 3 of the IEC's bylaws, the Section has three main lines of action:

- Establishment of the rules of the language.
- Research on the language and its scientific study.
- Monitoring of the linguistic standardisation process in all the lands of the Catalan language and culture sphere.

Organisation and normative tasks

The Section is formed by a maximum of twenty-eight full members (who become emeritus members on reaching the age of seventy) and thirty corresponding members, who include representatives of the various areas of specialisation, of all the lands of the Catalan language sphere and of the foremost centres of Catalan studies around the world.

To carry out its tasks, the Philological Section is organised internally in commissions and offices, and

some examples of their work are presented below. The commissions deal most specifically with the normative tasks:

- The Lexicographical Commission, which has the support of the Lexicographical Offices, devotes itself to the updating of the *Diccionari de la llengua catalana* (Dictionary of the Catalan language).
- The Grammatical Commission, with the experts of the Grammatical Office, is now completing the new *Gramàtica de la llengua catalana* (Grammar of the Catalan language).
- The Onomastics Commission, which has an Onomastics Office, has collaborated with the Toponymy Commission to produce the *Nomenclàtor oficial de toponímia major de Catalunya* (Official gazetteer of the toponymy of Catalonia).
- The Commission for Standard Catalan works on the *Proposta d'estàndard oral* (Oral standard proposal).
- The Transcription and Transliteration Commission establishes the criteria for the adaptation to our alphabet of the proper nouns of other writing systems.
- The Publications Commission selects and manages the works published by the Section.
- The Linguistic Assessment Office answers queries on the language, within the frame of the Optimot online integrated consultation system, promoted by the Generalitat de Catalunya – the Catalan Government.

Likewise, the Philological Section forms part of the consortium of the TERMCAT Terminology Centre, the Supervisory Council of which is chaired by one of the Section's members.

Recently, following the Parliament of Catalonia's approval in 2011 of the Act on Catalan Sign Language (LSC), which entrusts the IEC with the responsibility of

establishing the rules of LSC, the Section has launched a project encompassing research on this sign language and the codification of its rules.

Research activities

Like the other sections of the IEC, the Philological Section carries out a number of research projects, often in collaboration with universities and research centres. Some of the projects, such as the following ones, have a very broad scope:

- The *Atles lingüístic del domini català* (Linguistic atlas of the Catalan domain), directed by Joan Veny and Lídia Pons.
- The *Corpus textual informatitzat de la llengua catalana* (Digital text corpus of the Catalan language) and the *Diccionari descriptiu de la llengua catalana* (Descriptive dictionary of the Catalan language), directed by Joaquim Rafel.
- The *Corpus* and the *Gramàtica del català antic* (Early Catalan corpus and grammar), directed by Josep Martines and Manuel Pérez Saldanya.
- The *Observatori de Neologia* (Neology Observatory), directed by M. Teresa Cabré.
- The *Vocabulari medieval de Lluís Faraudo* (Medieval vocabulary of Lluís Faraudo) and the *Refranyer Aguiló* (Aguiló proverb collection), directed by Germà Colón.

The research studies linked to the Section give rise to numerous publications, which are listed in the IEC catalogue. Two notable publications in this respect are the *Obres completes de Pompeu Fabra* (The complete works of Pompeu Fabra), which is the result of a project directed by Joan Solà and Jordi Mir, and the journal *Estudis Romànics* (Romance Studies), directed by Antoni M. Badia i Margarit and Joan Veny.