

ENDORSEMENT LETTER NTES RESEARCH AND WORKING GROUP

The President of the SGroup - Universities in Europe, on behalf of its full and associated members, acknowledges the project initiative of the University of Catania through the commitment of the CLA (Language Centre of the University of Catania), conducted in cooperation with its external project partner, the CLIK (Language Centre of the University of Enna). The project initiative is deemed to be in the interest of promoting and disseminating the English language, fostering awareness of the English-speaking cultures in all their aspects and dimensions, and enhancing the teaching of English across undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes. Since foreign language training is at the core of this multilingual association, the president of SGROUP – Universities in Europe hereby endorses the establishment of the ***NTES (New Trends in English Studies) research and working group***.

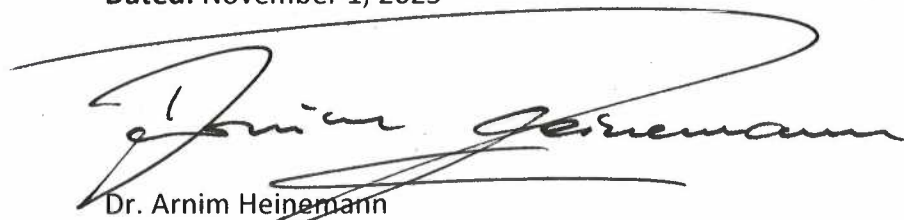
This initiative aims at exploring the role of universities as educational and pioneering centres of knowledge and as key gateways for research and innovation in the field of English Studies. The NTES research and working group will undertake training activities targeting PhD candidates, researchers, and administrative staff to strengthen their competences in learning, research, teaching, and support services. Furthermore, SGroup will support, within the limits of its project management capacities, the development and promotion of activities aiming at monitoring current trends in language teaching and at assessing the evolving role of language centres within partner universities.

This project initiative is seen as being embedded by SGroup in the framework of its strategic endeavour to connect the language schools of its member institutions as part of the SGroup Think Tank Academy actions in 2026. The NTES project efforts are expected to contribute to greater awareness within higher education governance regarding the strategic implementation and advancement of English language teaching. To ensure the effective realization of these objectives, the creation of a Scientific and Management Committee for the *NTES research and working group*, consisting of following experts, is hereby also endorsed:

- For the SGroup - Universities in Europe: Prof. Kathleen O'Connor (Director of the Language Centre of the Université de Lille and Vice President as well as Member of the Executive Committee of the SGroup - Universities in Europe);
- For the Università degli Studi di Catania: Prof. Paola Clara Leotta (Associate Professor of English Language, Translation and Linguistics and Internationalisation Delegate of the Department of Educational Sciences) and Dr. Vincenza Tutino (Director of the CLA);
- For the Università di Enna "Kore": Prof. Annalisa Bonomo (Associate Professor of English Language, Translation and Linguistics, and President of the CLIK).

The SGroup expresses its best wishes to the Scientific and Management Committee of the NTES Research and Working Group for a fruitful and successful collaboration.

Dated: November 1, 2025



Dr. Arnim Heinemann

The President

SGroup – Universities in Europe