

Participant information sheet and consent form: questionnaire

Project title: “Fluid languages for fluid communities: a translanguaging approach to the study of digital nomads’ communication in Europe”

1. Project and responsible people

You are kindly invited to take part in a questionnaire part of the wider scientific project named “FLO: a translanguaging approach to the study of digital nomads’ communication in Europe”. The responsible researchers for the study are Silvia Bernardini, Professor at the University of Bologna, and Novella Tedesco, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Bologna, who is also the contact person for this study.

Before you decide to take part in this study it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. A member of the team can be contacted if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

2. Project description and objectives

FLO research aims to investigate new communication practices and the use of English as a lingua franca (ELF) within the European communities of digital nomads. Ethnographic, linguistic and questionnaire data are collected to gain insights about processes of identity construction and (self)representation, knowledge sharing and community building within the European communities of digital nomads, in particular focusing on the communities based in some regions of Spain, Portugal and Malta. The project has been conceived with the objective of proving the need for a translanguaging approach to linguistic policies and foreign language teaching focused on successful intercultural communication and the development of a transcultural consciousness. To achieve these goals, the researchers involved in the project are engaged in data collection and analysis through the online questionnaire aimed at gaining sociolinguistics information about digital nomads in Europe, their social and educational background, their linguistic attitudes and behaviours.

3. Why have I been chosen?

Participation is open to any people who regard themselves as digital nomad.

4. What do I have to do?

Participation in the survey ‘Where’s your language at?’ by filling in the online questionnaire involves answering various types of questions. It is voluntary and free of charge. Participation does not require personal data and contact details to be provided, but this possibility is envisaged in the event that the participant is willing to be contacted in order to participate in other stages of the research. The questions concern the definition of ‘digital nomad’ and the phenomenon of digital nomadism, travel habits, lifestyle, the use of English as a lingua franca and communicative strategies employed in intercultural communication contexts, language background, level of education and occupation of the participants.

5. What will happen to me if I take part?

Participation in the study is voluntary and free of charge. For the participants, collaboration does not entail any kind of risk or inconvenience. The researchers expect information on the habits, behaviour and lifestyle of the digital nomad community under investigation, as well as information on the linguistic behaviour and communicative strategies adopted by the participants in transcultural communication situations taking place in informal contexts.

6. Withdrawal from participation

You have the right to withdraw your consent to participate in this study at any time, even without prior notice or specific reasons.

7. What will happen to the results of the project?

You have the right to request information on the results and outcome of the research. If you wish to stay up-to-date on the progress and preliminary results of the research, you can follow our updates on Instagram (TheNomadLinguist) or on the online web blog (thenomadlinguist.eu). You can also contact the project responsible at any time by emailing novella.tedesco2@unibo.it.

In the unlikely event information relating to dangerous health conditions, committed crimes, behaviour or events in personal life that have harmed or may harm the participant in the study or others is obtained accidentally, this information will be treated as stated in the incidental data management document. To view this document, you may contact Novella Tedesco. Depending on the severity of the incident and the people involved, the researchers will decide whether to contact the person concerned or the relevant authorities. In any case, these results will not be disclosed without the explicit consent of the participant.

8. Anonymity

Data will be processed to eliminate any references that might allow individual statements to be linked to a specific person. Under no circumstances will any brief quotations be traced back to individual persons.

8. Contacts

For any information and clarification on this study or for any needs, please contact researchers Novella Tedesco (novella.tedesco2@unibo.it) and Silvia Bernardini (silvia.bernardini@unibo.it) who are at your disposal for further information or clarification.

Informed consent form

Name _____ Address _____

- I confirm that I have read and understand the Participant Information Sheet and any information given orally by the investigator;
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason;
- I have understood all the requirements and risks deriving from my participation in the project;
- I understand that all personal information will remain confidential and that all efforts will be made to ensure I cannot be identified (except as might be required by law);
- I agree that data gathered in this study may be stored anonymously and securely, and may be used for future research.
- I agree to receive information regarding any incidental results that may concern me.
- I AGREE TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY, aware that such consent is freely given and may be revoked at any time without disadvantage or prejudice.

_____, _____
(place and date)

(signature of the participant)

(signature of the investigator)