NEOLATIN COMMUNITY

Romance languages, which descend from Latin, still function nowadays, in some situations, as **variations of the same 'language'**:

modern **LATIN** or **ROMANCE**.

Examples include: Memes or videos in Portuguese shared through social media in Madrid. Spanish tourists who don't know much English but can communicate in *itagnolo* at a hostel in Rome. Adverts in Italian on a bus in Barcelona. Catalans reading short texts in French at a museum in Paris. Romanians singing songs in Spanish or emigrating preferably to other Latin countries. Erasmus students from various Latin countries organising a party together, etc.

The examples show that inter-Latin communication, both spoken and written, is a reality, and that Romance-speakers still are, to some extent, a linguistic community.

However, Latin peoples lack a **common (Neo-) Latin language model** since Latin and later French have been displaced in international communication by a Germanic language, English.

PAN-LATIN PRECEDENTS

●**Dante Alighieri** (1265-1321) conceived, in the treaty *De vulgari eloquentia*, the design of an "illustrious" Romance variety based on the Italian dialects (because, according to him, these are closer to Latin and have better poets) but valid for all the Romance family, "our language".

●The German writer **Stefan George** (1868-1933) wrote poems in an "easily understandable" mixed Romance variety.

● The Romance scholar **Rebecca Posner** (Oxford University) declared in *The Romance Languages* (Cambridge University Press. 1996: 344) that:

> **"It is not impossible to conceive a ROMANCE INTERLANGUAGE."**

●Since the 20th century, **multiple authors** in different places (Denmark, Switzerland, Portugal, Canada, Spain, Brazil, Italy, etc.) have independently developed variations of **the same Romance interlanguage**. This, therefore, **is not** an artificial language like **Esperanto**. It's a standard language model, for Romance.
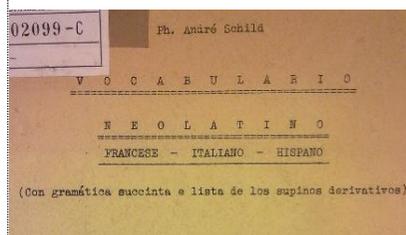
ROMANCE NEOLATINO

The various **Neolatin peoples** can communicate through their same 'language':

ROMANCE;

and the various **European peoples**, through their sister 'languages':

ROMANCE, **SLAVIC**, **GERMANIC**,…

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PAN-ROMANCE STANDARD

In order to ease and also dignify today's inter- and pan-Latin communication, the *Vía Neolatina* project has restored and updated the Latin language, the traditional common standard. The resulting language model is a **synthesis of the Romance variation** which aims to be **representative of the whole family**.

NEOLATIN is a pan-Latin standard language, a new and **common** while, at the same time, **natural** and **flexible** Romance variety which eases communication for the whole Latin world, complementing the regional standards that exist.

Uses and benefits:
● Understandable by 800 million people.
● Adaptable to meet specific needs and interests.
● Introduction into Rom. languages for foreigners.
● Bridge to present and old Romance languages and Latin, easier with knowledge of Neolatin.
● More effective than English for machine translation between Romance languages.
● It limits Anglo-Saxon imperialism.
● Shelter for speakers of vanishing Rom. languages.
● It enriches and improves Romance with contributions from all its varieties (expressive means, etc.).

MĔL →

MĔLE	latīnum	
MEL		português
MIEL		castellano
MEL		català
MIEL		français
MIELE		italiano
MIERE		română
MÈLE	NEOlatino	
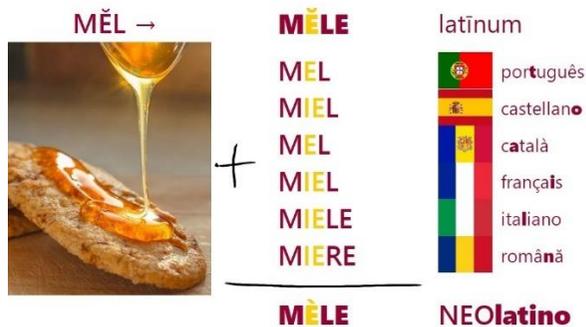
PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

Applied linguistics hasn't yet established detailed principles to design or **codify a standard language model in a SCIENTIFIC way**. Therefore the *Vía Neolatina* project aims to develop these principles (including VALUES, GOALS, METHODOLOGY, etc.), with the help of:

● the few theoretical contributions that exist;
● codifications that experts have designed for specific Romance languages (**Galician**, **Catalan**, **Occitan**, **Grisons Romansh**, etc.) or for other languages;
● already proposed interlanguages for Romance or other language families (Slavic, Germanic, etc.);
● our own experience in designing, practicing (both writing and speaking) and spreading Neolatin.

NEOLATINO

NEOLATINO
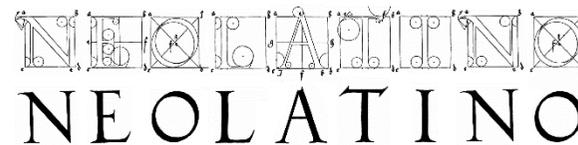
To select forms, the developed methodology considers various criteria, each of which is a desirable trait of standard languages: forms should be encompassing, intelligible, regular, used by the majority, concise, traditional, etc. Altogether, more than 20 criteria, both **linguistic** and **extralinguistic**, which in the current version all are **equally important**.

To solve hard cases (when no form clearly complies with more criteria than other forms), there are some RESOURCES: compositionality, innovation, polymorphism, centrality, etc.

In this way, the resulting language model is more **effective** for communication and more easily **acceptable** by society.

EUROPEAN COMMUNICATION

There are also parallel projects for other European language families (the most advanced being Slavic: *medžuslovjansky*). Complementing each other, these projects offer Europe an alternative linguistic policy, which is richer, more neutral and more respectful with language diversity, as well as natural and workable.

It would allow Marco, an exporter from Milan, to communicate in the different Slavic countries using Interslavic and so avoiding a foreign language, as English is for them. And it would allow MEPs like Michelle (Paris), Boris (Zagreb) and Karina (Copenhagen) to have multilingual conversations in Neolatin, Interslavic and Germanic. All they would need is to speak/write the standard of their family and be able to understand the other standards.

PROJECT *VÍA NEOLATINA*

Vía Neolatina is a collective, international and interdisciplinary project conducted since 2006 by the Romance scholar Jordi Cassany-Bates (jcassany@neolatino.eu) in which **linguists** and other professionals from several Neolatin countries collaborate. **Contact us and join**! ☺

At the moment, *Vía Neolatina* is developing a Neolatin grammar and dictionary, as well as a course and digital tools.