

Elżbieta Frąckowiak

## Welcome address

Dear participants and respected guests,

it is my great honour to welcome all of you during the opening ceremony of XIV Conference of the European Federation of National Institutions for Language. On behalf of the Authorities of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Co-organizer of the conference), I would like to wish you a successful scientific meeting in this beautiful place, a Mirror Hall of the Staszic Palace. The name of this place is originated from the famous Enlightenment person – Staszic – patron of our scientific Corporation (PAS). Stanisław Staszic (seen just at the portrait) – this brilliant man was a writer, a philosopher, a traveller, a priest and a politician but also interested in geology and geography; he was a pioneer of organic work and many reforms. As an extremely educated person, he was obliged to use a few languages.

It is a great pleasure to see in this particular place the representation of linguists of many European countries. The Federation of Language Institutions plays a significant role in promoting linguistic and cultural diversity in the European Union. Language, its correct use is our societal richness. Personally, being still an academic teacher I am suffering a lot seeing quite often a poverty of Polish language in written and spoken form. The young generation does not take care about correct language, frequently overuses mental shortcuts. In my opinion beauty of each language should be preserved, hence, the topic “language” is very actual.

This annual conference devoted to Language Institutions has a long-term tradition. It is already organised fourteen times. Last time, it took place in Helsinki on a topic “Language use in public administration”. This year a subject of the conference is „Stereotypes and Linguistic Prejudices in Europe”. I am sure that it will be an exciting event in the capital of Poland.

I wish you very fruitful discussions, new scientific contacts. Have a good stay in hospitable Warsaw!

**Bibliographical information**

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<http://www.efnil.org>