Building a European Bank of Anchor Items for Foreign Language Skills (EBAFLS)

Participating Countries:
France
The Netherlands
Germany
Scotland
Hungary
Spain
Luxembourg
Sweden

Overall aim of the project
To contribute to transparent, reliable and valid language assessment in Europe. By using such an assessment, European foreign language certificates and diplomas will be comparable.

Envisaged outcomes
- item banks for the language skills—English reading and listening, French reading and listening and German reading and listening, based on the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference of Languages (CEFR);
- a manual for educational institutions describing how to use the item banks;
- a report on the validity and reliability of the instruments;
- guidelines on how to enlarge the item banks and on how to develop additional item banks.

Discussion material
1. The linking of language tests and examinations in Europe to EBAFLS item banks will ultimately lead to transparent European language certifications.
2. EBAFLS item banks should have official status and be adopted by the Council of Europe.
3. ‘EBAFLS-projects’ will also need to be organised for adults and for young learners.
4. In Europe, the national authorities should be responsible for language certification and language education policy.

More information
ebafls.cito.com