

The European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA) has set up a discussion list for its members on the topic of

Assessment of translators (translations) and interpreters (interpretations).

The aim of this Special Interest Group is to add a European dimension to the discussion of this area of assessment.

The rationale for the creation of a Special Interest Group in Translation and Interpreting is that the skills of translators and interpreters being language professionals merit special attention within EALTA. Reasons for this are the following:

- in our globalized world, migration will remain a prevalent factor, which forces on us problems of communication across languages and cultures in key areas like law and health care;
- around the globe, states are struggling with issues like registration, accreditation or certification in order to safeguard minimal T&I competence of practitioners on entering the profession;
- many countries still rely on unqualified practitioners, especially in those languages for which no specialized formal T&I training is being offered;
- the CEFR does not provide scales for mediation, which includes translation and interpreting;
- the CEFR doesn't provide levels to cover the appropriate proficiency level of skilled practitioners in T & I;
- in the assessment of T&I skills constructs are highly complex and often lack an empirical basis;
- there appears to be no agreement as to the similarities and differences between the assessment of translator and interpreter skills;
- due to the complexity of the construct and the large number of languages in the assessment schemes reliability challenges abound.