



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR LANGUAGE TESTING
AND ASSESSMENT

EALTA is a professional association for language testers in Europe. EALTA's interests are independent of those of any other organization; Set up in 2004, with financial support from the European Community; Obtained Participatory Status with the CoE in 2008.

The EALTA Constitution stipulates that "*EALTA is an international, non-political and independent association of professionals which aims to cover and represent the interests of those who work in language testing and assessment or associated areas of language education and applied linguistics in Europe*".

Mission Statement

The purpose of EALTA is to promote the understanding of theoretical principles of language testing and assessment, and the improvement and sharing of testing and assessment practices throughout Europe.

Important principles

Inclusiveness; Minimizing costs for the association and its members



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EALTA Membership

Teacher educators; Teachers; People involved in the development of tests in national or institutional testing units or centres; Students in higher education; Researchers within different fields...

Four membership categories *(numbers 1 September 2017)*

Individual *(free)*: 543

Associate *(free)*: 68

Institutional *(150 € per annum)*: 57

Expert *(free)*: 23

The Governing Body of the Association is a General Meeting of Members in good standing (*normally once a year*)

Executive Committee (*Four to five elected members + two conference representatives*)

Membership Committee (*Chair + normally three members*)

Annual Conferences (*2004: Slovenia; 2005: Norway; 2006: Poland; 2007: Spain; 2008: Greece; 2009: Finland; 2010: The Netherlands; 2011: Italy; 2012: Austria; 2013: Turkey; 2014: UK; 2015: Denmark; 2016: Spain; 2017: France*)

Pre-conference workshops and colloquia (*Usually 2.5 days*)

Resource pages (*Publications, bibliographies, conference materials etc.*)

Guidelines for Good Practice in LTA (*35 languages; CEFR addition 2014*)

Special Interest Groups (*currently, seven active*)

Other events (*Related to the GGP, SIGs, and special themes; Summer/Winter Schools*)

Annual conferences, themes and organisers

2004, Slovenia: *Relating Examinations to CEFR* (Karmen Pizorn)

2005, Norway: *Professionalism in Language Assessment* (Angela Hasselgreen)

2006, Poland: *Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice* (Pawel Poszytek)

2007, Spain: *Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment: Challenges and Praxis* (Neus Figueras)

2008, Greece: *Assessment Literacy in Europe and Beyond: Realities and Prospects* (Christine Niakaris)

2009, Finland: *Synergies and Tensions in Language Testing and Assessment* (Heini-Marja Järvinen)

2010, The Netherlands: *Collaboration in Language Testing and Assessment* (José Noijons & Evelyn Reichard)

Annual conferences, themes and organisers

2011, Italy: *Ethics in Language Testing and Assessment*
(Monica Barni & Claudia Beccheroni)

2012, Austria: *Validity in Language Testing and Assessment* (Carol Spoetl)

2013, Turkey: *The Impact of Language Testing and Assessment*
(Peter Holt & Zeynep Urkun)

2014, UK: *The CEFR and Language Testing and Assessment – Where are we now?*
(Claudia Harsch)

2015, Denmark: *Policy and Practice in Language Testing and Assessment*
(Slobodanka Dimova)

2016, Spain: *Assessment of what..? Revisiting the issue of construct(s)*
(Cristina Pérez Guillot)



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2017, France: Language testing and assessment, its role in mobility and social integration

(Sébastien Georges)

Pre-conference workshops and colloquia

2005, Norway: I) *Language Portfolio*; II) *Classical test theory*

2006, Poland: I) *Designing and reporting research*; II) *Assessing Speaking at B 1 level : Training interlocutors and assessors*

2007, Spain: I) *Standard Setting*; II) *Assessing Writing at B 1 level: Training raters*

2008, Greece: I) *Classroom assessment*; II) *Research Colloquium on relating exams to CEFR*

2009, Finland: I) *Qualitative methods of assessment*; II) *Introduction to IRT*

2010, The Netherlands: I) *Assessing listening*; II) *Classical test theory*

2011, Italy: I) *Assessing Writing – task development and constructing rating scales*;
II) *Using the Manual for relating examination to the CEFR*

III) *Valutare la competenza linguistico-comunicativa di livello A2: come decidere la soglia di sufficienza?*

Pre-conference workshops and colloquia *(cont'd)*

2012, Austria: *I) Diagnosing Reading and Writing; II) Assessing Writing: Principles, Practice and Performance*

2013, Turkey: *I) The Impact of Academic Writing Tests; II) Testing Vocabulary; III) Classroom based Language Assessment*

2014, UK: *I) Using automated programmes and approaches for test development and assessing productive skills; II) Test Item Analysis for English Teachers: Applying Classical Test Theory using Excel; III) Assessment of Intercultural Communicative Competencies; IV) Good Practice in Assessing Speaking*

2015, Denmark: *I) Performance-based testing; Rating scales and rater training; II) Self-assessment, the CEFR, and the ELP; III) Standard setting – how to implement good practice*

2016, Spain: *I) Online Testing Resources & Computer-based Assessment; II) Assessing Writing: Designing better rubrics, building better rating communities; III) Quality assurance in test development; a hands-on introduction... IV) A practical approach to tackling challenges in Quality Assurance (QA) in test development projects*



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2017, France: *I) Integrated testing and assessment: design, development, analysis, reporting of results and relevant uses; II) Standard Setting for Language Tests: Methods, Issues, and Hand-on Practical Experience; III) Use and interpretation of statistical analysis procedures to improve testing and assessment*



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Past and Present EALTA officials

Presidents

Neus Figueras, Spain (2004-2007); Sauli Takala, Finland (2007-2010);
John H.A.L. De Jong, The Netherlands (2010-2013); Gudrun Erickson, Sweden (2013-2016);
Claudia Harsch, Germany (2016-2019)

Secretary and Treasurer

Jayanti Banerjee, UK (2004-2006); Gudrun Erickson, Sweden (2006-2009)

Secretaries

Gudrun Erickson, Sweden (2009-2012); Claudia Beccheroni, Italy (2012-2015) –
Marita Härmälä, Finland (2015-2018)



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Past and Present EALTA officials *cont'd*

Treasurers

Nigel Downey, Greece (2009-2011); Anthony Green, UK (2011-12 *ad interim*)

Anthony Green, UK (2012-15); Jamie Dunlea, UK (2015-2018)

Chairs of the Membership Committee

Sauli Takala, Finland (2004-2007); Felianka Kaftandjieva, Bulgaria (2007-2009)

Sauli Takala, Finland (2009-2010 *ad interim*); Angela Hasselgreen, Norway (2010-2013)

Alan Davies, UK (2013-2013); Angela Hasselgreen, Norway (2013-2014 *ad interim*);

Norman Verhelst, The Netherlands (2014-2017)

Slobodanka Dimova (2017-