

The Special Interest Group for the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages CEFR SIG

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment, developed by the Council of Europe, has become a very influential tool in language education by providing a common basis for the explicit description of objectives, content and methods for language learning, teaching and assessment.

Given the prominent role of the CEFR in all aspects of language education, and in a large number of countries and contexts, the establishment of a Special Interest Group within EALTA to address issues related to the use and further development of the CEFR is well due.

This EALTA SIG should be able to act as a catalyst that draws on and takes advantage of the many projects connected to the CEFR within the field of assessment and testing. The SIG can contribute to discussions and debates that not only help disseminate best practices in the use of the CEFR but also propose actions and initiatives which can take the use of the CEFR further.

Target Participants and Topic Areas

The SIG could provide a forum for exchange for people engaged in local, national, regional, European and broader international contexts, in the development, implementation/use and evaluation/assessment of :

1. language policies and language education policies
2. programmes of education, curricula, syllabi and courses
3. basic and in-service education of teachers
4. teaching and learning materials
5. testing and assessment covering the whole range of activities from classroom and self-assessment to external and international assessments
6. linking/aligning policies, programmes, materials and tests/examinations/assessment to the CEFR
7. further developments of the CEFR

Further activities could include international and reciprocal co-operation in producing and validating benchmarks, international and reciprocal co-operation in validating standard setting projects, exchange visits of researchers or co-operative development and research projects amongst group members to enhance the exchange of expertise across Europe and beyond and among all EALTA members.

Forums for Exchange

1. an email list within EALTA
2. a space in the SIG corner of the EALTA website
3. an annual meeting at the EALTA conference during the SIG slot
4. depending on the resources available and the degree of interest, a meeting or workshop at a convenient location in Europe at some point during the year
5. joint publications of thematically organised issues

The first EALTA CEFR SIG met prior to the Copenhagen EALTA Conference in 2014, moderated by Neus Figueras and Sauli Takala, expert members and past EALTA presidents, actively engaged in a number of CEFR-related projects within the Council of Europe and in national and international contexts. Neus Figueras is now the sole moderator of the SIG since Sauli Takala's death in February 2017.