



10 years of

***Relating language curricula, tests and examinations to
the Common European Framework of Reference***

**European Centre for Modern Languages and European Commission cooperation
on Innovative Methodologies and Assessment In Language Learning**





CONTEXT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR)
- CEFR Companion Volume with New Descriptors (CV)
- ECML programmes: Evaluation and assessment are among the central themes in language education
- Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation (2022) on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture.



CONTEXT: EUROPEAN UNION

Council Recommendation (2019) on a comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages:

- In addition to the language of schooling, help all young people to acquire an effective competence level in at least one other European language and to acquire a third language to a level which allows them to interact with a degree of fluency
- Strengthen cooperation with the Council of Europe and its European Centre for Modern Languages in their areas of expertise



- Linking existing examinations to the CEFR
- Constructing examinations based on the CEFR
- Linking language curricula to the CEFR
- Developing formative tests linked to the CEFR
- Developing tests of second language
- Exploring ways to assess mediation and pluricultural & plurilingual skills
- How to practise and test literature in line with the CEFR and the Companion Volume
- Alternative, continuous methods of assessment in line with the CEFR and the Companion Volume (2022)
- Assessment in pre-service teacher education: the impact of the publication of the Companion Volume to the CEFR on developing the assessment competences of future teachers (2023)



RELANG IMPACT (1)

Total workshops: ca 90

Total countries: 31

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

Regional cooperation: Baltic States, Poland



RELANG IMPACT (2)



1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Austria
4. Belgium
5. Croatia
6. Cyprus
7. Czech Republic
8. Denmark
9. Estonia
10. Finland
11. France
12. Germany
13. Greece
14. Hungary
15. Iceland
16. Ireland
17. Italy
18. Latvia
19. Lithuania
20. North Macedonia
21. Malta
22. Montenegro
23. Norway
24. Poland
25. Portugal
26. Romania
27. Serbia
28. Slovakia
29. Slovenia
30. Spain
31. Sweden



RELANG CEFR Model of Language Use

Action-oriented approach

- Actions performed by persons - individuals and social agents
- A range of competences
 - general
 - communicative language competences
- Various contexts under various conditions and constraints to engage in language activities
- Language processes to produce and/or receive texts in relation to themes in specific domains



CHALLENGES

- Awareness of CEFR concept of language use
- “*Effective*” user level in *first* foreign language
- “*Interactive*” user level in *second* foreign language
- Agreement among member states on CEFR levels
- Understanding the CEFR concept of mediation (CV)
- Pre-service and in-service training in language assessment
- Data collection and interpretation for reliability and validity purposes



The RELANG logo features the word "RELANG" in a stylized font. The "R" is pink, "E" is blue, "L" is pink, "A" is blue, "N" is pink, and "G" is blue. To the right of the text is a graphic of three overlapping circles in pink, blue, and pink.

RELANG CONCLUSIONS

In a majority of European countries RELANG has contributed to:

- Improvement of language tests and examinations
- Linking tests and examinations to the CEFR
- Dissemination of CEFR principles and values
- Modernization of curricula and syllabi

Thanks to the ECML of the Council of Europe

Thanks to the European Commission

