

Erasmus+ Project: Reforming Foreign Languages in Academia in Montenegro (ReFLAME)

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The process of construction of valid FL tests: Specifications, methodologies and techniques Online workshop (15 -27 November 2021)

ABOUT

This seminar aims at training the teaching staff in conceptualizing the basic information towards the construction of language tests tailored to the needs of an institution, by using the Common European Framework of Reference and its Companion Volume, and on the basis of the syllabi of the institution itself. It also aims at giving basic information on writing language tests and specifications and on using the suitable methodologies and techniques for the intended purpose.

This course provides a theoretical background and a practical training to help in selecting materials and providing evidence for the construction of valid language tests.

The course will be held synchronously online.

WHAT WILL YOU ACHIEVE?

By the end of this course, you will be able to...

- Identify suitable language constructs
- Recognise the underlying processes to constructing FL tests
- Use the CEFR and its Companion Volume for assessment
- Recognise and use different methodologies for testing FL
- Write FL test specifications
- Constructing suitable FL tests for different purposes
- Selecting test materials and writing items according to the intended purpose

INSTRUCTOR

Danilo Rini is a lecturer of Italian at the University for Foreigners of Perugia. He is employed at CVCL (Centro di Valutazione e Certificazioni Linguistiche – *Centre for Language Assessment and Certification*) there, where he works as an item writer, examiners trainer, and on the Quality Management System of the Centre. He is also currently teaching “Language Testing and Assessment” at the University for Foreigners, and took part in several national and international projects on language testing and assessment.

CONTENTS

Week 1: Language Testing (LT) and assessment: the process of constructing language tests.	
Instructor: Danilo Rini	
15.11@ 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language testing and assessment: basic principles, frameworks of reference, and quality of a language test
16.11@ 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language testing and the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and its Complementary Volume: using the CEFR in the perspective of LT
17.11@ 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a language test: stages of test construction and the delivery of specifications
18.11@ 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Techniques and methodologies in language testing: materials and items
19.11@ 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembling language tests for specific purposes; correction, and delivery of results; basic statistics for the monitoring of test results

Week 2: Development and construction of a placement test	
Instructor: Danilo Rini	
21.11-25.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and construction of a placement test: specifications (team work)
26.11@ 9-11 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and construction of a placement test: specifications (report and feedback)

Bibliography:

ALTE (2018), *Guidelines for the Development of Language for Specific Purposes Tests*.

<https://www.alte.org/resources>

ALTE (2011), *Manual for Language Test Development and Examining*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg. <https://www.alte.org/resources>

ALTE (2005), *Materials for the Guidance of Test Item Writers*: <https://www.alte.org/resources>

BACHMAN L.F. (1990), *Fundamental Considerations in Language Testing*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

BACHMAN L.F., PALMER A.S. (1996), *Language Testing in Practice*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE (2001), *The Common European Framework for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

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HUGHES A. (1989), *Testing for Language Teachers*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

WEIR C. (2005), *Language Testing and Validation: An Evidence Based Approach*, Palgrave MacMillan, Basingstoke.