

# RELANG

Relating language examinations to the common European reference levels of language proficiency: *promoting quality assurance in education and facilitating mobility*

## Cross language benchmarking seminar

**23 – 25 June 2008**

**CIEP Sèvres**



# Partners

- Coordination and organisation
- Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP) and Eurocentres
  - **Partners**
    - Goethe institut
    - Cambridge ESOL
    - Instituto Cervantes
  - Università per Stranieri de Perugia

# Objective

- Produce a DVD which presents in a reliable and transparent way comparable samples of oral production at the six levels of the CEFR in German, English, Spanish, French and Italian, produced by young people from 13 to 18 years old.

# Experts

*48 experts from 13 European countries who had already participated in benchmarking seminars (CIEP, Goethe, Perugia) and whose reception competence was at least B2 in 2 languages and B1 in a third one.*

*An analysis of the language competences of the 48 experts showed that, as expected, the languages in common were English and French; 23 could evaluate German, 22 Spanish and 18 Italian.*

# Tasks

## Format

- Autonomous – no interlocutor
  - Production Phase (each candidate)
  - Interaction Phase

## Tasks

- Topics adapted to the population (13 to 18)
- Common tasks in production phase A1/A2;B1/B2;C1/C2 and interaction A2/B1 and C1/C2
- Specific tasks in **interaction phase A1 and B2**

## Ranking instruments and procedures (1)

- Before the seminar, the productions have first been ranked by the experts. Each expert had to rank a set of 10 sequences (monologue and interaction) in two languages (from A1 to B2 or B1 to C2 according to the experts' competences) These sequences were on a platform on the web.

## Ranking instruments and procedures (2)

### The aim

- Calibrate 60 sequences for 5 different languages (German, English, French, Spanish, Italian: 12 per language) onto a single ordinal scale. After analysis the sequences will be in rank order on a single Rasch logit scale. **There is no reference to CEFR levels.**

### Objectives

- Provide a cross-linguistic calibration of the comparative proficiency level of the candidates independent of and complementary to the calibration of the same candidates in relation to CEFR levels that will take place at the seminar itself.

# Rating instruments

- CEFR Table 3
  - Range, Accuracy, Fluency, Interaction
  - Rating Form from Manual (Eurocentres)
- Plus Levels
  - Supplementary grid
- Additional Scales
  - Spoken Interaction, Spoken Production
  - Pronunciation



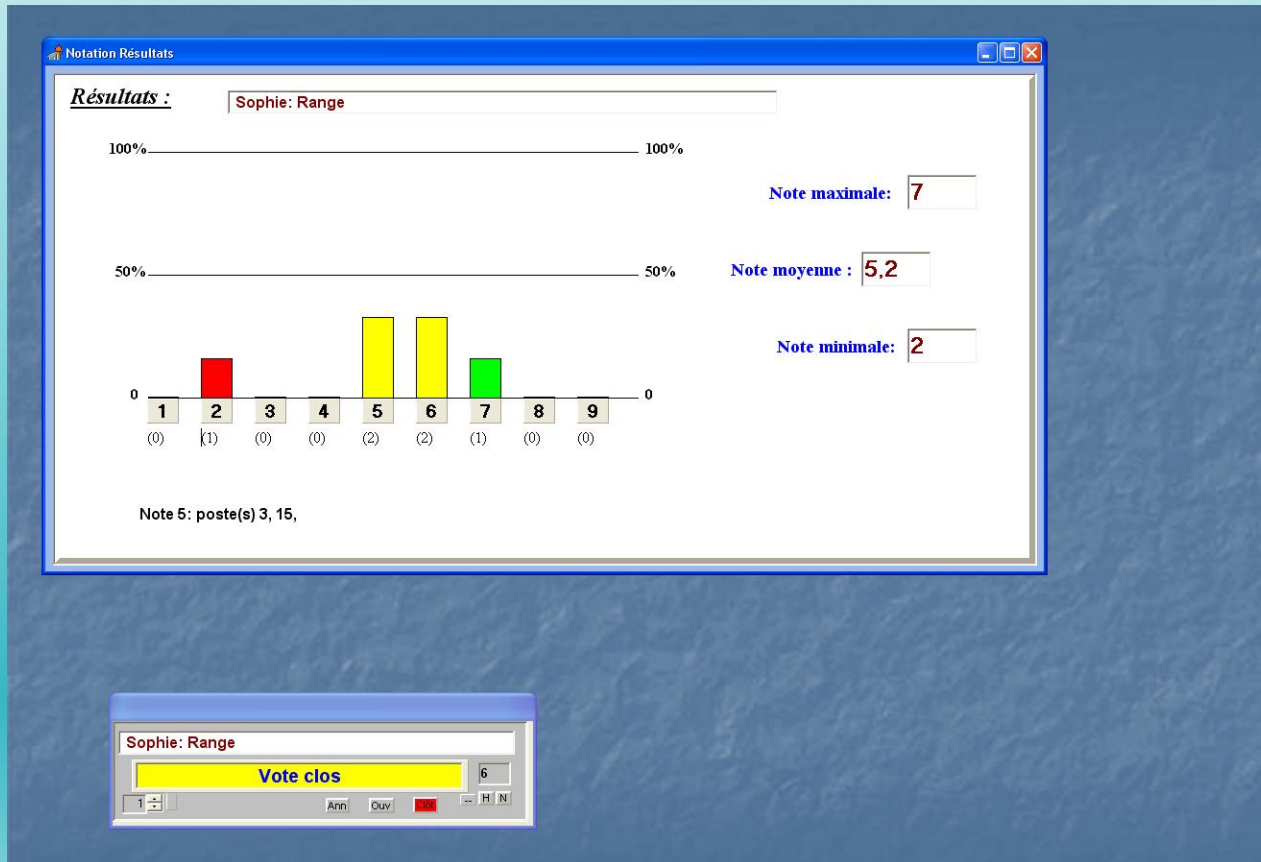
# Rating procedures

- Individual vote
  - Show Histogram
- Discussion
  - Small Group then Plenary
- Vote after discussion
  - Show Histogram
- Final vote
  - Hand in Rating sheet

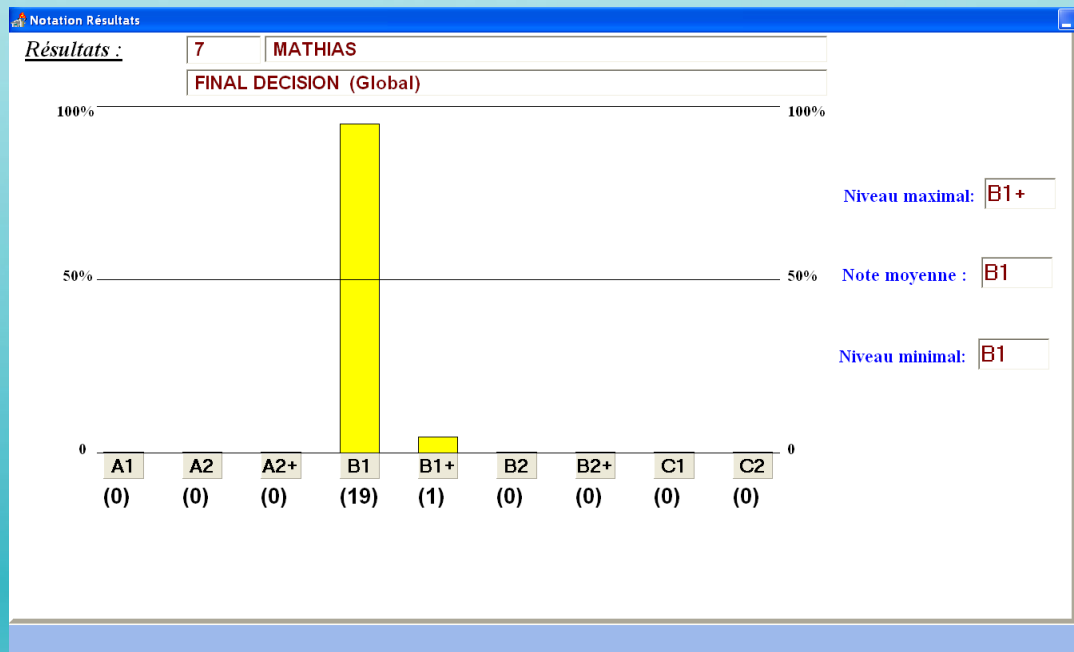
# Detailed procedure

- **Individual**
  - Watch sequence (both candidates)
  - Finalise notes and grades on sheet
  - Electronic Vote (GLOBAL) ⇒ Histogram
  
- **Discussion**
  - Small group
  - Plenary
  
- **After discussion**
  - Vote RANGE (Anchor sequences only)
  - Vote ACCURACY ( “ ” )
  - Vote FLUENCY ( “ ” )
  - Vote INTERACTION ( “ ” )
  - Vote COHERENCE ( “ ” )
  - Vote CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT (GLOBAL) ⇒ Histogram
  
- **Final Vote**
  - Vote FINAL DECISION (GLOBAL)
  - Hand in completed Rating Sheet
  - Histogram

# Results 1<sup>st</sup> round



# Results final round



# Analysis

- Mean of Final Vote (Histogram)  
=
- Result of FACETS analysis
  
- FACETS = Rasch (IRT) Model
  - Adjusts for Rater severity/leniency  
= Objective scaling of subjective judgement

# Website references

- COE:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/elp/elp-reg/CEFR\\_speaking\\_FR.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/elp/elp-reg/CEFR_speaking_FR.asp#TopOfPage)

- CIEP

[http://www.ciep.fr/publi\\_evalcert/dvd-productions-orales-cecrl/index.php](http://www.ciep.fr/publi_evalcert/dvd-productions-orales-cecrl/index.php)