RELANG

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

Familiarisation

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

Manual

Aims:

- to help providers of examinations to develop, apply and report transparent, practical procedures to situate their examinations in relation to the CEFR

- To provide a guide focussed on procedures to validate a claim that a certain exam is linked to the CEFR

- *Not* to provide a guide how to construct good language tests

Validity Evidence of Linkage of Examination to the CEFR (1)

Five inter-related sets of procedures:

1. **Familiarisation**

- training activities based on a detailed knowledge of the CEFR, its levels and illustrative descriptors

2. **Specification**

- a self-audit of the coverage of the examination (content and task types)

- improving the quality of the examination through the procedures having a certain awareness-raising function

Validity Evidence of Linkage of Examination to the CEFR (2)

3.   Standardization & Benchmarking

- A common understanding of the Common Reference Levels (spoken and written performances)

- Benchmarking – performance samples from the tests being successfully benchmarked to the levels – the claim based on specification

4. Standard setting

- Decisions on cut-off scores, borderline performances

Validity Evidence of Linkage of Examination to the CEFR (3)

5. Validation

- A continuous process of quality monitoring,
- *not* an ultimate verdict on the quality of the linking process

Familiarisation

No absolute boundary between the end of Familiarisation and the beginning of Specification or Standardisation, in each case the first activities are a continuation of the Familiarisation process.

Sufficient awareness of the CEFR levels to analyse and assess test tasks and performances in relation to the CEFR levels.

A detailed knowledge of the CEFR, its levels and illustrative descriptors

Three tasks

- Salient characteristics
- Self-assessing the ability in two foreign languages
- The CEFR definitions for Linguistic Range, Grammatical Accuracy, Fluency, Coherence and Interaction