

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

Validation

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

Linking Procedures in the Manual

- Familiarisation with the CEFR
- Linking on the basis of specification of examination content
- Standardization and Benchmarking
- Standard setting
- **Validation: checking that exam results relate to CEFR levels as intended**

What is validity?

Validity refers to *the degree to which evidence and theory support the interpretations of test scores entailed by proposed uses of tests.*

In simpler terms: does the test measure what it intends to measure?

Aspects of Validity

- Content Validity
- Operational validity: pilots and pretests
- Psychometric aspects
- Procedural validity of standardization
- Internal validity of standard setting
- External validation

Content Validity

- Does the test accurately reflect the syllabus on which it is based AND reflect the descriptors in the CEFR?
- Does the content specification reflect all areas to be assessed in suitable proportions?

Validation of Standard Setting

- Has the procedure of standard setting had the effects as intended: was the training effective, did the judges feel free to follow their own insights? These are questions of *procedural validity*.
- Are the judgments of the judges to be trusted? This relates to the *internal validity* of the standard setting.
- Are the results of the standard setting – allocating students to a CEFR level on the basis of their test score – trustworthy? The basic answer to this question comes from independent evidence which corroborates the results of a particular standard setting: *empirical validity*.