



Relating language curricula, tests and examinations to the Common European Framework of Reference (RELANG)

Standardization & Benchmarking

This initiative is carried out within the framework of the **Innovative Methodologies and Assessment in Language Learning** cooperation agreement between the European Centre for Modern Languages and the European Commission
www.ecml.at/ec-cooperation



Linking Procedures in the Manual

- Familiarisation
- Specification
- Standardization and Benchmarking
- Standard setting
- Validation

Claims through Specification and Standardization

- Claimed link to CEFR is based on **specification** only
 - no indication of *score* required for CEFR-level in question
- Claims to be substantiated through **standardisation**
 - item-difficulties judged in relation to CEFR levels.

Steps in the standardization phase

1. Adequate familiarisation with the CEFR.
2. Training in rating productive skills
 - tables and scales in the CEFR or the Manual & scales or specific rating scales
3. Training in rating receptive tasks
 - tables in the Manual & specifications developed for the examinations or tests in question
4. Benchmarking performance samples
5. Standard setting of receptive tasks

Group Decisions

- ***Benchmarking*** and ***standard setting*** are procedures requiring group decisions
 - to be carefully prepared by appropriate training.

Benchmarking in Direct Tests

- In holistically rated tests, the judgment on the CEFR level is direct
 - Assistance needed for raters in giving valid judgments
 - Main tool used for this special type of standard setting: ***benchmarking***
- Benchmarking: providing one (or more) typical sample(s) to illustrate performance at a given level