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European Profile for Language teacher training according to  
"Common European Framework of Reference for Languages"

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## The European Language Portfolio: support and development for language learners

The Portfolio is linked to the Common European Framework.

Both have grown out of the work on the Council of Europe Modern Languages project during the 1990s.



## The European Language Portfolio: support and development for language learners

The Portfolio model uses the six level system from the Common European Framework (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2): (*for the language abilities: comprehension, speaking, reading and writing*):

*A1 = Breakthrough*

*A2 = Waystage*

*B1 = Threshold*

*B2 = Vantage*

*C1 = Effective Operational Proficiency*

*C2 = Mastery*

It includes the overall grid of descriptors by level and skill.



## The European Language Portfolio: support and development for language learners

A strength of the Portfolio, as the Common European Framework is becoming the standard to which courses, materials and tests are linked all over Europe in school, vocational and higher education.



... *ELP*..

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The provision of objective criteria for describing language proficiency will facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications gained in different learning contexts and accordingly will aid European mobility.



## Why is CEF/ELP needed?

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- To promote and facilitate co-operation among educational institutions in different countries;
- Provide a sound basis for the mutual recognition of language qualifications;
- Assist teachers, learners, course designers, examining bodies and educational administrators to situate and co-ordinate their efforts.

## What criteria must CEF meet?

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**Comprehensive:** is meant that the CEF should attempt to specify as full a range of language knowledge, skills and use as possible (without of course attempting to forecast *a priori* all possible uses of language in all situations)

**Transparent:** information must be clearly formulated and explicit, available and readily comprehensible to users.

**Coherent:** harmonious relation among: determination of objectives; definition of content; the selection or creation of material; establishment of teaching/learning programmes; teaching and learning methods employed; evaluation, testing and assessment.





## Relationship of the ALTE levels to the CEF

ALTE is an Association of Language Testers in Europe composed by 28 members representing 24 European languages.

Since 1989 each member (like Cambridge ESOL, USP...) provides examinations of the language which is spoken as a mother tongue in their own country or region.

**The principal objective of ALTE is:**

- to establish common levels of proficiency in order to promote the transnational recognition of certification in Europe according to the level'CEF.





## Relationship of the ALTE levels to the CEF

All the examinations using the same:

- format and details;
- testing focus of each paper;
- number and types of questions;



## IAL FVG teachers training for European Language Certificates

The teachers' IAL FVG offers the European Language Certificates in several languages (English, Germany, French, Spanish, Slovenian, Italian).

In particular IAL FVG hosts the CELI Certificate Exam (5 levels)- *Certificate of Knowledge of Italian Language*- of the *University for Foreigners of Perugia* (Member ALTE) .

Our Examination centre (n. 696 ) is approved by the University of Perugia.



## IAL FVG teachers training for European Language Certificates

Our teachers advise the student on which level he should apply for.

On arrival the student will take a placement test in order to be assigned the most appropriate level.

Twice a year (*03 June 2005 and 07 November 2005*), our students can take the CELI which take place contemporarily worldwide.



## IAL FVG teachers training

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Our teachers involved in the CELI Certificate Exam are all:

- native speakers
- highly qualified in teaching Italian (*degree in foreign* languages and/or in Italian; *Itals diploma*: Italian as a second language; *Master in Teaching Italian* as Second Language or University Diploma Course in Teaching Italian to Foreigners-*DUILIS*).



## IAL FVG teachers training

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They have specialized experience in the teaching of Italian language and culture to foreigners and they attend teacher training seminars, courses funded by ESF Action 18 or *Information Day* (organised in each IAL Centre before the first lesson).

## IAL FVG teachers training

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- On 19/20 September 2004 one examiner training session for the CELI Certificate were held at the University for Foreigners of Perugia Examination Centre in Perugia.
- 3 IAL Teachers took place of it.





## IAL FVG teachers training

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The workshops were run by Prof. Bolli who used the Common European Framework of Reference descriptors for the 5 levels to make clear the principles of standardised marking with the help of video-taped performances by candidates.



## IAL FVG teachers training

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More than 20 teachers of Italian altogether, from partner institutions of the University for Foreigners of Perugia attended the examiner training sessions to be licensed as examiners for the CELI.





## Method of Teaching Italian Language

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The use of the language in discussion, conversation and exercises with selected authentic material is the focus point of CELI teaching method.

The communication functions of the language are closely tied to grammatical structure, vocabulary and the function of the four language abilities: comprehension, speaking, reading and writing.



## Our Method of Teaching Italian Language

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*In line with the most up-to-date theories on Italian language teaching, our method aims at a harmonious development of all four linguistic skills.*

Our teachers conduct a lot of courses in the different IAL Centres following these UPS' guide lines and dividing it in lessons of language analysis followed by lessons of practice with communicative tasks.



## IAL FVG teachers training

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During the oral examinations on last 22th November, these examiners had interview our 10 candidates individually at our examination centre.

Marks are recorded on a mark sheet and sent to Perugia.

Results'exam, in the form of grades, are sent to us (and all other examination centres) approximately three months after the examination.



## Selection of materials

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Our teachers preparing the students for the CELI Exam use the Materials for each level selected by a team of practising teachers' Università per Stranieri di Perugia (USP).



## Selection of materials

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IAL Teachers provide a pack of course materials which is frequently updated.

Preference is given to original and stimulating material.

At each level there is a team leader, who acts as a co-ordinator for that level.



## Selection of materials

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The team leaders give detailed guidelines for selection of materials, including the following:

- skills to be assessed
- subject matter
- linguistic complexity
- cultural considerations
- reference to the Universitys Lexicon of Spoken Italian
- item types.



## Selection of materials

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The material is selected from a number of different sources, which include books, newspapers and magazines, brochures, advertisements and radio or television items.

All the examination papers are printed by the Università per Stranieri.

Team leaders check random samples of scripts from the examiners to assess their performance.



## Selection of materials

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For oral components, team leaders make random checks on local examiners during courses or seminars, like as 22th November, in order to assess the accuracy of their marking.





## Selection of materials

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This Methodology following the objectives of ALTE:

- to establish common levels of proficiency in order to promote the transnational recognition of certification in Europe;
- to establish common standards for all stages of the language-testing process: that is, for test development, task and item writing, test administration, marking and grading, reporting of test results, test analysis and reporting of findings;
- to collaborate on joint projects and in the exchange of ideas and know-how.