



## Understanding and Implementing the Common European Framework

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR or CEF) is the result of an exercise in international co-operation throughout the European Union. It provides a basis for the mutual recognition of language qualifications, thus facilitating educational and occupational mobility. It is increasingly used in the reform of national curriculums and by international consortiums – including those outside the European Union – for the comparison of language certificates.

Since it emerged in 2001, the CEF has been linked to hundreds – if not thousands – of courses and examinations. However, many of the professionals at institutional, regional or national level who are expected to put the CEF into practice have little or no formal training. 'Understanding The Common European Framework' is a five day (27 hour) course that will enable education planners at all levels to become fully acquainted with the principles behind the CEF and be able to develop a strategy to implement the CEF in their context.

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will:

- ▶ Understand the theory and background to the CEF
- ▶ Understand how to interpret different CEF levels
- ▶ Be able to start the process of linking their institutional or national standards to the CEF

- ▶ Be able to apply effectively 'can-do' statements in their own context (including outside Europe)
- ▶ Have the ability to help plan language strategies using the CEF.

### TOPICS

- ▶ The purpose and history of the CEF
- ▶ Ensuring consistent interpretation of CEF levels
- ▶ Using the CEF with teachers and learners
- ▶ Using the CEF for assessment
- ▶ The European Language Portfolio
- ▶ The CEF and the curriculum.

### COURSE DELIVERY

Courses are delivered face-to-face in your country at a suitable venue of your choosing. Upon request, we can arrange for training to be delivered in Edinburgh. In some cases, pre- and/or post-course work might be delivered online. Ideally, courses run for groups between 10-20 participants, but we can run courses for less or more if necessary.

### COURSE TUTORS

The team includes Hamish McIlwraith, the director of McIlwraith Education, who has advised the Scottish Qualifications Authority and Tunisian government on applying the Common European Framework to national language teaching policy.

# Common European Framework – sample timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0900 - 1030	Formal welcome, course aims, introductions	<b>The Validity of CEF Descriptors</b>  Language activities and strategies; Language competences	<b>Using the CEF in Context</b>  'How do I know my B2 is the same as your B2?'	<b>The European Language Portfolio</b>  Aims and purpose: Motivating learners; Recording linguistic and cultural skills	<b>The CEF and the Curriculum 1</b>  Globalisation and International Mobility
1030 - 1045	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
1045 - 1215	<b>What is the purpose of the CEF?</b>  A common terminology; Agreeing reference points among teachers; Reflecting on practice	<b>Applying the Theory to Practice</b>  Common difficulty levels; compulsory local standards; The 'problem' of L1	<b>Using the CEF with Learners 1</b>  Needs Analysis; Learning styles	<b>Three Parts of a Portfolio</b>  Language Passport; Language Biography; Dossier; Validation procedures	<b>The CEF and the Curriculum 2</b>  Reconstructionism and the European vision
1215 - 1315	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1315 - 1430	<b>Where did the CEF come from?</b>  From Cambridge Proficiency in 1913 and onwards...	<b>Ensuring Consistent Level Interpretation 1</b>  An Introduction to the 'Manual' to relate examinations to the CEF	<b>Using the CEF with Learners 2</b>  Skills, competencies and communication; Comprehension and expression skills	<b>The European Language Portfolio – Case Studies</b>  A group Workshop with nine examples of ELP use	<b>The CEF and Intercultural Communication</b>  Recording and Reflecting on Intercultural experiences
1430 - 1445	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
1445 - 1600	<b>A Review of the CEF Level Descriptors</b>  From A1 to C2	<b>Ensuring Consistent Level Interpretation 2</b>  Specification; Standardisation; Empirical Validation	<b>Using the CEF for Assessment</b>  Assessing the proficiency of the language user	<b>The CEF and the Council of Europe</b>  Promoting co-operation and understanding; Maintaining linguistic and cultural diversity	Formal farewells and awarding of certificates