


Relating foreign language examinations at general and vocational matura to the CEFR

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SLOVENIA

Timeline



ID number 28554

Background

The aim of the project is to confirm links between national examinations in foreign languages and the CEFR and to raise awareness of good testing practice.

Objectives

To facilitate mobility of candidates and facilitate comparability of the national education system to other systems.

Description

Learner performance in foreign languages at the upper secondary level, including VET, as assessed through the matura examinations, is aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The procedure for aligning the examinations consisted of four stages: familiarisation, specification, standard setting and validation. Since 2016, candidates who achieve the required number of points in English examinations at the General and Vocational Matura have received language proficiency certificates at B1 or B2 level.

Initially applied to English, the alignment was extended to other foreign languages in 2017. Since 2018, language proficiency certificates have also been issued for German, Spanish, French, Italian, and Russian. Candidates who achieve the required number of points in foreign language examinations at the general and vocational matura are awarded CEFR-referenced language proficiency certificates at levels B1 or B2.

The alignment is based on CEFR proficiency descriptors. All four language skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking) will be added gradually.

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the link between the English language and CEFR was examined again and a report prepared. A project group for the Russian language established in 2018 to link it to CEFR completed the process in 2019 and prepared a report.

2020 Implementation

The implementation stalled in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the plans were not realised.

2021 Implementation

In 2024, listening comprehension will be added to foreign language exams in the scope of Vocational Matura. In 2021, a group was formed to ensure that CEFR is taken into account in preparation of listening comprehension. With the help of the European centre for modern languages from Graz, training was organised for the group members. The members prepared test specifications for listening comprehension and designed a new exam catalogue.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the commission for linking foreign language exams in vocational matura continued their work. They prepared tasks for reading and listening comprehension in accordance with the new exam catalogue for piloting in upper secondary schools. Schools have been selected to pilot new exam catalogues and prepared the materials.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, a working group was appointed to design the new format for the foreign language exam at the Matura. The National Examination Centre piloted the new exam tasks in selected secondary schools, processed the results, and conducted a statistical analysis. A standard-setting group carried out the standardisation of exam papers to ensure alignment with assessment criteria.

2024 Implementation

In 2024 listening comprehension was introduced as part of the vocational matura foreign language exams. The project team aligned the new exam format with the CEFR, setting new thresholds for obtaining the above-mentioned certificates. Consequently, all four language skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking) are now assessed.

2025 Implementation

A working group was appointed for the re-standardisation of the Italian and German exams in the General Matura with the CEFR. New threshold levels were set for reading and listening comprehension as well as for use of language.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ) (until 2023)
- National Examinations Centre (RIC)
- Ministry of Education

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[English language](#)

[Russian language](#)

“ … ” Cite as

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