


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

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**REGULATION/LEGISLATION** SLOVENIA

Timeline

2015 Implementation	2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation
2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation		

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

In 2014, learner performance in foreign languages (English language) at upper-secondary level, including VET, attested through *matura* exams, has been linked to the common European framework of reference for languages (CEFR). Other languages followed in 2017, so now certificates are issued for German, English, Spanish, French and Italian languages.

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, the National Examination Centre began issuing language proficiency certificates at B1 or B2 level to candidates in the general and vocational matura who achieve the required number of points in foreign language exams. 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 certificates.

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](#)



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