Open European Languages & Cultures Network

IO3. Research report: Online 24 EU Language Placement Tests (LPTs)(1st Version)

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Erasmus+

Authors: Panagiotis Kosmas (CY), Antigoni Parmaxi (CY), Maria Perifanou (GR) and Anastasios Economides (GR).

Contributors: Antonio Giordano (IT), Alexander Mikroyiannides (UK) and Elisabetta Delle Donne (IT).

Project Consortium:

The University of Macedonia, GR

The Open University, UK
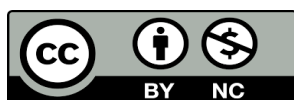
The Cyprus University of Technology, CY

Pixel (IT)

Contact Information
Website: https://www.openlangnet.eu/
E-mail: mariaperif@gmail.com

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Foreword

According to both the Council of Europe and the European Union mobility is one of the cornerstones of European society. The lack of language competences is still one of the main barriers to participation in European education, training and youth programmes. With 4 million participants by 2020, Erasmus+ is a unique opportunity to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad (EU, 2013). As languages are the heart of mutual understanding and comprehension, it is essential to promote language learning for Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants.

The OPENLang Network project addresses the needs for linguistic skills and culture awareness of Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants and the training needs for OERs of language teachers:
a) Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants (HE students & staff, VET, Adult & School education staff, Youth learners, Youth Workers, Youth Entrepreneurs) that need to boost their language skills (24 EU) and cultural awareness including those who will not enrol in the OLS courses.
b) Volunteers language teachers who will support the Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants offering their professional experience while receiving professional certified training on the creation, sharing and use of language OERs.

- The OPENLang Network project envisages to:
1) connect these 2 groups in an interactive collaborative environment (Web-based and mobile-based) that will support more efficiently their effort to raise language awareness of the target mobility EU languages and to develop European intercultural knowledge covering all EU cultures.
2) foster the Open Education European multicultural and multilingual vision to all OPENLang Network members.

The research report on "Online 24 EU Language Placement Tests (LPTs)" is the third intellectual output envisaged by the OPENLang Network project. The research aims to identify, analyze and present the language needs of the participants involved in long-term mobility activities supported under Erasmus+ Key Action 1. Participants are

Higher Education students and staff, VET for at least 1-month mobility, learners/staff, adult and school education staff, Youth learners and workers. Based on the findings of this third output, the project's consortium will design and develop in a more efficient way the services and the material of the open and highly interactive web platform for language practice and cultural awareness. The contribution of this Output is to discover Language Placements Tests (LPTs) for the EU24 languages and enable users to test their language proficiency level. Particularly, this report includes the following: Exploration of available Language Placement Tests for 24 EU languages, and evaluation and final selection one or two open LPTs for each language in order to provide access to them via the project's online platform. Then a visitor to the OPENLang e-platform would check his/her language proficiency level in order to select appropriate Open Educational Resources (OERs) for learning the language as well a peer for tandem learning.

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Introduction

The aim of this IO3 is the identification and selection of open 24 EU Language Placement Tests (LPTs). According to Morante (2012), a placement test is a test usually given to someone (e.g. a student) in order to determine specific knowledge or proficiency in various subjects for the purpose of assigning him/her to appropriate courses or classes. To that end, a LPT is a basic skills' achievement test that measures language skills proficiency (e.g., in reading, writing, speaking, etc).

After selecting these open 24 European LPTs, they will be uploaded onto the OPENLang platform. An Erasmus mobility participant would take such a LPT to evaluate his/her language proficiency. After knowing his/her result, he/she will input it in his/her profile in the OPENLang platform which will automatically suggest to him/her a suitable tandem language partner. It would be preferable that the LPTs adhere to the specifications described in the Common European Framework of Reference (Council of Europe, 2011).

More concretely, the Intellectual Output 3 (IO3) - Online 24 EU Language Placement Tests (LPTs)c - consists of three basic research phases: 1) Phase 1 aims at the exploration of available online resources for LPTs, 2) Phase 2 focuses on the evaluation of the available LPTs based on specific criteria, and 3) Phase 3 showcases the final selection of the LPTs for including them in the OPENLang Network online platform. In particular, in this IO3, first we present the results from the extensive exploration of LPTs for 24 European languages. We only considered LPTs which are available online, are free and openly accessible to everyone. We found more than one LPT available for each language. Second, we provided a brief review regarding evaluation criteria for LPTs, based on the current literature. Then we selected the most appropriate evaluation criteria. Finally, we selected the most appropriate 24 European LPTs based on the criteria. These LPTs will be uploaded onto the OPENLang Network's online platform by the Open University (OU) of U.K. In the following sections, we describe in detail basic research phases.

O3-T1: Exploration of available Language Placement Tests for 24 EU languages

During the research Phase 1, we carried out an extensive desk research to identify all the available online resources for 24 European Language Placement Tests (LPTs). As a result, we found some available LPTs for each European language, taking into account that the LPTs are available online, are free and openly accessible to everyone. Below we present a list of available online open LPTs for all the 24 European languages.

1.1 English LPTs

For the English language, there are multiple resources for LPTs. We found some sample tests which someone can print, but also there are many available online tests for everyone who wants to check or identify his/her level in the English language. Some online LPTs for the English language include:

1. English Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language).
   https://www.transparent.com/learn-english/proficiency-test.html
2. Language Proficiency Test (Provider: LingQ).
   https://www.lingq.com/el/language-proficiency-test/
3. English Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers).
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/english-level-test.php
4. Linguaskill General Reading and Listening sample test (Provider: Cambridge Assessment English)
   https://www.metritests.com/metricatestdelivery/Assessment/Assignment?test=LSKLDEMO02
5. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for download from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/
6. There are also some placement tests for the English language in printed form from National and Kapodistrian University of Athens:
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EPK3Wwbyt-PLv2azFuhQMvgVXPP-3wsl/view?usp=sharing
7. Placement test from University of Economics in Katowice
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dWT1-LJpwfH4UgKyRM4HCE2T1JPpUKp_/view?usp=sharing
8. Placement test from University of Bucharest

1.2 Bulgarian LPTs

For the Bulgarian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Placement test from University of Bucharest
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/10_YjzPUHzMb6vRijt1ETdsugdtX1ZCvj/view?usp=sha
   ring
2. Bulgarian placement test (Provider: 17-minute-languages)
   https://www.17-minute-languages.com/en/Bulgarian-placement-test/
3. Test to determine your level in Bulgarian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign
   Language school)
   http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-bulgarian/
4. Online tests in Bulgarian (Provider: Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Department
   for Language Teaching and International Students http://www.deo.uni-
   sofia.bg/en/testing/tests

There are also some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2)
available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for
the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.3 Croatian LPTs

For the Croatian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Croatian Language Test (Provider: Learn Croatian Online)
   https://www.learncroatian.eu/test
2. Test to determine your level in Croatian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign
   Language school) http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-
   croatian
3. Croatian Placement Test (Provider: Enbe Language School)
    https://www.en-be.net/en/onlinetesting/croatian-placement-test

1.4 Czech LPTs

For the Czech language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Czech Language Placement Test (Provider: Correct Language Centre)
   https://www.jc-correct.com/en/czech-placement-test
2. Czech placement test (Provider: 17-minute-languages) https://www.17-minute-languages.com/en/Czech-placement-test/
3. CZECH LEVEL TEST (Provider: Cactus Worldwide)
   https://www.languagecoursesuk.co.uk/test/czech_test.php?domain=cl

1.5 Danish LPTs

For the Danish language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Danish Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers)
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/danish-level-test.php
2. Online Danish Vocabulary Size Test (Provider: arealme.com)
   https://www.arealme.com/test-over-det-danske-ordforrad/en/

1.6 Dutch LPTs

For the Dutch language we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Dutch Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers)
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/dutch-level-test.php
2. Dutch Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)
   https://www.transparent.com/learn-dutch/proficiency-test.html

There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.7 Estonian LPTs

For the Estonian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Estonian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school) http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-estonian/
2. Take Estonian Language (eesti keel) Tests (Provider: Master Any Language) https://www.masteranylanguage.com/c/r/o/Estonian/Tests
3. Estonian placement test (Provider: International Language Services) https://ilstallinn.ee/tests/estonian-placement-test/

1.8 Finnish LPTs

For the Finnish language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Finnish (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school). http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-finnish/
2. Take Finnish Language (suomi) Tests (Provider: Master Any Language) https://www.masteranylanguage.com/c/r/o/Finnish/Tests
3. Online Finnish Vocabulary Size Test (Provider: arealme.com) https://www.arealme.com/sanavaraston-laajuus-testi/en/

1.9 French LPTs

For French language, there are many available online LPTs. Some of these online LPTs are the following:

1. French Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers) https://www.languagetrainers.com/french-level-test.php
2. French Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language) https://www.transparent.com/learn-french/proficiency-test.html
3. French Level Test (Provider: ILA French Language School) https://www.ila-france.com/french-tests/french-level-test
4. French Placement Tests (Provider: tolearnfrench.com) https://www.tolearnfrench.com/french-placement-tests.php
5. Online Placement test for French language (Provider: Akademija Oxford) https://www.akademijaoxford.com/en/french-language-placement-test.php
6. Free Placement Test (Provider: FIAF- French Institute Alliance Francaise) http://www.fiaf.org/frenchclasses/placementtest.shtml

7. Test your French level (Provider: CIEP - an institution of the French Ministry of National Education) https://savoirs.rfi.fr/en/test-your-french-level
8. French Proficiency Test (Provider: LingQ) https://www.lingq.com/el/french-proficiency-test/

There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.10 German LPTs

For the German language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. German Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers) https://www.languagetrainers.com/german-level-test.php
2. German Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language) https://www.transparent.com/learn-german/proficiency-test.html

We have also found available sample tests (in printed form), provided by the Goethe Institut. The available tests are here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fejb12eTzhbHL91bCAVvF18S0JKYx_Gc?usp=sharing

1.11 Greek LPTs

For the Greek language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Placement tests for Greek Language Students (Provider: Greek LOL Lessons Online) https://greek-lol.com/placement-tests-greek-language-students
2. Greek Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers) https://www.languagetrainers.com/greek-level-test.php
3. Greek placement test (Provider: 17-minute languages) https://www.17-minute-languages.com/en/Greek-placement-test/
4. Test to determine your level in Greek (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school) http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-greek/
5. For the Greek language, we have also found available sample tests (in printed form), provided by the Center of Greek Language in Greece. The tests are here: http://www.greek-language.gr/certification/node/12.html

1.12 Hungarian LPTs

For the Hungarian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Hungarian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school).
   http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-hungarian/
2. Hungarian Placement Test (Provider: Hungarian Lesson with Zsuzsi).
    http://hungarianlesson.eu/en/placement-test/
3. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages.
   https://eclexam.eu/sample-test-hungarian/

1.13 Irish LPTs

For the Irish language, we have found the following online LPT:

1. Gaelchultúr's Online Irish Test (Provider: Gaelchultúr Irish Language Classes and resources) http://gaelchultur.com/en/assessment.aspx

1.14 Italian LPTs

For the Italian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Italian Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers)
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/italian-level-test.php
2. Italian Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)
   https://www.transparent.com/learn-italian/proficiency-test.html
3. Language Proficiency Test (Provider: LingQ)
   https://www.lingq.com/el/language-proficiency-test/
4. Italian Diploma exam samples (Provider: Accademia Italiana di lingua: Diploma di Lingua Italiana)
   http://www.acad.it/en/italian-language-exam-sample.html
5. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages.
   https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.15 Latvian LPTs

For the Latvian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Latvian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school)
   http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-latvian/
2. LATVIAN ONLINE TEST (Education and language centre "MIRTE")
   https://www.mirte.lv/en/tests/latvian-online-test/
3. Latvian Vocabulary Quiz (Provider: TYL Test your language)
   https://testyourlanguage.com/latvian-quiz/

1.16 Lithuanian LPTs

For the Lithuanian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Lithuanian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school)
   http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-lithuanian/
2. Lithuanian placement test (Provider: 17-minute-languages)
   https://www.17-minute-languages.com/en/Lithuanian-placement-test/

1.17 Maltese LPTs

For the Maltese language, we have found the following online LPT:

1. Master Any Language
   https://www.masteranylanguage.com/c/r/o/Maltese/FlashCards

1.18 Polish LPTs:

For the Polish language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. King's College London Modern Language Centre
   https://www.kcl.ac.uk/modern-language-centre/further-information/placement-tests.aspx

2. Polish Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers)
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/polish-level-test.php
3. Polish Proficiency Test (Transparent Language) https://www.transparent.com/learn-polish/proficiency-test.html
4. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.19 Portuguese LPTs

For the Portuguese language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Kings College London, Modern Language Centre Faculty of Arts & Humanities
   https://www.kcl.ac.uk/modern-language-centre/further-information/placement-tests.aspx
2. Portuguese Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers)
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/portuguese-level-test.php

1.20 Romanian LPTs

For the Romanian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Romanian (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school)   http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-romanian/
2. Romanian placement test (Provider: 17-minute-languages) https://www.17-minute-languages.com/en/Romanian-placement-test/
3. Romanian Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)
   https://www.transparent.com/learn-romanian/quizzes/lotw-quizzes/
4. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Language https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.21 Slovak LPTs

For the Slovak language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Slovak language placement test (Provider: Centre for Continuing Education COMENIUS, UNIVERSITY IN BRATISLAVA) https://cdv.uniba.sk/en/ilps/placement-test/
2. Online test for Slovak language (Provider: International House Bratislava) https://www.ihbratislava.sk/en/online-test/kurzy-pre-verejnost?lang=sk

1.22 Slovenian LPTs

For the Slovenian language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Test to determine your level in Slovene (Provider: Language Life: Online Foreign Language school) http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-slovene/
2. Slovene placement test (Provider: 17-minute-languages) https://www.17-minute-languages.com/en/Slovene-placement-test/
3. Slovene Language Exams (Provider: Centre for Slovene as a Second and Foreign Language - University of Ljubljana) https://centerslo.si/en/exams/slovene-language-exams/
4. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.23 Spanish LPTs

For the Spanish language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Spanish Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers) https://www.languagetrainers.com/spanish-level-test.php
2. Spanish Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language) https://www.transparent.com/learn-spanish/proficiency-test.html
3. Spanish placement test (Provider: Lengalia) https://www.lengalia.com/en/learn-online-spanish.html
4. Spanish Placement Tests (Provider: Tía Tula, Colegio de Español) https://www.tiatula.com/spanish-placement-tests/
5. Spanish Test: Instituto Cervantes, the official national/international institution for the Spanish Language https://www.cervantes.to/test_inicial.html

6. There are some sample examination tests based on CEFR (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) available for downloading from the ECL Examination System of the European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

1.24 Swedish LPTs

For Swedish language, we have found the following online LPTs:

1. Swedish Language Level Test (Provider: Language Trainers)
   https://www.languagetrainers.com/swedish-level-test.php
2. Swedish Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)
   https://www.transparent.com/learn-swedish/proficiency-test.html
3. Placement test for Swedish (Provider: KTH Royal Institute of Technology)
   https://www.kth.se/en/larande/sprak/kurser/swe/placement-test-for-swedish-1.183904

O3-T2. Evaluation and final selection of 24 EU placement tests

2.1 A brief overview of evaluation criteria for language tests

In this section, we provide a brief overview of the literature regarding the criteria in selecting a LPT in the area of foreign language testing and assessment. The effectiveness of placement tests, in general, is gauged by how well the information they provide helps to accurately place students. The final selection of the 24 LPTs took place based on specific evaluation criteria that have been decided accordingly by the project's consortium considering the needs of the OPENLang Network.

To begin with, a test is only one example of educational assessment (Gipps, 1994), that learners usually take to check their improvement in a subject or to measure their proficiency in a foreign language. The literature suggested that the focus should be on impact and not on processes. Discussing the design, the development and the use of language tests, Bachman and Palmer (1996) suggest two fundamental principles:

1) The need of correspondence between language test performance and language use. In this case, the test is useful.
2) A clear and explicit definition of the qualities of test usefulness. These qualities include reliability, construct validity, authenticity, interactiveness, impact and practicality.

In the same lines, Bachman and Palmer (1996), discuss the requirements and constraints of language assessments/tests and provide a comprehensive framework for test usefulness. According to their framework, a useful test needs to be structured taking into account the following six qualities:

1. **Validity**: the interpretation of test scores or other outcomes are meaningful and appropriate. Validity involves the degree to which you are measuring what you are supposed to, more simply, the accuracy of your measurement. In current literature, validity is considered an argument concerning test interpretation and use: the extent to which test interpretations and uses can be justified.

2. **Reliability**: the test results produced are consistent and stable. Reliability estimates the consistency of your measurement, or more simply the degree to which an instrument measures the same way each time it is used under the same conditions with the same subjects.

3. **Authenticity**: the tasks resemble real-life language events in the domains of interest

4. **Interactivity**: the tasks engage mental processes and strategies which would accompany real-life tasks.

5. **Impact**: the effect, hopefully positive, which the test has on individuals, on classroom practice and in wider society.

6. **Practicality**: It should be possible to develop, produce and administer the test as planned with the resources available.

These qualities tend to compete with each other: for example, increasing task authenticity may lead to a decrease in reliability. For this reason, it is the effort to find the best balance between them which is important for increasing test usefulness overall (Manual for Language Test Development and Examining, CFER, 2011).

Moreover, regarding the various components that are needed when constructing and using a language test, Gipps (1994) suggested the criterion of validity, reliability, practicality, and washback effect.

- **Validity**: We can see that evidence points to the fact that when tests are used, they have to measure what they are supposed to measure and that the evidence in validity is crucial.

- **Reliability:** the terms test-retest and parallel tests were emphasized when discussing the reliability concept even though those methods have problems.

- **Washback:** it is a powerful tool for both language learners and teachers, it has a positive effect on the teaching process.

Gipps (1994) emphasized on four types of validity: predictive validity, content validity, construct validity, and concurrent validity.

- *Predictive validity* relates to whether the test predicts future performances accurately or well.
- *Content validity* covers the more appropriate and necessary content which is necessary for a good performance.
- *Construct validity* relates to whether the test is actually adequate to what is being assessed.
- *Concurrent validity* is whether a test correlates with or gives nearly the same result as another similar test of the same skill.

Evans, Jones, Leung, and Liu (2015) proposed a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of English Additional Language (EAL) assessment and tests. Based on the proposed

framework, the key criteria for EAL assessment frameworks and rating scales are: a) the progression, b) the language focus, c) language across the curriculum, and d) supporting materials and guidelines. An explanation of each criterion is presented below:

a) Progression

- The stages of progression in acquiring a language.
- The rate of progress in the different language skills, e.g. speaking, listening etc.
- Identify progression in terms of communication (i.e. using English to convey meaning in context).

b) Language focus

- Distinguish between informal use of language (social interaction) and formal use.
- Evaluation of what view of vocabulary and grammar is adopted.
- Social and cultural conventions of language use, e.g. politeness and formality etc.
- Different registers and styles of language use.
- Differences between spoken and written language used for different social and academic purposes.

c) Language across the curriculum

- The use of language in the context of different subject disciplines.
- How are the linguistic aspects of curriculum subjects recognised, e.g. in terms of vocabulary, grammar, functional use etc.

d) Supporting materials and guidelines

- The use of the rating scales, for instance, on avoiding an excessively rigid and linear view of progression.
- Assessing language in the context of different subject disciplines in the curriculum.

In addition, Wiggins (1992) talking about creating tests worth taking proposed some design criteria:

❏ Assessment tasks: possible, authentic, meaningful.

❏ The set of tasks: the tasks should be validated.

❏ The scoring criteria should be authentic, with points awarded or taken off for essential successes and errors, not for what is easy to count or observe.

❏ <u>The context</u> of the problems/tasks should be rich and realistic.

❏ <u>The scoring</u> should be feasible and reliable.

In the context of European Language Learning, the CEFR of the Council of Europe has developed a description of the process of mastering an unknown language by type of competence and sub-competence, using descriptors for each competence or sub-competence. These descriptors were created with relevance and applicability for all the European Languages. The framework has proposed a six-level scale (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) for each language.

According to Common European Framework of reference for languages the four major language learning skills are:
- Reading Comprehension
- Listening
- Writing
- Speaking

Other criteria, based on the recent literature, to consider would include the Test Usability/Ease-of-Use, the Questions Clarity, the Security/Cheating-avoidance & Privacy, the Multimedia Use (e.g. Pictures, Voice, Video), the Test Duration/ Time, the Comprehensiveness/Completeness (e.g. questions at all Bloom levels, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Reading) and Large Questions Pool.

2.2 Final evaluation criteria for LPTs

Considering the needs of the OPENLang Network project, the consortium has decided to use the following specific evaluation criteria for the selection of the final LPTs. The criteria were classified into two categories (primary and secondary). Based on these criteria, the consortium decided on the final selection of the most appropriate LPTs for each one of the 24 EU languages:

<u>Primary Criteria</u>
Based on the following four primary criteria, the consortium selected the most appropriate LPTs to be included in the OPENLang Network platform. These primary criteria are essential for selecting the LPTs to be included in the OPENLang platform. These primary criteria are the following:

1. *The LPT is provided by an accredited organization for language learning*

As an accredited organisation can be considered: Ministry of education, Higher Education Department, Accredited association/ organization for languages, etc.

2. The LPT is Open and free-to-use
It must be openly available online and must be free to use. The Openness criterion would also include Accessibility, Non-Discrimination, Cost-free, etc.

3. The LPT is Ease-to-Use
It should be easy to access, navigate, interact and use the LPT. It should include accurate and helpful instructions to complete all tasks, and receive the result. The structure of the LPT should be intuitive and self-explanatory.

4. The LPT is of short Duration/ Time
 A user should be able to complete the LPT in a reasonable amount of time (approx. 40-70 minutes).

Secondary Criteria (if applicable)
The secondary criteria have been used only for those languages that consortium partners are fluent in. These languages were Greek, English, Italian, Spanish, French and German.

1. Authenticity - Interactivity
The tasks resemble real-life language events in the domains of interest. There is a correspondence between language test performance and language use. The tasks engage mental processes and strategies which would accompany real-life tasks

2. Comprehensiveness/Completeness
The LPT should test CEFR language skills: Reading Comprehension, Listening, Writing, Speaking, questions at all six proficiency levels and Bloom levels.

The following Table 1 presents the final evaluation criteria for the selection of 24 LPTs.

Table 1. *The final evaluation criteria for LPTs*

A. PRIMARY CRITERIA	
A1	The LPT is provided by an accredited organization for language learning *As an accredited organization can be considered: Ministry of education, Higher Education Department, Accredited association/ organization for languages, etc*
A2	The LPT is Open and free-to-use *The LPT must be openly available online and must be free to use. The Openness criterion would also include Accessibility, Non-Discrimination, Cost-free, etc.*

A3	The LPT is Ease-to-Use
	* The LPT should be easy to access, navigate, interact and use the LPT. It should include accurate and helpful instructions to complete all tasks, and receive the result. The structure of the LPT should be intuitive and self-explanatory..
A4	The LPT is of short Duration/ Time
	* A user should be able to complete the LPT in a reasonable amount of time (approx. 40-70 minutes).
	B. SECONDARY CRITERIA (IF APPLICABLE)
B1	Authenticity - Interactivity
	*The LPT tasks resemble real-life language events in the domains of interest. There is a correspondence between language test performance and language use. The tasks engage mental processes and strategies which would accompany real-life tasks
B2	Comprehensiveness/Completeness
	*The LPT should test CEFR language skills: Reading Comprehension, Listening, Writing, Speaking, questions at all six proficiency levels and Bloom levels.

2.3 The process of the selection

Based on the final evaluation criteria, a focus group consisting of eight persons (members of the project's partners), made the selection of the 24 final LPTs to be included in the platform. The focus group, as figure 1 shows, was carried out at Cyprus University of Technology in four phases.

Phase 1
Presentation, explanation and
analysis of the evaluation criteria

⇩

Phase 2
Individual selection of the appropriate
LPT, based on the criteria

⇩

Phase 3
Discussion regarding the selection
of LPTs

⇩

Phase 4
Final decision and selection of 24
LPTs
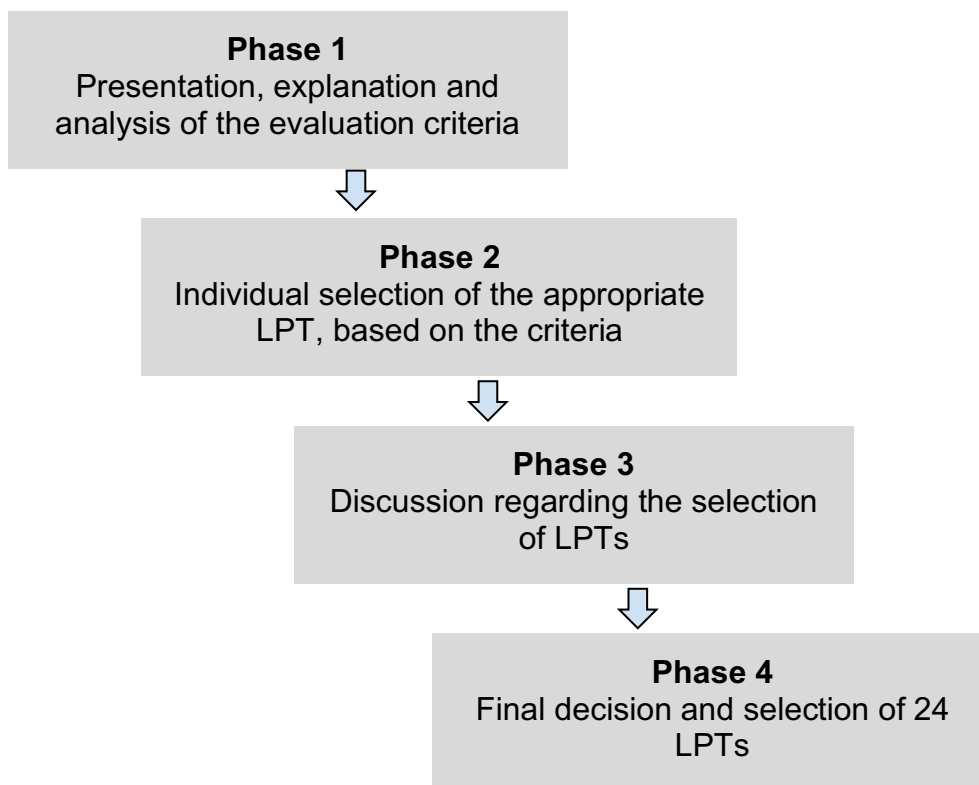
Figure 1. Methodology of the focus group

In particular, the project partners have participated in the focus group as they have specific expertise in this area (language teachers, researchers, scientific publications, etc). In the above figure 1, all research stages are presented. More concretely, few criteria were suggested in the beginning by the consortium and after a long discussion, the consortium has categorized them in primary and secondary criteria. Then each participant was used as an evaluation tool the template that was co-created by the project partners (see figure 2), for each language. The next step was to evaluate the collected LPTs for each language and to finally choose the most appropriate based on the criteria. Then the focus group discussed and finally decided the best option/s for each language.

Although we wanted to evaluate all LPTs based on all primary and secondary criteria, this was not feasible since the project partners do not speak all 24 EU. So, in order to evaluate the LPTs for the less common EU, we only used the primary evaluation criteria.

Figure 2. The template used for the evaluation of LPTs

2.4 The final LPTs

The consortium agreed that the selected tests will not only be made available via links but also in pdf format in order to avoid a broken link or a test missing from the platform. In some languages, more than one LPTs were selected. This decision was made because we wanted to give the option to the users to get more indicators about their proficiency language level. We have selected only LPTs which have open access and we provide a reference to the source. In any case it was extremely difficult to track and evaluate LPTs for all EU languages. The OPENLang online platform will propose tandem partners to the users by connecting them with a teacher. Actually, the users of the platform should follow the steps below:

1) The user registers and creates a profile on the platform.
2) The user is guided to take the LPT (external link) and receive the result (language level).
3) The user records the LPT result into his/her profile.
4) The user is guided by the platform to a recommended teacher.

The following table 2 presents the LPTs selected by the consortium using the specific criteria reported above.

Table 2. *The final LPTs for OPENLang platform*

A/A	Language	Selected LPTs	Links
1	English	1. Linguaskill General Reading and Listening sample test (Provider: Cambridge Assessment English) 2. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages	1. https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/linguaskill/information-about-the-test/test-formats-and-task-types/ 2. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/
2	Bulgarian	1. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages 2. Language Life: Online Foreign Language school	1. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/ 2. http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-bulgarian/
3	Croatian	1. Croatian Language Test (Provider: LearnCroatian Online) 2. Language Life: Online Foreign Language school	1. https://www.learncroatian.eu/test 2. http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-croatian/
4	Czech	1. Czech Language Placement Test (Provider: Correct Language Centre) 2. CZECH LEVEL TEST (Provider: Cactus Worldwide)	1. https://www.jc-correct.com/en/czech-placement-test 2. https://www.languagecoursesuk.co.uk/test/czech_test.php?domain=cl
5	Danish	DANISH LEVEL TEST (Provider: Cactus Worldwide)	https://www.languagecoursesuk.co.uk/test/danish_test.php?domain=cl
6	Dutch	1. Dutch Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)	1. https://www.transparent.com/learn-dutch/proficiency-test.html

		2. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages	2. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/
7	Estonian	Estonian placement test (Provider: International Language Services)	https://ilstallinn.ee/tests/estonian-placement-test/
8	Finnish	Language Life: Online Foreign Language school	http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-finnish/
9	French	1. CIEP - an institution of the French Ministry of National Education 2. Free Placement Test (Provider: FIAF- French Institute Alliance Francaise)	1. https://savoirs.rfi.fr/en/test-your-french-level 2. https://fiaf.org/frenchclasses/placementtest/
10	German	Goethe-Institut	https://www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/tsd.html
11	Greek	1. Greek LOL Lessons Online	1. https://greek-lol.com/placement-tests-greek-language-students
12	Hungarian	1. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages 2. Language Life: Online Foreign Language school	1. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/ 2. http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-hungarian/
13	Irish	Gaelchultúr's Online Irish Test (Provider: Gaelchultúr Irish Language Classes and resources)	http://gaelchultur.com/en/assessment.aspx
14	Italian	1. Test di Italiano: Accademia Italiana di lingua: Diploma di Lingua Italiana	1. https://www.acad.it/en/italian-language-test-online.html

		2. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages	2. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/
15	Latvian	1. Latvian Vocabulary Quiz (Provider: TYL Test your language) 2. Language Life: Online Foreign Language school	1. https://testyourlanguage.com/latvian-quiz/ 2. http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-latvian/
16	Lithuanian	Language Life: Online Foreign Language school	http://languagelifeschool.com/en/quiz/test-determine-level-lithuanian/
17	Maltese	Master Any Language	https://www.masteranylanguage.com/c/r/o/Maltese/FlashCards
18	Polish	Polish Proficiency Test (Transparent Language)	https://www.transparent.com/learn-polish/proficiency-test.html
19	Portuguese	King's College London, Modern Language Centre Faculty of Arts & Humanities	https://www1.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/mlc/elearning/placetests/portuguese_level_1.html
20	Romanian	1. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages 2. Romanian Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)	1. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/ 2. https://www.transparent.com/learn-romanian/quizzes/lotw-quizzes/
21	Slovak	Slovak placement test - Centre for Continuing Education, UNIVERSITY IN BRATISLAVA	https://cdv.uniba.sk/en/ilps/placement-test/
22	Slovenian	1. Centre for Slovene as a Second and Foreign Language - University of Ljubljana 2. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages	1. https://centerslo.si/en/exams/slovene-language-exams/the-basic-level-exam/sample-test/ 2. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/

23	Spanish	1.Spanish placement test (Provider: Lengalia) 2. European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages	1. https://www.lengalia.com/en/placement-test.html 2. https://eclexam.eu/sample-tests/
24	Swedish	Swedish Proficiency Test (Provider: Transparent Language)	https://www.transparent.com/learn-swedish/proficiency-test.html

O3-T3: Online database of 24 Language Placement Tests

After selecting the open LPTs to be integrated in the OPENLang e-platform, OU uploaded links to the LPTs as well screenshots in pdf files. Also, a visitor to the e-platform will have the option to evaluate his/her language proficiency level in order to choose appropriate Open Educational Resources (OERs) either from the e-platform or elsewhere. Also, the e-platform will recommend to him/her appropriate peer for tandem learning.

Links to all selected online open LPTs are being given on the OPENLang Platform
https://openlang-network.kmi.open.ac.uk/

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