

ACTFL-CEFR Symposiums: 2010- 2013

Leipzig 2010: The goal of the ACTFL-CEFR Alignment Conference 2010 was to bring together some 40 leaders in the field from both Europe and North America to explore a crosswalk between the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and to establish equivalencies on theoretical and empirical grounds. Both sets of scales claim to measure the same construct: proficiency. The successful establishment of equivalencies would support the validity of both scales. Problems in establishing equivalencies would point to the need for further research and development

Provo 2011: “The Elements of Proficiency: An Emerging Consensus for Language Assessment and Instruction” The goals for the conference were to help practitioners all over the world understand the essential elements of proficiency and how it is assessed, to help practitioners understand both the ACTGL and CEFR systems better and how they relate to proficiency and its assessment, to improve both systems and their assessment instruments, and to help practitioners understand their implications for teaching learning, curriculum and materials development.

Graz 2012: Making Frameworks Useful: The main aim of this third Symposium was to further explore the potential of establishing links between the Proficiency Guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The Symposium participants, representing different constituencies in Europe and in the USA worked during three days in groups to develop and share a common language to discuss issues in foreign language education related to:

- Policy
- Assessment
- Curriculum
- Methods
- Instructional Materials
- Teacher Education

It was at the end of this Symposium that Dr. David Little approached NCSSFL about working together on a project regarding the implementation of frameworks such as the ELP and the LinguaFolio in the classroom. Kentucky, Nebraska and North Carolina took the lead on this collaboration with Dr. Little.

Alexandria 2013: Advancing our Common Goals: The Fourth ACTFL-CEFR Symposium continued the cooperation between ACTFL, the Council of Europe Language Policy Unit and European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML). The conference in Graz culminated in the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between ACTGL and ECML and the commitment to pursue joint action in serving their respective constituencies. This conference built on the work of several action groups that were formed in Graz and previous symposiums and broadened the scope of the established Trans-Atlantic

cooperation to include new areas of vital interest to all parties involved. The six main focus areas of the symposium were:

1. Creating pathways from the frameworks to the classroom (goal setting, portfolio learning, self-assessment): **The NCCSFL/ Dr. Little (representing the Council of Europe Language Policy Unit) Project:** <https://sites.google.com/site/actflcefrproject/>
2. Empowering student language teachers through framework-based portfolios and can-do statements.
3. Continuing to establish correspondences between the frameworks to facilitate mobility, to validate assessments, and to further assessment literacy.
4. Serving higher education by establishing links between language proficiency and higher education goals in arts and sciences.
5. Establishing common language policy goals with respect to plurilingualism and the advancement of foreign language learning in education.
6. Developing common standards to gauge and develop cross-cultural and transcultural competencies.

Conference Materials for the Leipzig 2010, Provo 2011 and Graz 2012 Symposiums are available here: <http://conference.uni-leipzig.de/actflcefr2013/material.html>

Conference Materials for the Alexandria 2013 Symposium is available here <http://conference.uni-leipzig.de/actflcefr2013/abstracts.html>