



2021 BILC Conference

10-14 May



BILC Update

Branka Petek



Bureau for International Language Co-ordination



- **NATO's consultative and advisory body** for language training and testing issues.
- **Main responsibility:** custodian of STANAG 6001
- **Community** of language teaching/testing professionals from MoDs and defense-sponsored organizations.
- **Mission:** To promote and foster interoperability among NATO and Partner nations by furthering standardization of language training and testing. To support the Alliance's operations through the exchange of knowledge and best practices, IAW established procedures and agreements.
- **Vision:** To achieve levels of excellence where progress made by one is shared by all.
- **Purpose:** To foster cooperative professional support among BILC member nations and to extend support to NATO within the field of language training and education and language assessment.
- **Active participation in BILC activities** from **27 NATO nations** and **more than 25 partner nations**.



BILC Steering Committee

GBR (1966-1981)
DEU (1982-1996)
USA (1997-2008)
CAN (2008-2014)
USA (2014-2016)
BGR (2016-2019)
SVN (May 2019-May 2022)

Chair
Branka Petek

Senior Advisor
Dr. Ray Clifford

Secretaries
Tadeja Hafner
Martina Grmek

Associate Secretaries

Keith Wert

Peggy Garza

Julie Dubeau

Jana Vasilj-Begovic



Major BILC Events



- BILC Annual Conference in May;
- BILC STANAG 6001 Testing Workshop in September;
- BILC Professional Seminar in October.



2020 BILC Conference

SC meeting online

hosted by Norway and DLIELC



- Report on the BILC visits in the period May 2019 – May 2020:
- Update by nations on their BILC-related projects and international cooperation
- Military terminology project
- Report on BAT2
- Report on STANAG Level 4 writing test development
- Report on French STANAG
- Proposal to create a one-page BILC leaflet for distribution in NATO HQ, NATO ACT and NATO ACO
- Discussion on distance learning / on-line courses in times of coronavirus measures
- Summary of analysis of which teaching & learning activities support second language learning requirements
- Discussion on issues connected with STANAG testing in times of coronavirus measures (certificates required for deployments)
- Update on BILC courses
- Future hosts





2020 STANAG 6001 Testing Workshop hosted by Romania and PLTCE online 8-10 September, 2020



ROADMAP TO TESTING READING

Topics:

- Shared goals of teachers and testers
- Shared item bank project
- Virtual item moderation
- Computer-based testing
- Testing during pandemic
- Testing reading at different levels
- Trialling practices
- Constructed vs. selected response
- Reading test construction
- Text rating and typology
- Statistical analysis of reading tests



Activities:

- 10 presentations
- 8 small group sessions
- 6 item moderation groups
- 5 experts answering questions in Q&A sessions



THE 2020 STANAG 6001 TESTING WORKSHOP





2020 BILC Professional Seminar hosted by Portugal and PLTCE online 19-23 October, 2020



Language Training in the Times of Crises: Challenges and Opportunities

Topics:

- Online training and testing
- Using different platforms
- Student motivation in virtual classrooms
- Teacher motivation in virtual classroom
- Training teachers on new teaching technologies
- Advantages of the flipped classroom in virtual training
- Comparing results attained in real vs virtual classrooms
- Blended learning



Activities:

- 19 presentations
- 4 panel Q&A sessions





Cooperation between BILC and Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP)



- Clearing House online
- Ukraine, Iraq
- BILC in charge of ELT working group during the DEEP lessons learned workshop in November 2020 and conference in April 2021



BILC Cooperative Activities May 2020 – May 2021



- Ukraine DEEP annual review online, May 2020  
- Iraq (online workshop, item moderation), (Dec 2020-2021)  
- Ukraine (online item moderation), (Nov 2020-2021)   
- Uzbekistan (online meeting), April 2021 
- Colombia (online meeting), April 2021   
- CALT working group     



1. Language Testing Seminars (conducted at PLTCE):

- Language Testing Seminar, ACT.647, 2 weeks;
- Advanced Language Testing Seminar, ACT.658, 3 weeks;
- Language Standards and Assessment, ACT.648, 2 weeks.

2. BILC Methodology Workshops

- English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop “Teaching Speaking and Writing for Military Purposes”, ACT.659, 2 weeks. Conducted at 3 PTECs PLTCE, Bulgaria and Slovenia.



Facilitators: BILC teaching & testing experts from 24 nations.





BILC Professional Development Basic English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop



New BILC Methodology Workshop:

- developing speaking and writing skills for students in military environment,
- communicative approach,
- familiarization with STANAG 6001.

Participating nations:





BILC Professional Development Introduction to Research Workshop



The aim of the workshop is to familiarize participants with basic principles of research design.

By the end of the workshop they are able to:

- ❖ Identify the differences between qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- ❖ Develop a research question and align it with a research method;
- ❖ Identify some appropriate data collection and analysis methods.

Facilitator: Mary Jo Dibiase Lubrano, Yale University, USA





Shared Item Bank Working Group



Project launched in February 2020 to:

- further standardization of language testing,
- help testing organizations in the test development process.

Participating nations:

- Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia





Level 4 & Resources in French



Level 4 Working Group

WG on L4 has continued its work on the L4 writing test prompts, and is currently assembling the piloting test booklet.

Questions or interest in trialling? (Ms. Jana Vasilj-Begović)

Resources in French

Expert group will continue their work in late summer 2021.



BILC SharP

Bureau for International Language Coordination Sharing Platform



COMMUNIQUÉ 3 - WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

JULY 2018

Welcome to BILC SharP POCs.

Good day from the Australian Defence Force School of Languages. You received this communiqué because you have been appointed as the Point of Contact for your institution. Congratulations to all newly appointed POCs!

If you are no longer the POC for your country, please forward the details of the new POC to us.

What is BILC SharP?

SharP is an abbreviation for Sharing Platform. Presented in April 2015 at the BILC Conference in Madrid, Spain, BILC SharP is an on-line sharing platform hosted by the Australian Defence Force School of Languages (DFSL). It is a Moodle-based site DFSL offers through its Learning Management System (LMS), which operates in the Australian Defence Education Learning Environment (ADELE).

BILC SharP is for all members of BILC and it serves as an online repository of resources from all participating countries. The spirit behind this initiative is for everyone to share materials which have worked well in our respective institutions, so that other BILC members can benefit from our successfully-trialled resources and save their institutions some design, development and piloting time.

What is in BILC SharP?

BILC SharP is organised into 9 folders: Course Design Materials, Assessment Materials, Planning Tools, Inter Cultural Awareness, Language Learning Strategies, Teaching Materials, Useful Links, BILC Presentations and Communiqués & Database.



What's your role in BILC SharP?

Upon initial login, you will be asked to change the system-generated temporary password. Please ask your staff to choose a password they can easily remember to avoid any delays in accessing the site.

As your organisation's POC you will need to take care of several things:

1. Provide us with enrolment details like full name (first name last name), city, country and official/work email address.
2. Collate any resources your organisation wishes to share with fellow BILCers.
3. Forward to us those resources via email or post.
4. Inform us if any of your staff leave their job/posting so that we can de-activate their account.
5. Disseminate information to your staff and colleagues if needed.

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"BILC SharP is an online sharing platform for all BILC members"

"The spirit behind BILC SharP is to share our successfully-trialled resources...and save... some design, development and piloting time."

"Any staff member of your organisation can gain access to BILC SharP."

132 users

16 countries

56 pieces of useful resources

9 Folders:

Course Design Materials, Assessment Materials, Planning Tools, Inter Cultural Awareness, Language Learning Strategies, Teaching Materials, Useful Links, BILC Presentations and Communiqués & Database

What's up?

We currently have 132 users from 16 countries accessing BILC SharP. To all BILCers who have already shared their resources with us, a **BIG THANK YOU!** After all BILC's motto is "Progress made by one is shared by all." In BILC SharP, under the "Communiqués & Database" folder, you'll find a "Database of Docs Contributed to BILC SharP - 12 July 2018".

There are 56 pieces of useful resources there currently.

Have you checked out the Forum Discussion?

There are now 2 new Forum Discussions set up in BILC SharP, as a follow up to the findings of two working groups during the 2018 BILC Conference in Lisbon, Portugal:

- a. **SLP Identifier Tool** - This topic will be facilitated by Michael Aduabato.
- b. **Technology for Learning** - This topic will be facilitated by CMDR David Goble from the Australian Defence International Training Centre. Be in the know, be heard and be enlightened. This is your forum and you are the SME in your area, so please share your thoughts, opinions and suggestions.



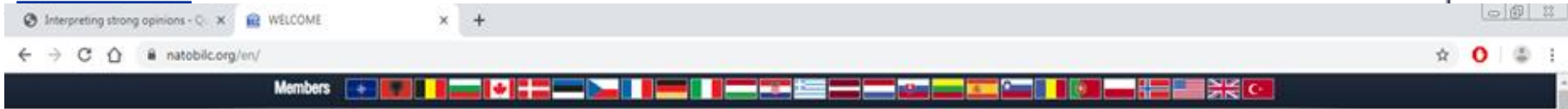
Bureau for International Language Coordination Sharing Platform

BILC Forum





BILC site – www.natobilc.org



Bureau for International Language Co-ordination
www.natobilc.org



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WELCOME

Mission

To achieve levels of excellence where progress made by one is shared by all.

BILC has the following responsibilities:

1. The dissemination of information on developments in the field of language training to participating countries.
2. The convening of an annual conference and a professional seminar during which participating nations review the work done in the co-ordination field and in the study of particular language topics.

Upon request from NATO and nations, BILC has expanded its roles and responsibilities over the years to include advice on language proficiencies as defined in job descriptions and has initiated training and co-ordination within the field of language testing and included other languages than the official NATO languages.

[BILC - March by Michael Kotay](#)
[BILC March - notes](#)

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BILC SharP
Bureau for International Language Co-ordination Sharing Platform

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UPCOMING EVENTS!





BILC site – www.natobilc.org



New:

- Presentations from 2020 STANAG Testing Workshop
- Presentations from 2020 Professional Seminar
- Materials on Level 4
- Resources in French
- Updated version of the calendar 2021



Date	Event
8-19 February Cancelled	Language Testing Seminar (LTS), <i>ACT.647.20</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
4-13 May Cancelled	Language Standards & Assessment Seminar (LSAS), <i>ACT.648.13</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
10-14 May	BILC Conference (Online), <i>ACT.212.43</i> Hosted by Slovenia and PLTCE (Online) Theme: Keeping Pace with the Times: Providing Flexible and Timely Training Solutions
7-18 June Cancelled	Language Testing Seminar (LTS), <i>ACT.647.21</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
13-22 July	Language Standards & Assessment Seminar (LSAS), <i>ACT.648.14</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
2-13 August	Language Testing Seminar (LTS), <i>ACT.647.22</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
7-9 September	STANAG 6001 Testing Workshop, <i>ACT.212.48</i> Location: TBD / Theme: TBD
14-23 September	English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop, <i>ACT.659.17</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
3-8 October	BILC Professional Development Seminar, <i>ACT.212.49</i> Location: Vilnius, Lithuania / Theme: TBD
12-21 October	English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop, <i>ACT.659.16</i> Foreign Languages Department; Shumen, Bulgaria
11-29 October	Advanced Language Testing Seminar (ALTS), <i>ACT.658.5</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
9-18 November	English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop, <i>ACT.659.15</i> School of Foreign Languages; Poljčice, Slovenia
30 November-9 December	Language Standards & Assessment Seminar (LSAS), <i>ACT.648.15</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany

