

## BILC Testing Workshop – Bonn, 2022

### Testing Level 1 Summary:

The panel discussion was delivered by seven representatives (US, AT, PL, LT, BA, GE + NATO) all of whom reported similar experiences of testing level 1.

The follow up Workshop investigated member states' experiences of and attitudes towards level 1 testing. Prior to this a survey was conducted among workshop participants. The findings from the survey and workshop were as follows:

Most countries appear to have an exclusively military testing population at level 1.

All, with the exception of Germany and Austria, had monolingual tests at level 1.

All, with the exception of Germany use the STANAG plus levels.

There is a 50/50 split among countries that test only English and countries that test additional languages. Those that did, mostly tested German, French and Russian.

A mixture of authentic, contrived and semi-contrived texts were used by most countries. Most used native speakers for recorded texts for listening.

A large percentage of nations used a mixture of selected response and constructed response format tasks.

Most countries allowed test-takers to listen twice to the audio texts.

Most but not all countries had NOT adapted the way they present texts (reading or listening) as a result of changes in digital media – in the discussion phase it was also clear that many countries were unaware of research in the area such as the Stavanger declaration (see attached) and had not considered the implication of changed habits of media consumption or production. The discussion, however, did lead many countries to report that they would now consider this issue.

Most nations have remained with paper and pencil testing for written exams at level 1.

There was no or little consistency across member states when it came to the format of the written exam:

Text-types included personal and work-related emails, memos, postcards, letters, invitations, letters of apology, and short essays!

The number of tasks varied from 1 to 4.

All gave some type of quantitative requirement but this varied from 40 words through to 300 words but some nations also simply stipulated a time (1.5 hours) and others required a certain number of sentences (varied from 12-20). All of the limits seem to have been arbitrarily selected.

There was a good deal of lively discussion and interest around the new text types (form filling) and format of the S1 written exam from the Federal Office of Languages. Many were supportive of the concept but felt that the expectation in terms of accuracy as demonstrated in the sample answers was too high.

Participants:

Austria	Christopher	Schönberger	
Belgium	Anneke	Diriken	
Croatia	Irena	Prpic Djuric	
Czech Republic	Irena	Obrucova	
Finland	Anne	Rivinoja	
Georgia	Tamar	Shavlakadze	
Lithuania	Irena	Katauskiene	
NATO Mission Iraq	Jeremy Richard	Nowers	
Norway	Birgitte	Grande	
Norway	Hege Kristine	Skilleas	
Poland	Krzysztof	Domański	
Poland	Magdalena	Kazmierczak	
Poland	Marta	Borkowska	
Romania	Alina	Toderica	
Ukraine	Marharyta	Aristarkhova	
United Kingdom	Byron Percival Cowling	Edens	
USA	Peggy	Garza	