

Remote vs in-person speaking tests

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Lessons learned during lockdown and the way forward

- ▶ Introduction to the topic: remote language proficiency testing
- ▶ Participants' experiences
- ▶ Considerations for using remote STANAG 6001 speaking tests: benefits and concerns

At-home language proficiency testing

“The switch to accepting at-home proficiency tests for high-stakes decisions raises many concerns for stakeholders, such as technological demands, exam security, and validity of score use.”

(Isbell and Kremmel, 2020)

At-home language proficiency testing

“Providers should prepare for future disruptions to standard in-person test administration. Concomitantly, we strongly encourage test providers and users to keep good records and follow up on the impacts of at-home testing, as such work will critically inform future practice.”

(Isbell and Kremmel, 2020)

Remote STANAG 6001 speaking tests, Estonian Testing Group's experience

- ▶ 37 at-home speaking tests in April and May 2020
- ▶ Skype video calls
- ▶ Examiner-candidate format
- ▶ Modified test tasks
- ▶ Overall effect - rather positive
- ▶ The future - cautiously optimistic

ILTA Guidelines for Practice

Additional responsibilities for developers of computer-based (CBT) and internet-delivered tests

- ▶ *If the CBT or internet-delivered test is an adaptation of a pencil and paper test and the tests are used for the same purpose, developers must provide evidence of equivalence.*

(ILTA Guidelines for Practice in English, 2020)

Participants' experiences

- ▶ Have you conducted any remote speaking tests?
- ▶ Would you consider using remote speaking tests in the future? Please explain.

Considerations for using remote STANAG 6001 speaking tests

Benefits?

Concerns?

References

ILTA Guidelines for Practice English (2020)

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iltaonline.com/resource/resmgr/docs/guidelines_for_practice/2020_revised/ilta_guidelines_for_practice.pdf

Isbell, R.I. & Kremmel, B. (2020). Test review: Current options in at-home language proficiency tests for making high-stakes decisions. *Language Testing*, 37(4), 600-619.