

BILC Shared Item Bank Project

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For years, the ALTS participants have been asking for relevant samples of test items that would help them establish their nations' best test development practices and to ensure that their items and tests are at the intended STANAG level. In other words, the testing community recognizes the need for standardization, and to achieve it nations must work together. The way ahead for the Shared Item Bank Project was discussed at the BILC Testing Workshop in Tours 2019, and the project was launched in February 2020. Roxanne Harrison, a strong proponent of the shared item bank, conducted a survey that gave guidance to the project. The Shared Item Bank Working Group was formed by testers from seven countries: Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

The project's goals are to strengthen linguistic interoperability among NATO and Partner countries by furthering standardization of language testing, and to help testing organizations in the test development process. We hope to achieve this by creating an item bank of reading and listening items, which will be available to national STANAG 6001 test developers. The items in the item bank will serve as samples and can be used as anchor items in national tests. In the future, testing teams from different countries can contribute to this initiative by submitting items and participating in online item moderation sessions.