Online Assessment of Oral Proficiency for Intercultural Professional Communication

Workshop during ‘Crossing borders’ with Talenacademie
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What’s on the roll today?

1. Short introduction to CEFcult and aims of this workshop (20 minutes)
2. Post-it notes exercise (30 minutes)
3. Focus group discussion and wrap up/questions (25 minutes)
4. Exploration of the tool (15 minutes)
What is CEFcult?

(www.cefcult.eu)

• An European project
• Financed under KA2 of the Lifelong Learning Programme
• With 12 partners from 8 european countries, coordinated by K.U. Leuven (Belgium)
• Aims to promote intercultural professional communication by foreign language users
• Through development of an open source web 2.0 assessment tool
Why is it needed?

• Intercultural professional communication requires more than just language skills
• CEFcult integrates:
  – language with intercultural communication skills
  – self-directed e-learning and portfolio assessment
  – Social learning/social (peer) assessment
• Contributes to ongoing development & validation of CEFR (scaling language proficiency) and INCA (intercultural competence assessment) frameworks
Where does it come from?

- From CEFR (‘93-96) to WebCEF (‘06-09)
- WebCEF established a social learning community for *self, peer and expert* assessment in which both productive and interactive performance in a foreign language is video recorded and online displayed to be assessed by CEFR-scales ([http://www.webcef.eu/](http://www.webcef.eu/)).
- To CEFcult (’10-11)
What can you do (now) with the tool?

As a teacher:
• Create communication tasks (scenarios) through which foreign language learners can assess their speaking skills for intercultural professional purposes
• Create and take assessments supported by CEFR and INCA assessment framework

As a foreign language learner:
• Follow scenarios
• Self-assess your ‘web-taped’ performance
• Peer-assess other performances (by peers) available in the tool
Follow a scenario: allows you to choose a scenario, to view the assignments, and to record your responses, which will then be available for assessment.

See section 1

Build a scenario: allows teachers, assessors and other users to create their own scenarios by defining one or more assignments for users to do.

See section 3

Assess a user: allows you to access a list of users who have completed one or more scenarios, to select a user and to assess his/her responses.

See section 2

Create assessment scheme: allows scenario builders to create their own custom descriptors to accompany the INCA assessment scheme.

See section 4

View all assessments: allows you to access a list of users whose responses have been assessed, and to view the assessments that were made.

See section 5
Follow a scenario

I want to learn French for a:

- Comment vivez-vous en France?
- Entretien d'embauche en France
1. Task 1 - "Finding information" (Text)
   Intercultural Competence tested:
   Knowledge (Knowledge discovery).
   Response type for this assignment:
   Webcam

2. Task 2 - "Meetings" (Text)
   Intercultural competence tested:
   Knowledge (Empathy)
   Response type for this assignment:
   Webcam

3. Task 3 - "Moderation and mediation" (Text)
   Intercultural competence tested:
   Openness (Respect for Otherness).
   Response type for this assignment:
   Webcam

4. Task 4 - "Understanding each other" (Text)
   Intercultural competence tested:
   Openness (Tolerance of Ambiguity).
   Response type for this assignment:
   Webcam
What can you do (later) with the tool?

- Invite others (e.g. peers, employers, certified assessors) to assess your performance
- Present your portfolio to potential employers
Why is this relevant for me?

• Improve intercultural skills in combination with foreign language skills independently and at your own pace
• Scenario’s can be tailor-made to your requirements
• Assessment framework can be either tailor-made or operationalised based on CEFR and INCA
• It connects you with people in comparable job settings/with same learning need
How is it available for you?

• Through registration at
  http://www.cefcult.eu/tool/home.php
Any questions?
Instructions

• 3 questions, 10 minutes each
• Write ideas/statements on coloured post-it notes
• Only one idea/statement per post-it note
• Each question has a colour. Write your ideas concerning a specific question on the matching coloured post-it notes
Questions (30 minutes)

1. In your view, what makes the CEFcult tool attractive for your school? (orange notes)
2. In your view, what makes the CEFcult tool problematic for an adoption in your school? (yellow notes)
3. What steps/measures/facilities are needed for adopting the CEFcult tool in your school? (green notes)
Focus group (20 minutes)

• Evaluation of responses in group
  – Explanation of/argumentation behind keyword

• How would you promote CEFcult in an elevator pitch of 1 minute?
Exploration of tool

  - Username: your email
  - Password: crobor2011
- Explore scenario
  ‘Participation in summer school’
- Keep in mind that it is a pilot version of the tool
Thank you for your ideas!

Further questions or ideas, please contact us:

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