Online Assessment of Oral Proficiency for Intercultural Professional Communication
An introduction

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www.cefcul.eu
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 are the components?

Now:
• Tool
• Scenario’s
• Web-cam taped performances
• Assessment frameworks (INCA and CEFR)
• Portfolio

Future?
• Network of ‘alike’ interested professionals
• Experts in intercultural and language assessment
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**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Intercultural Competence Tested</th>
<th>Response Type for this Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Task 1 - “Finding information” (Text)</td>
<td>Intercultural Competence tested: Knowledge (Knowledge discovery).</td>
<td>Webcam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Task 2 - “Meetings” (Text)</td>
<td>Intercultural competence tested: Knowledge (Empathy)</td>
<td>Webcam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Task 3 - “Moderation and mediation” (Text)</td>
<td>Intercultural competence tested: Openness (Respect for Otherness).</td>
<td>Webcam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Task 4 - “Understanding each other” (Text)</td>
<td>Intercultural competence tested: Openness (Tolerance of Ambiguity).</td>
<td>Webcam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Webcam video recorder:

Start recording  Previous recording(s) will be overwritten

Submit recording
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?
Thank you for your ideas!

Further questions or ideas, please contact us:

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