

Nyttig på nett – fra Fremmedspråksenteret

The TALE Project: What every teacher should know about language assessment

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In view of the significance of Language Testing and Assessment (LTA) in promoting better teaching and learning outcomes, the provision of high-quality teacher training in LTA had become a central topic in the field (Tsagari and Cheng, 2016). Such training needs to focus on the development of 'assess-

ment literacy', broadly referring to *"the ability to design, develop, and critically evaluate tests and other assessment procedures, as well as the ability to monitor, evaluate, grade, and score assessments on the basis of theoretical knowledge"* (Vogt and Tsagari, 2017, p. 377). This is precisely the main object-

ive of **"Teachers' Assessment Literacy Enhancement (TALE)" Project** that has created an effective, sustainable, and yet, open-access and free-of-charge LTA training infrastructure.

TALE is a three-year-long project funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ project,



KA2 Strategic Partnership, Project number: 2015-1-CY01-KA201-011863) and supported by a network of LTA and teacher education experts from Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Norway and the UK. Based on the findings of a multi-level survey of the LTA training needs of language teachers across Europe (n=852), as well as of the needs and wants of language learners of all ages (n=1,788), an **innovative online LTA training programme** has been designed, piloted (by more than 150 teachers from various countries around the world). The programme is now freely available and consists of eight independent self-study courses focusing, respectively, on: introducing teachers in key LTA concepts and procedures; assessing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills; providing feedback; alternative assessment; and raising one's awareness of the impact of high-stake exams on teaching and learning.

TALE Project has also produced the **"Handbook of Assessment for Language Teachers"** (Tsagari et al, 2018), a freely accessible publication for language teachers as well as to teacher trainers. It comprises a comprehensive and user-friendly version of the materials included in the online courses. Also, following current trends in the field of teacher training, it integrates a variety of tasks and resources (e.g. videos) fostering experiential learning, critical thinking skills and the constructive exchange of views among teachers. Specific references to assessing learners with Special

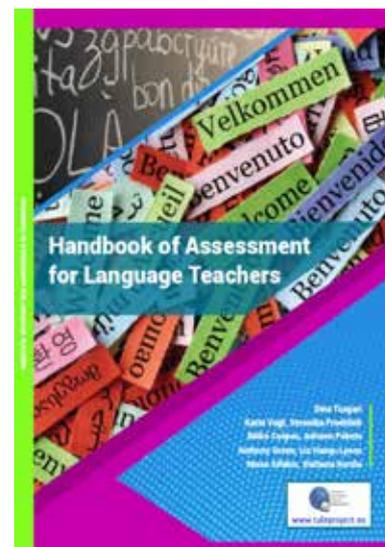
Learning Difficulties have also been included in each of the courses.

Free access to the TALE online courses and the Handbook is available from the TALE Project official website: taleproject.eu/

What teachers who have participated in the TALE online programme have said:

"One of the most interesting courses for me. It allows teachers to turn assessment into a creative and unconventional procedure." (EFL teacher from Ukraine)
I am content and happy to have learned so many new things. I feel more confident and I really enjoyed it although my daily program keeps me really busy." (EFL teacher from Cyprus)

"I liked the fact that the activities which required writing at the forum made it interesting to both write and read what others have written." (EFL teacher from Greece)
"There is a high number of practical activities and this creates, from my viewpoint, a good balance between theory and practice. Also, the suggested videos are undoubtedly helpful for us teachers." (EFL teacher from Spain)



References

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- Vogt, K. and Tsagari, D. (2017). Enhancing the Language Assessment Literacy of teachers – A study of training needs across Europe. Presented at the 14th Annual Conference of EALTA, Center international d'études pédagogiques, Serves, France. June 1-3, 2017.