

# EALTA newsletter

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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR LANGUAGE TESTING  
AND ASSESSMENT

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Issue 3



## Meet our conference host The University for Foreigners of Siena

The University for Foreigners of Siena is a vibrant academic community that connects knowledge and people, fostering responsible, critically minded citizens.

Built on three pillars – teaching, research, and dialogue with civil society – the University conducts most of its activities in person, welcoming students and scholars from Italy and around the world.

Our Bachelor's degrees focus on languages, cultures, and international relations, offering a solid multidisciplinary foundation and preparing graduates for intercultural dialogue and mediation in complex global contexts.

Our Master's degrees provide advanced specialization, further developing linguistic, cultural, and analytical skills, and preparing professionals to work with autonomy and strategic vision in international and intercultural fields.

The University hosts 11 research centers, including the CILS Center – Certification of Italian as a Foreign Language.

The University's research is independent and interdisciplinary, addressing cultural and social change in fields such as linguistics, Italian as a second language, media, cooperation, cultural diplomacy, and cultural heritage, fostering active citizenship and social justice.

Within this dynamic and internationally oriented environment, the entire University community is preparing to host the **EALTA 2026** conference, which will bring together international scholars and professionals in the field. We look forward to welcoming participants to Siena and to sharing knowledge and ideas in an inspiring and historic setting!

Check out and subscribe to our  
YouTube channel!



EALTA EALTA @ealtaealta9240

Stay connected with us on  
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## Top news

### Institutional membership invoices issued

We are pleased to let you know that the EALTA Institutional Membership invoices for this year have now been sent out.

If your institution hasn't received an invoice, please get in touch with the responsible trustee to ensure your membership stays up to date.

Thank you for being an active part of the EALTA community!

Visit our website to see our  
[Institutional Members](#)



## Pre-conference workshops

The EALTA 2026 pre-conference workshops will take place from 9–11 June 2026 in Siena, offering participants the opportunity to engage in focused, practice-oriented training ahead of the main conference.

Three parallel workshops will be offered, combining one-day and two-day formats.

**The two-day workshop** (9 June afternoon – 11 June midday) is *Designing Scenario-Based Language Assessments with the Assistance of AI Technologies*, facilitated by Soo Hyoung Joo, Daniel Eskin, James E. Purpura & Giulia Peri

**The one-day workshops** (10 June) are *Grounded Theory Methodology in Practice: from Data to Theory*, facilitated by Mina Patel, and *Q Methodology for Language Assessment Research – Principles & Applications*, facilitated by Nicola Lupi Morea.

The pre-conference workshops foster engagement with current developments in language testing and assessment. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from leading experts and connect with peers in the field!

## Social events and networking opportunities

Beyond the academic program, EALTA 2026 offers a range of social activities designed to bring participants together in Siena.

The conference program on 11 June includes a **Newcomer session** and a **Welcome Reception** at the conference venue, offering attendees an early opportunity to connect with colleagues. On 12 June, participants can join a **guided city tour** through Siena's historic center, providing insight into the city's rich history and architecture. The social highlight of the conference is the **Conference Dinner** on 13 June, where participants can enjoy a shared meal in a convivial setting while continuing discussions from the day's sessions.



## EALTA's special interest groups

Over the past year, EALTA's Special Interest Groups have delivered a remarkably rich and varied programme of events, reflecting the diverse professional interests and responding to development needs of the membership. Many SIGs organised well-attended meetings around the 2025 Salzburg conference, with various joint SIG meetings including Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI)/AI for Language Assessment, Assessment for Academic Purposes / Assessing Writing, Classroom-Based Language Assessment (CBLA)/ Multilingual Language Assessment (MLA) SIGs. Meanwhile, the SIG4SIGN continued to support the signing community through an interpreted online webinar on assessing integrated signed skills and ongoing information-sharing activities.

Other important SIG events engaged the EALTA membership and enriched academic discussion and networking in the association and beyond. The AI for Language Assessment SIG hosted a major online panel on AI literacy that attracted around 200 participants. The work of the CEFR SIG focused on the Alignment Handbook this year, e.g. a webinar organised by marked the launch of the Supplement. The CEFR SIG also contributed to the EALTA & Trinity College London Summer School focussing on applying the Handbook. The MLA SIG hosted its annual global online event, foregrounding teachers' perspectives from across Southern Europe.

Innovation and cross-SIG collaboration were equally prominent in the activities of the various SIGs. The joint EAP/Assessing Writing SIG administered a questionnaire to their members for future topics and speakers. CEFR SIG members contributed to the production of the [Supplement to the Handbook](#), a special issue of CEFR Journal and presented at various conferences. The CBLA SIG further strengthened community engagement by contributing to collaborative research initiatives and participating in international events on next-generation assessment literacy.

Across all groups, SIG convenors have fostered collaboration, supported research visibility, and created spaces for dialogue on emerging themes such as AI, plurilingualism, assessment literacy, and inclusive assessment practices, also in collaboration with other networks, e.g. the CBLA SIG. Heartfelt thanks go to the SIG convenors for their commitment to strengthening theoretical understanding and enhancing assessment practices across Europe, while ensuring that EALTA members can engage with topics most relevant to their professional contexts.

## Spotlight on a SIG: Multilingual language assessment

As multilingualism becomes a global norm, conventional monolingual assessment models are increasingly inadequate. The "multilingual turn" challenges constructs that treat languages as separate, calling instead for approaches that recognise learners' plurilingual repertoires. Emerging frameworks range from content-focused assessment to plurilingual communicative competence or named-language proficiency supported by multilingual resources, raising important questions about accessibility, learner-centredness, alignment of teaching and assessment, and social justice.

The purpose of the MLA SIG is to provide a dedicated forum for advancing research and dialogue in multilingual language assessment. It brings together educators, researchers, test providers, policymakers, and institutional leaders to share knowledge, explore evolving constructs, and support the mainstreaming of multilingual assessment thinking.

Its activities include hosting annual SIG events at the annual EALTA conference, often jointly with the Classroom-based language assessment (CBLA) SIG, organising additional online meetings, webinars, and symposiums, and promoting research, policies, and practices that accommodate multilingual learners.





## EALTA summer school ☀️

The EALTA summer school *Aligning language education to the CEFR: the Handbook in use* was kindly sponsored by Trinity College London and took place from 21-23 July 2025 in Brescia, Italy. The school leaders were Elaine Boyd from the Institute of Education, University College, London and Neus Figueras from the University of Barcelona and chair of the EALTA CEFR SIG. There were 19 registered participants from 10 different countries, generally from adult or university teaching contexts, including decision makers interested in planning an alignment project in their institution to experienced teachers wishing to do the course for their own skill set. Participants were very happy with the venue, organization, and delivery style. Here are a couple of reactions from the feedback collected:

- *I greatly appreciated the expertise of the school leaders, the quality of the materials, and the engaging discussions. The delivery of the content was outstanding—clear, well-structured, and closely linked to practical applications, making it easy to follow and highly relevant*
- *I really liked the practicality of it and that we were forced to think about our context all the time.*

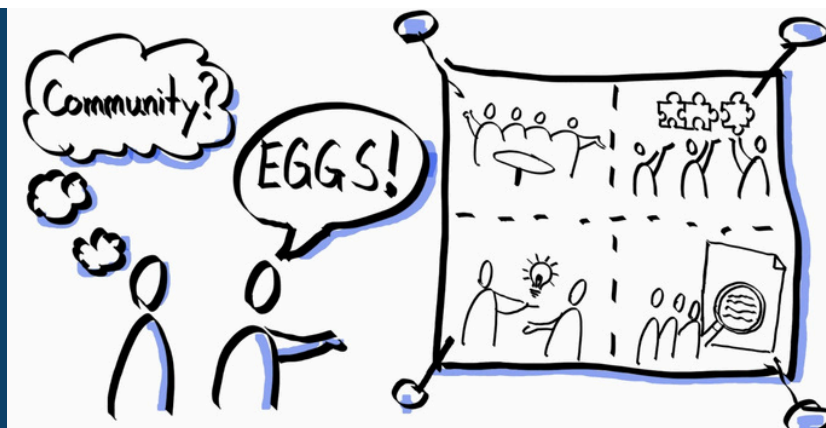
## Institutional members



Continuing from Issue 2, we now bring the Spotlight on BSN – The British School of Naples.

The British School of Naples (BSN) is an international school in Italy providing education from early years through secondary level within a British-inspired curriculum framework. The school serves a diverse international community and places emphasis on multilingual development and intercultural learning. Alongside its academic programme, BSN supports language learning and international qualifications that help students engage with global educational and professional contexts. Through its educational initiatives and engagement with international networks, the school contributes to broader discussions on language education and multilingual learning. We thank the British School of Naples and all our Institutional Members for their continued support.

# EALTA group of graduate students (EGGS)



## Are you a young researcher or graduate student interested in language assessment?

Are you sometimes longing for a group of people that shares the same research interests as you? Then look no further, because this is a special invitation for YOU to join the EALTA Group of Graduate Students (EGGS).

We are a network of early-career researchers currently working on assessment and testing-related topics all around Europe. Right now, we are a group of around 15 people that meets once a month online to share and discuss current M.A. and PhD projects, help each other out with tips and tricks, and plan future activities. But most importantly, we take some time to chat and get to know people with similar research interests. At EGGS, we want to create an accessible network for early-career researchers to grow and support each other on our individual journeys.

Join our mailing list by writing to Jan ([jankuehn@uni-bremen.de](mailto:jankuehn@uni-bremen.de)) or join our activities at the EALTA Conference in Siena. We look forward to getting to know you!

## Doctoral spotlight



Jan Kühn is a Research Assistant at the Department for Language and Literature at University of Bremen, where he works at the research group for Language Learning and Teaching. Supervised by Prof. Claudia Harsch, Jan's PhD project consists of a Learner-Language Based Validation of the CEFR CV Grid of Phonological Control. The project combines his research interests of Language Assessment, Phonetics & Phonology and SLA research. Before starting his PhD at Bremen University, Jan studied Portuguese/Spanish and German as a Foreign Language at Leipzig University and worked as a DAAD Language Assistant for German as a foreign Language at the Technical University of Liberec.

## Call for webinars



The Board of Trustees warmly invites members of the EALTA community to offer a webinar and share their expertise, experiences, or projects with fellow professionals in language assessment.

### Interested in offering a webinar?

Please get in touch with our webinar coordinator or any of the trustees—we'd love to hear from you!