

# SurveyLang

## *European Survey on Language Competences*

The European Commission outlined The European Indicator of Language Competence in 2005 and proposed a detailed strategic approach for the creation of a European Survey on Language Competences. The survey aims to provide member states with comparable data on foreign language competence and knowledge about good practice as well as progress towards the objective of improving foreign language learning.

The SurveyLang consortium was awarded the contract to carry out this survey.

### **What will the survey do?**

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The survey will test the two most widely taught official European languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish) in each country from a representative sample of pupils in their final year of lower secondary education.

The survey will assess students' proficiency in listening, reading and writing. A sample of at least 1,500 students per language, per country will be used.

Schools will be sampled systematically so as to be representative of the whole student body at the final year of lower secondary education or the second year of upper secondary education, for each country.

Test results will be related to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Establishing links to the CEFR has been a key focus of recent work and research for the language testing members of SurveyLang.

The survey will be completed to international education survey standards comparable with PISA, PIRLS and TIMSS.

A full field trial of the systems will take place in the first half of 2010 and the main survey is expected to take place in 2011. The final report will be delivered to the European Commission in 2012.

The results of the survey will provide individual countries with independently produced data on language proficiency on which to base their language learning policy. The data will be comparable across both languages and countries.

The pan-European context of the survey means that the questionnaire and test data will enable countries to explore those factors which have an impact on language learning and provide information for shaping language policy across the whole European Community.

## Who are SurveyLang?

SurveyLang is an international consortium made up of eight organisations, each one a leader in its own area of expertise. The consortium brings together knowledge and experience in the fields of language assessment, test development, sampling and data collection, as well as in educational measurement, cognitive psychology, research design, psychometrics, and data analysis.

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations co-ordinates the work of the members of the SurveyLang consortium.

Together, we are developing tests and assessments for each of the five languages involved in the survey. Sophisticated systems of sampling and analysis will be implemented to ensure the data provided by the survey is both relevant and useful for policy makers.

Name	Expertise	Country	Website
Centre international d'études pédagogiques (CIEP)	Language testing (French)	France	<a href="http://www.ciep.fr">www.ciep.fr</a>
Gallup	Sampling, testing and field operations	Europe	<a href="http://www.gallup-europe.be">www.gallup-europe.be</a>
Goethe-Institut	Language testing (German)	Germany	<a href="http://www.goethe.de">www.goethe.de</a>
Instituto Cervantes	Language testing (Spanish)	Spain	<a href="http://www.cervantes.es">www.cervantes.es</a>
National Institute for Educational Measurement (Cito)	Analysis and questionnaires	The Netherlands	<a href="http://www.cito.nl">www.cito.nl</a>
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	Language testing (English), Programme management	UK	<a href="http://www.cambridgeesol.org">www.cambridgeesol.org</a>
Universidad de Salamanca	Language testing (Spanish)	Spain	<a href="http://www.usal.es">www.usal.es</a>
Università per Stranieri di Perugia	Language testing (Italian)	Italy	<a href="http://www.cvcl.it">www.cvcl.it</a>

## Find out more

Information about the SurveyLang project can be found at [www.surveylang.org](http://www.surveylang.org)

If you would like to be kept up to date with progress on SurveyLang, or if you have any questions about the project, please contact us at [info@surveylang.org](mailto:info@surveylang.org)