



**2021 BILC STANAG 2021**

**Testing Workshop**

**7-9 September, PLTCE Garmisch-Partenkirchen**

**BILC UPDATE**





# Bureau for International Language Co-ordination



- **NATO's consultative and advisory body** for language training and testing issues.
- **Main responsibility:** custodian of STANAG 6001
- **Community** of language teaching/testing professionals from MoDs and defense-sponsored organizations.
- **Mission:** To promote and foster interoperability among NATO and Partner nations by furthering standardization of language training and testing. To support the Alliance's operations through the exchange of knowledge and best practices, IAW established procedures and agreements.
- **Vision:** To achieve levels of excellence where progress made by one is shared by all.
- **Purpose:** To foster cooperative professional support among BILC member nations and to extend support to NATO within the field of language training and education and language assessment.
- **Active participation in BILC activities** from **27 NATO nations** and **more than 25 partner nations**.



# BILC Steering Committee

GBR (1966-1981)  
DEU (1982-1996)  
USA (1997-2008)  
CAN (2008-2014)  
USA (2014-2016)  
BGR (2016-2019)  
SVN (May 2019-May 2022)

**Chair**  
**Branka Petek**

**Senior Advisor**  
**Dr. Ray Clifford**

**Secretaries**  
**Tadeja Hafner**  
**Martina Grmek**

**Associate Secretaries**

**Keith Wert**

**Peggy Garza**

**Julie Dubeau**

**Jana Vasilj-Begovic**



## Major BILC Events



- BILC Annual Conference in May;
- BILC STANAG 6001 Testing Workshop in September;
- BILC Professional Seminar in October.



# 2020 BILC Conference

## SC meeting online

### hosted by Norway and DLIELC



- Report on the BILC visits in the period May 2019 – May 2020:
- Update by nations on their BILC-related projects and international cooperation
- Military terminology project
- Report on BAT2
- Report on STANAG Level 4 writing test development
- Report on French STANAG
- Proposal to create a one-page BILC leaflet for distribution in NATO HQ, NATO ACT and NATO ACO
- Discussion on distance learning / on-line courses in times of coronavirus measures
- Summary of analysis of which teaching & learning activities support second language learning requirements
- Discussion on issues connected with STANAG testing in times of coronavirus measures (certificates required for deployments)
- Update on BILC courses
- Future hosts





# 2020 STANAG 6001 Testing Workshop hosted by Romania and PLTCE online 8-10 September, 2020



## ***ROADMAP TO TESTING READING***

### **Topics:**

- Shared goals of teachers and testers
- Shared item bank project
- Virtual item moderation
- Computer-based testing
- Testing during pandemic
- Testing reading at different levels
- Trialling practices
- Constructed vs. selected response
- Reading test construction
- Text rating and typology
- Statistical analysis of reading tests



### **Activities:**

- 10 presentations
- 8 small group sessions
- 6 item moderation groups
- 5 experts answering questions in Q&A sessions



THE 2020 STANAG 6001 TESTING WORKSHOP





# 2020 BILC Professional Seminar hosted by Portugal and PLTCE online 19-23 October, 2020



## Language Training in the Times of Crises: Challenges and Opportunities

### Topics:

- Online training and testing
- Using different platforms
- Student motivation in virtual classrooms
- Teacher motivation in virtual classroom
- Training teachers on new teaching technologies
- Advantages of the flipped classroom in virtual training
- Comparing results attained in real vs virtual classrooms
- Blended learning



### Activities:

- 19 presentations
- 4 panel Q&A sessions





# 2020 BILC Conference

hosted by Slovenia and PLTCE online  
10-14 May, 2021



## Keeping Pace with the Times: Providing Flexible and Timely Training Solutions

### Topics:

Training teachers for the new world of learning,  
Success rates of online learning versus those from the traditional classroom,  
Raising the levels of technological literacy of teachers and students,  
Optimizing the use of asynchronous learning opportunities,  
Technical anxiety of teachers and resistance to change,  
Best practices in online training,  
Designing/adapting curricula for virtual training,  
Web-based testing,  
Class observations in the virtual world,  
Time management in blended learning.



### Activities:

15 presentations  
2 guest speakers  
3 panel discussions







# Cooperation between BILC and Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP)



- Clearing House 2021, Krakow
- Ukraine, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Tunisia
- BILC in charge of ELT working group during the DEEP lessons learned workshop in November 2020 and conference in April 2021



# BILC Cooperative Activities May 2020 – May 2021



- Ukraine DEEP annual review online, 2021
- Iraq (workshops, item moderation), Dec 2020-2021
- Ukraine (online item moderation), Nov 2020-2021
- Uzbekistan (online meeting), April 2021
- Colombia (online meeting), April 2021
- CALT working group
- Jordan, September 2021





## 1. Language Testing Seminars (conducted at PLTCE):

- Language Testing Seminar, ACT.647, 2 weeks;
- Advanced Language Testing Seminar, ACT.658, 3 weeks;
- Language Standards and Assessment, ACT.648, 2 weeks.

## 2. BILC Methodology Workshops

- English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop “Teaching Speaking and Writing for Military Purposes”, ACT.659, 2 weeks. Conducted at 3 PTECs PLTCE, Bulgaria and Slovenia.



Facilitators: BILC teaching & testing experts from 24 nations.





# BILC Professional Development Basic English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop



## New BILC Methodology Workshop:

- developing speaking and writing skills for students in military environment,
- communicative approach,
- familiarization with STANAG 6001.

Participating nations:





## BILC Professional Development Introduction to Research Workshop



The aim of the workshop is to familiarize participants with basic principles of research design.

By the end of the workshop they are able to:

- ❖ Identify the differences between qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- ❖ Develop a research question and align it with a research method;
- ❖ Identify some appropriate data collection and analysis methods.

Facilitator: Mary Jo Dibiase Lubrano, Yale University, USA





## Shared Item Bank Working Group



Project launched in February 2020 to:

- further standardization of language testing,
- help testing organizations in the test development process.

Participating nations:

- Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia





## Some more testing projects



- working with Ukraine on the course for future tester,
- testing JTACs,
- introducing changes to best practices following the results of this workshop.



## Level 4 & Resources in French



### **Level 4 Working Group**

WG on L4 has continued its work on the L4 writing test prompts, and is currently assembling the piloting test booklet.

Questions or interest in trialling? (Ms. Jana Vasilj-Begović)

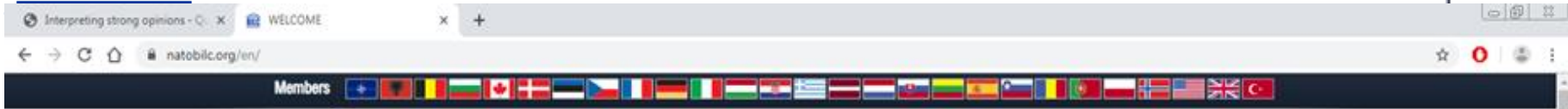
### **Resources in French**

Expert group will continue their work in late summer 2021.





# BILC site – [www.natobilc.org](http://www.natobilc.org)



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E-mail: [chairman@natobilc.org](mailto:chairman@natobilc.org)  
Tel: +386 4 532 3745

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## WELCOME

Mission

To achieve levels of excellence where progress made by one is shared by all.

BILC has the following responsibilities:

1. The dissemination of information on developments in the field of language training to participating countries.
2. The convening of an annual conference and a professional seminar during which participating nations review the work done in the co-ordination field and in the study of particular language topics.

Upon request from NATO and nations, BILC has expanded its roles and responsibilities over the years to include advice on language proficiencies as defined in job descriptions and has initiated training and co-ordination within the field of language testing and included other languages than the official NATO languages.

[BILC - March by Michael Kotay](#)  
[BILC March - notes](#)

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**BILC SharP**  
Bureau for International Language Co-ordination Sharing Platform

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!





**BILC site – [www.natobilc.org](http://www.natobilc.org)**



New:

- Presentations from all online events
- Materials on Level 4
- Resources in French
- Updated version of the calendar 2021 and 2022



Date	Event
8-19 February Cancelled	Language Testing Seminar (LTS), <i>ACT.647.20</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
4-13 May Cancelled	Language Standards & Assessment Seminar (LSAS), <i>ACT.648.13</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
10-14 May	BILC Conference (Online), <i>ACT.212.43</i> Hosted by Slovenia and PLTCE (Online) Theme: Keeping Pace with the Times: Providing Flexible and Timely Training Solutions
7-18 June Cancelled	Language Testing Seminar (LTS), <i>ACT.647.21</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
13-22 July	Language Standards & Assessment Seminar (LSAS), <i>ACT.648.14</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
2-13 August	Language Testing Seminar (LTS), <i>ACT.647.22</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
7-9 September	STANAG 6001 Testing Workshop, <i>ACT.212.48</i> Location: TBD / Theme: TBD
14-23 September	English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop, <i>ACT.659.17</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
3-8 October	BILC Professional Development Seminar, <i>ACT.212.49</i> Location: Vilnius, Lithuania / Theme: TBD
12-21 October	English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop, <i>ACT.659.16</i> Foreign Languages Department; Shumen, Bulgaria
11-29 October	Advanced Language Testing Seminar (ALTS), <i>ACT.658.5</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany
9-18 November	English Teaching Faculty Development Workshop, <i>ACT.659.15</i> School of Foreign Languages; Poljče, Slovenia
30 November-9 December	Language Standards & Assessment Seminar (LSAS), <i>ACT.648.15</i> Partner Language Training Center Europe; Garmisch, Germany



# Questions?



## Contacts:

- BILC site <https://natobilc.org>
- Email [branka.petek@mors.si](mailto:branka.petek@mors.si)