

Πανελλήνιος Φορέας
Κέντρων Ξένων Γλωσσών
Πιστοποιημένης Ποιότητας

QLS

Quality in Language Services through the Use of the European Language Portfolio (ELP)

by

Michael Anetopoulos - QLS Chair
QLS Founder Member
& EAQUALS Full Member

and

Harry Nikolaidis - QLS vice - Chair
QLS Founder Member
& EAQUALS Full Member

Promoting
Quality in
Language
Services



A bit of History

- The ELP comes as the result of the implementation of the CEF Recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Linguistic Diversification (1998).
- The European Ministers of Education resolve to create conditions favourable for the implementation and wide use of the ELP (15-17 Oct 2000) .
- EAQUALS & ALTE submit their ELP and approval is granted by the Council of Europe (2000).
- The ALTE - EAQUALS ELP becomes the most widely used ELP in Europe as a result of its translation and circulation in many other languages (2000 - 2005).
- QLS is granted approval for the creation of the Greek version of the ALTE - EAQUALS ELP (2005).

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



The three PARTS of ELP

1. Language Passport
2. Language Biography
3. Dossier

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



1. Language Passport

This is a Personal Document , in which the holder records:

- All his/her language skills in the form of self assessment
- His/her intercultural experiences with regard to the particular language
- The years of study of the language
- The certificates obtained and so on

The Language Passport cannot function alone. It comes as the result of the use of the second important part of the ELP, the Language Biography.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

2. Language Biography



This is the main educational part of the ELP. It is based on the “Can Do Statements”, which have come as a result of the CEF. It contributes in the following ways:

- Assists self assessment and evaluation of skills
- Encourages autonomous learning
- Develops a “student - teacher” co-operation during the learning process
- Gives the necessary platform on which self-assessment can be based before filling in the Language Passport.

It is the “Can Do Statements”, which the ELP holder needs to work on. They offer a yardstick for measuring language skills, and also provide a vehicle for life long language learning.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



3. Dossier

The Dossier provides support for the Language Biography. This is where the ELP holder files all evidence, which would prove that his self-assessment has been accurate.

The Dossier may contain any of the following items:

- Exam Certificates
- Course or School Certificates of Attendance
- Pieces of written work or projects
- CD or DVD recordings of presentations etc, which the holder has made
- Any other document that may be regarded as evidence

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



The Dual Role of the ELP

- Recording and Proving Language Skills
- The Educational Role

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



Recording and Proving the five Language Skills

- Understanding
 - Listening
 - Reading
- Speaking
 - Spoken interaction
 - Spoken production
- Writing

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



■ Recording and Proving Language Skills

YES

- The ELP provides for the language learner a means for showing and proving his skills.

NO

- It is not coming to replace the Exam Certificates but to support them in proving CEF Levels and Language Skills at a particular moment in life.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

ELP versus EXAM Certificates



In the following cases exam certificates cannot help a language learner.

- a) The learner has completed a course and acquired a certain level of skills, but has - for whatever reason - not taken any exams.
- b) The learner has lived in a foreign country and acquired language skills of a particular level, but has not taken the exam or an exam has not been readily available for him.
- c) A learner has achieved a very good level of listening or reading skills, yet his production skills are not good enough. “I understand everything, but I cannot talk” is a very common statement.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

ELP versus EXAM Certificates

continuing



- d) A language learner acquires a Certificate of Proficiency at the age of 16 and from then on does not use his language skills. Twenty years later the learner needs to prove his language skills. Is the Certificate worth the paper it has been written on?
- e) A language learner settles for his B2 Certificate at the age of 14. However, his studies involve continuous use of his language skills and later his employment is such that it brings him into continuous contact with the language. He has become a C2 level on his own, but should he go for the exams at the age of 40?

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



The ELP is a living personal document,
which can actually develop
as the learner's Language Skills do,

in contrast with
the static value of the skills certified
by a Language Exam Certificate.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

The Educational Role



**Second - but equally important - role of the ELP
Is that it involves both the learner and the teacher.**

- Bringing the ELP principles to the classroom can
 - urge the learner to assess his needs and set priorities
 - encourage learning initiatives
 - develop learner critical thinking
 - enhance learner responsibility
 - create learner autonomy
 - turn the learning process into a transparent one
 - promote life-long learning in languages

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



The “pre-ELP” student

1. doesn't quite know what his skills are at the beginning of his course.
2. doesn't have the faintest idea about what he will be taught during the year.
3. hardly ever knows what he would have learned by the end of the course.
4. rarely cares about the syllabus content.
5. determines his level of skills by the name of his class or the name of his book.
6. considers a successful learning year, the one during which the material of the whole book has been covered.
7. holds the teacher responsible for feeding him with the right or wrong material.
8. is 100% teacher dependant.
9. Is accustomed to passive learning.

The “ELP” student

1. can define his level of skills by just ticking off the Can Do Statements.
2. can participate in choosing what he wants to learn during the course.
3. contributes towards appropriate use of the course material.
4. becomes fully aware of what he is to be taught.
5. sets goals and tries to achieve them.
6. considers a successful learning year, the one during which his “CAN DO” goals have been achieved.
7. seeks his own learning sources in addition to the course material.
8. minimises teacher dependency and autonomous learning is achieved and maximised.
9. is no longer a passive learner; he is actively involved in the learning process.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services



The ELP has come
to enhance and support
all the innovative changes,
which have come about
with the introduction
of the CEF in Europe!

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

Closing note



- The ELP has been developed to stimulate and support the learning of languages.
- The ELP has become a tool to accompany the learning of languages inside and outside the classroom.
- The ELP has been designed to help learners to reflect on and improve their language learning and to show others (employers, teachers, etc) the knowledge acquired of other languages and cultures.
- The ELP has been based on the language levels described in the Common European Framework of Reference developed by the Council of Europe.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

EuroIntegrELP

Equal Chances to European Integration through
the use of the European Language Portfolio

A Socrates Lingua 1 Project



Project Objectives

Raising awareness to the importance of plurilingualism in a multicultural and multilingual Europe for:

- language learning
- valuing already existent partial competences in various languages and developing new ones
- taking responsibility for one's own learning
- developing self-evaluation skills

Raising support for the ELP by informing:

- decision makers in the educational and political fields
- employers, state and private educational institutions

on the importance of innovative approaches to language learning, teaching and assessment.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services

EuroIntegrELP

Equal Chances to European Integration through
the use of the European Language Portfolio

A Socrates Lingua 1 Project



Project Participant Countries

- Austria - OSZ
- Belgium - KdG
- Croatia - the Association for Foreign Languages at the Croatian Chamber of Commerce
- Estonia - Dialoog College
- Greece - **QLS & ELT News**
- Italy - British School of Trieste
- Lithuania - Utena College
- Poland - PASE
- Romania - PROSPER-ASE L.C., EURISC, EuroEd, Intern. Forum & QUEST
- Slovakia - Technical University of Kosice



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This document reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held
responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Abbreviations

ELP – European Language Portfolio

CEF – Common European Framework

EAQUALS – European Association for Quality Language Services

ALTE – Association of Language Testers in Europe

COE – Council of Europe

QLS – Quality in Language Services