



**EALTA** is a professional association for language testers in Europe. EALTA's interests are independent of those of any other organization; Set up in 2004, with financial support from the European Community; Obtained Participatory Status with the CoE in 2008.

**The EALTA Constitution** stipulates that "*EALTA is an international, non-political and independent association of professionals which aims to cover and represent the interests of those who work in language testing and assessment or associated areas of language education and applied linguistics in Europe*".

### **Mission Statement**

*The purpose of EALTA is to promote the understanding of theoretical principles of language testing and assessment, and the improvement and sharing of testing and assessment practices throughout Europe.*

### **Important principles**

Inclusiveness; Minimizing costs for the association and its members

## **EALTA Membership**

Teacher educators; Teachers; People involved in the development of tests in national or institutional testing units or centres; Students in higher education; Researchers within different fields...

Four membership categories *(numbers from 31 Dec 2011)*

**Individual** *(free): 1 479 (+ 20 % in 2011)*

**Associate** *(free): 180 (+ 24 % in 2011)*

**Institutional** *(150 € per annum): 58 (slight increase)*

**Expert** *(30 € per annum): 18 (increase by 2)*

**The Governing Body** of the Association is a General Meeting of Members in good standing (*usually once a year*)

**Executive Committee** (*Four elected members + two conference representatives*)

**Membership Committee** (*Chair + three members*)

**Annual Conferences** (*2004: Slovenia; 2005: Norway; 2006: Poland; 2007: Spain; 2008: Greece; 2009: Finland; 2010: The Netherlands; 2011: Italy; 2012: Innsbruck, Austria*)

**Pre-conference workshops and colloquia** (*Usually 2.5 days*)

**Resource pages** (*Publications, bibliographies, conference materials etc.*)

**Guidelines for Good Practice in LTA** (*Available in 35 languages; 2 under way*)

**Special Interest Groups** (*Five active*)

**Other events** (*Related to the GGP, SIGs, and special themes*)

## 2011 EALTA Materials and Events

[www.ealta.eu.org/resources.htm](http://www.ealta.eu.org/resources.htm)

- By special permission of the CoE, level descriptions for *Waystage*, *Breakthrough*, *Threshold*, and *Vantage*
- *Putting the CEFR to Good Use*. Selected articles by the presenters of the joint IATEFL TEA SIG and EALTA Conference; Barcelona, Spain, October, 2010. – Judith Mader & Zeynep Urkun (Eds.)
- Materials from EALTA's eighth annual conference in Siena
- Materials from the first SIG symposium on Assessment for Academic Purposes; Sabanci University Istanbul, Turkey
- Materials from the second SIG symposium on Classroom Based Language Assessment; University of Cyprus
- *Volume on 'Collaboration in LTA' to be published in Feb 2012 (Peter Lang Verlag)*

## **Annual conferences and themes**

**2004**, Slovenia: *Relating Examinations to CEFR*

**2005**, Norway: *Professionalism in Language Assessment*

**2006**, Poland: *Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice*

**2007**, Spain: *Good Practice in Language Testing and Assessment:  
Challenges and Praxis*

**2008**, Greece: *Assessment Literacy in Europe and Beyond: Realities and  
Prospects*

**2009**, Finland: *Synergies and Tensions in Language Testing and Assessment*

**2010**, The Netherlands: *Collaboration in Language Testing and Assessment*

**2011**, Italy: *Ethics in Language Testing and Assessment*

**2012**, Austria: *Validity in Language Testing and Assessment*

## **Pre-conference workshops and colloquia**

**2005**, Norway: I) *Language Portfolio*; II) *Classical test theory*

**2006**, Poland: I) *Designing and reporting research*; II) *Assessing Speaking at B 1 level : Training interlocutors and assessors*

**2007**, Spain: I) *Standard Setting*; II) *Assessing Writing at B 1 level: Training raters*

**2008**, Greece: I) *Classroom assessment*; II) *Research Colloquium on relating exams to CEFR*

**2009**, Finland: I) *Qualitative methods of assessment*; II) *Introduction to IRT*

**2010**, The Netherlands: I) *Assessing listening*; II) *Classical test theory*

**2011**, Italy: I) *Assessing Writing – task development and constructing rating scales*;  
II) *Using the Manual for relating examination to the CEFR*  
III) *Valutare la competenza linguistico-comunicativa di livello A2: come decidere la soglia di sufficienza?*

**2012**, **Austria**: I) *Diagnosing Reading / Writing*; II) *Assessing Writing: Principles, Practice and Performance*

## Past and Present EALTA officials

- First President: Neus Figueras, Spain
- Second President: Sauli Takala, Finland
- Current President: John H.A.L. De Jong, The Netherlands
- First Secretary/Treasurer: Jayanti Banerjee, UK
- Second (Current) Secretary (+ Treasurer): Gudrun Erickson, Sweden
- First Treasurer: Nigel Downey, Greece
- Current Treasurer, *ad interim*: Anthony Green, UK
- First Chair of the Membership Committee: Sauli Takala, Finland
- Second Chair of the Membership Committee: Felianka Kaftandjieva, Bulgaria
- Current Chair of the Membership Committee : Angela Hasselgreen, Norway