

Alignment of the TOEPAS scale with the Common European Framework of Reference

In 2009, Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use (CIP) designed TOEPAS (Test of Oral English Proficiency for Academic Staff), which is an oral English proficiency certification procedure specially designed for the English language uses of university lecturers in English-medium instruction (EMI) courses and programs. Since then, more than 400 lecturers from the University of Copenhagen and over 200 lecturers from universities in both Denmark and Europe have been assessed using the TOEPAS certification procedure and assessment scale.

The TOEPAS score is based on a six-point scale (10-60), and in addition to the score the lecturers receive a detailed feedback report with recommendations for their continued use of English. If the lecturer is certified with a TOEPAS score of 30 or above, they receive a certificate.

In 2017-2020, CIP participated in an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project with four European universities with the title "[Transnational Alignment of English Competences for University Lecturers](#)" (TAEC). The purpose of the project was to develop a common framework for EMI quality assurance and support, which will help the partners adapt local EMI training and certification language assessment instruments for transnational uses.

You can read more about the TAEC project and the technical report regarding the alignment process at the CIP website under [projects and collaborations](#).

As part of the project, the partners performed a three-day event linking the TOEPAS scale with the scale for the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) with the purpose of ensuring transferability and transparency in the international recognition of lecturers' English proficiency level based on the TOEPAS scale. CEFR is an international standard for describing language ability based on a six-point scale, from A1 for beginners, up to C2 for those who have mastered a language. In this sense, the alignment of the TOEPAS scale with the CEFR could increase the transnational mobility of university lecturers across Europe.

The TOEPAS six-point scale of 10-60 aligns with the CEFR-scale as follows:

CEFR level	TOEPAS score
C2	60
	50
C1	40
	30
B2	20