

## **The *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* and its relevance to the design and assessment of sign language and interpreter training programmes**

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This presentation will begin by introducing the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR), which describes language proficiency in terms of language use. It will then explain how the CEFR can be used (i) to identify learning outcomes appropriate to sign language and interpreter training programmes, (ii) to explore the varieties of learning discourse apt to promote the achievement of those outcomes, and (iii) to design a coherent system of assessment.

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David Little retired in 2008 as Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at Trinity College Dublin. His numerous publications and conference presentations on the theory and practice of language learner autonomy have done much to shape international debate. He played a leading role in the Council of Europe's European Language Portfolio project from 1998 to 2010, co-ordinated two ELP-related projects for the European Centre for Modern Languages between 2004 and 2011, and is a member of several Council of Europe expert groups. He is a strong advocate of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*, on which he has published a number of articles and given many conference presentations.