

Paper proposal
pre-conference CEF Workshop

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Title: On the relevance of CEF specifications for ESP teaching and learning

The paper proposes to discuss the relevance of CEF level specifications and descriptors for ESP (English for Specific Purposes) teaching and learning. It will contend that, if the overall CEF approach has undoubtedly brought major elements of clarification (and stimulation) to theory and practice in language teaching and learning in general, it seems that some of the issues of importance to the ESP domain fail to be fully and explicitly addressed. Among these issues are: (i) the particular status of English as a *lingua franca* and its implications for the LSP field; (ii) the part of specialized culture in LSP communicative competence; (iii) the range and levels of competencies needed for specialized discourse modes of communication. We will discuss these, with general reference to the plurilingual —and pluricultural— CEF approach, by examining how and to what extent the text of CEF specifications and level descriptors takes into account, and provides/allows for, the concrete questions to be addressed by language centres in the conception of ESP courses. The paper will thus combine general and theoretical considerations with the analysis of practice derived from our own experience as a teacher-researcher and head of a language centre.