



Lifelong Learning Programme



Education and Culture DG



European Symposium on Benchmarking Chinese Language

欧洲汉语能力基准讨论会

Friday 19th and Saturday 20th October 2012
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

The EBCL Project Team:

SOAS, University of London, UK
Université Rennes 2, France
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Sapienza, Università di Roma, Italy



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Welcome

Dear Participants,

I look forward to welcoming you to the European Symposium on EBCL to be held at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, 19-20 October 2012.

This Symposium is the culmination of almost 2 years' collaborative work between a consortium of leading European university-based centres, expert in the study of the Chinese language and language pedagogy. Supported by a grant from the European Commission (Lifelong Learning Programme) the team has focused on producing a framework of standards for the teaching, learning and assessment of Chinese in Europe. It takes the Common European Framework of References as its prime reference as this facilitates meeting the needs of the learning and teaching of Chinese in the European context. The consortium of university-based experts has worked closely with colleagues across European universities and with schools in England, France, Germany and Italy to develop the framework.

The Symposium enables the team to present their work to relevant stakeholders in Europe and China. We very much hope that you, as stakeholders, will assist the team in refining their framework by providing feedback. We also hope that you would be willing to assist the team with the some of the challenges it has identified in developing the framework.

Thank you for accepting to participate in this exciting forum. Your participation will help strengthen the learning of Chinese in Europe and also enrich the multilingual profile of Europe.



Professor Anne Pauwels, PhD

*Director, EBCL Project
Director, London Confucius Institute
Dean, Languages and Cultures
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*

Project Overview

With China having become Europe's primary trading partner, a growing number of people are seeking to learn more about China and Chinese language. Increasingly, schools and universities across Europe are offering courses and degrees in Mandarin, and a number of European countries have already introduced teaching and assessment standards for the language. Other European countries have introduced Chinese as a third language option in their national curricula. However, the question of how to formally measure Chinese language competence and establish a general and consistent set of teaching and assessment standards remains unresolved.

Since the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) was introduced in November 2001, it has been widely accepted by and in European countries as an effective tool to evaluate a user's level of language proficiency and as a guide for teaching and assessment. Can Chinese language, which is vastly different from European languages both in linguistic terms and in terms of its sociocultural context, be incorporated within the CEFR? If so, how can this be achieved? What specific characteristics does Chinese language possess and how should these be dealt with? These questions have perplexed policymakers, education providers and teachers. Aimed at tackling these concerns, the European Benchmarking Chinese Language (EBCL) project was launched in 2010 under the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme. The project team comprises four partner universities (and their respective associated partner schools) from France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Given the fact that most learners of Chinese in Europe are at Basic User level of CEFR (i.e. Level A), the team have focused their work on CEFR A1 and A2. After conducting extensive analysis and discussions on CEFR descriptors with team members and consulting with participants in a series of project seminars, the team believe that, as a universal framework, the CEFR is, to a great extent, applicable to Chinese language in terms of undertaking and performing communicative (i.e. action-based) language activities. However, we are fully aware that the unique linguistic features of Chinese, particularly Chinese characters, differentiates it from European languages. These differences must be formally acknowledged and suitable adjustments made in language teaching and assessment. In addition to adapting the CEFR descriptions of Can-do statements for Reception, Production and Interaction Spoken/Written activities, one of the outcomes of this project has been the detailed description of graphemic control which highlights the uniqueness of Chinese language. We hope that major project outputs, such as the large number of descriptors and their associated samples and the lists of lexical control, will be used, enriched and tested by stakeholders.

The EBCL project is only just a beginning. A lot more work can be – in fact, needs to be – done on the EBCL scale to extend it to Independent and Proficient User levels (Levels B and C of the CEFR). It is also necessary to evaluate the CEFR/EBCL through language teaching and assessment and to develop curricula and teaching materials based on CEFR/EBCL. We would welcome constructive comments on our approach, activities, and outcomes/outputs, and we would be pleased and grateful if more colleagues were to join us in our endeavour to promote Chinese language learning and teaching in Europe.

Advisers



Prof. Wolfgang MACKIEWICZ is President of the Conseil européen pour les langues / European Language Council (CEL/ELC) and chair of the European Commission's Business Platform for Multilingualism. Prof. Mackiewicz has been advisor to the European Commission and the Council of Europe for some 15 years. He represents the CEL/ELC on the Professional Network Forum established by the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages. Prof. Mackiewicz is also Honorary Professor of English Philology at Freie Universität Berlin (FUB). He is also European Affairs Advisor to the Executive Board of FUB. He was instrumental in the development of language modules offered within the General Professional Skills portion of FUB's BA programmes. He was involved in the implementation of the Bologna reforms at all levels.

Prof. Joël BELLASSEN (白乐桑) is currently the Chief Inspector of the French National Ministry of Education for Chinese Language Teaching. He is also Doctoral Supervisor in the field of the Didactics of Chinese Language at Institut National des Langues et des Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, Paris) and vice-president of the World Society for Chinese Language Teaching. He has published numerous teaching materials and academic articles in the field of Chinese language teaching and learning.



Prof. Federico MASINI (马西尼) is Full Professor of Chinese Language and Literature at the Italian Institute of Oriental Studies of "Sapienza" Università di Roma and Director of the Confucius Institute of the same university. Since November 2010, he has become Vice Rector for Teaching Policies of "Sapienza" Università di Roma. His research interests include Didactics of the Chinese language, Chinese linguistics and Europe-China relations.

Project Teams and Members

French Team (Université Rennes 2)



Dr Bernard ALLANIC (安雄) has been a lecturer at Université Rennes 2 since 2006 and is a member of the research laboratory LIDILE (EA 3874). He specialises in the pedagogy and didactic of the teaching of Chinese as a second language. He completed his PhD thesis on “The Corpus of Chinese Characters and Their Pedagogical Dimensions in Ancient and Contemporary China” (Paris, INALCO, 2003). He also authored a textbook for Chinese teaching “Le Chinois comme en Chine” (Rennes, PUR, 2009) and 12 scientific articles mainly published in China.

Dr Changying SHU (舒长瑛) is a research assistant at Université Rennes 2 for the EBCL project and she also teaches Chinese in the University of La Rochelle, France. She obtained her PhD degree at INALCO (Institut National des Langues et des Civilisations Orientales) in 2011, under the direction of Professor Joël Bellassen. Her thesis title is « Non-native Chinese teachers in France: trajectories, representations, identities, profiles ».



German Team (Freie Universität Berlin)



Dr Andreas GUDER (顾安达) is Head of the Chinese Language Department at the Institute of Chinese Studies of Freie Universität Berlin. Since 2004 he has been president of Fachverband Chinesisch (German Association of Teachers of Chinese language). His research interests and publications cover a wide range of areas such as Chinese linguistics, foreign language teaching and research, the Chinese writing system and its implications for teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

Ms Hue San DO (杜慧珊) is a PhD student at the East Asian Seminar, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), and currently an Erasmus Mundus Multi exchange student at Polytechnic University Hong Kong. She received her MA degree in 2007 at FUB, where she worked as a Chinese lecturer and research assistant for the EBCL project until June 2012. She also taught as an Assistant lecturer in German at Sun Yat-sen University Guangzhou and the Goethe Institute Hong Kong. Her research interests relate to second language teaching methodology, reading comprehension in Chinese and text genre analysis.



Italian Team (Sapienza, Università di Roma)



Dr Federica CASALIN (费琳) is researcher in Languages and Literature of China and Southeastern Asia at the Italian Institute of Oriental Studies of "Sapienza" Università di Roma. Since 2007, she teaches Chinese Language to second year students and Chinese Literature to bachelor and master students at the same university. Her research interests include Chinese language and literature, and history of the relations between the late Qing government and Italy.

Dr Luisa Maria PATERNICÒ (陆商隐) is a research fellow at "Sapienza" Università di Roma for the EBCL project, as well as a teacher of Chinese language at the Confucius Institute of Rome. She obtained her PhD in 2011 and her fields of study pertain to didactics of Chinese, history of Chinese language teaching and missionary linguistics.



UK Team (SOAS, University of London)



Prof Anne PAUWELS, EBCL Project Director, is Professor of Sociolinguistics and Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Cultures at the School of Oriental and African Studies. She is also Director of the London Confucius Institute and Head of the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Programme at SOAS. Her research deals with the social and sociolinguistic aspects of language and communication, with particular attention to multilingual and transnational settings. Her main research foci include multilingualism, language maintenance/shift, language policy in relation to language learning in schools and universities as well as various aspects of the relationship between gender and language.

Dr Lianyi SONG (宋联谊), EBCL Project Co-ordinator (January – October 2012), is principal teaching fellow in Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he has taught Chinese for over 20 years. He obtained his PhD in language teaching at the Institute of Education, University of London, in 1998. His research covers Chinese language pedagogy, language assessment, teaching material development, etc.





Ms Lik SUEN (宣力) is currently the Principal Lecturer in Chinese at SOAS and has joined the EBCL project since January 2012. She is also a senior examiner of Chinese language in several exam boards in the UK. Ms. Lik Suen graduated from Beijing Language University with a major in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. She has over 20 years experience of teaching Chinese to foreign students. She had worked for the Chinese University of Hong Kong before joining SOAS Chinese department in 2002.

Dr Liang WANG (王亮) is currently a research assistant for the EBCL project based at SOAS, University of London. He also works as an Associate Lecturer in Chinese at the Open University, where he was awarded his Master of Research and PhD degrees in 2008 and 2011 respectively. He specialises in Internet-mediated intercultural foreign language education, computer-assisted language learning, intercultural communication and expands his interest in the intercultural dimension in CEFR-based Chinese language teaching and learning.



Dr Xinsheng George ZHANG (张新生) is an Honorary Fellow of Chartered Institute of Linguists and a board member of CloL Educational Trust. He was the Director of the SOAS Language Centre and the Director of London Confucius Institute. He chaired the British Chinese Language Teaching Society between 2006 and 2008 and co-ordinated the EU co-funded EBCL Project between November 2010 and October 2011.

Dr Zhang has research interest in language policy, English and Chinese language learning and teaching, teacher training, intercultural communication, translation and cross-cultural business management. He co-authored a number of Chinese language textbooks, including Chinese in Steps series (2005-2009) which won an Award for Outstanding International Chinese Teaching Materials in December 2010.

Associated School Partners

Collège-Lycée Emile Zola de Rennes, France

<http://pharouest.ac-rennes.fr/e350024L/index.php>

The Collège (junior high school)-Lycée (senior high school) Emile ZOLA is located in the centre of Rennes, in Brittany, France. It is one of the oldest public schools of France. There are 1050 students in the lycée, 400 in the collège. The Chinese class started in September 1979, just 30 years ago. This school is the biggest French school as for the number of students who study Chinese. The students can start study Chinese when entering senior high school (taking Chinese as a third foreign language) or junior high school (taking Chinese as a first foreign language equal to English). While the level of the students is going higher each year, the students start to study Chinese younger. Since 2001, we have established partnership with Jinan Foreign Language School, located in Jinan, Shandong. We send to China around 36 students each year. In 2002, the school offered a class of history and geography which is given in Chinese. In 2011, the school set up a Chinese international class.

Geschwister Scholl Gesamtschule, Dortmund, Germany

<http://www.gsg.schuledo.de/>

Geschwister Scholl Gesamtschule is a mixed comprehensive community school teaching students from grade 5 to grade 13. Located in Dortmund – Brackel on the outskirts of the industrialized Ruhr area, Geschwister Scholl Gesamtschule comprises 1400 students and more than 100 teachers. Geschwister Scholl Gesamtschule has a strong reputation for teaching foreign languages, in addition to upholding its traditional values such as tolerance, honesty, moral courage. Besides other languages such as English, French, Latin and Spanish it is the only German school to offer Mandarin courses from grade 6 to grade 13. It is also one of few German schools providing the opportunity to take final examinations (Abitur) in Chinese. Moreover, it annually takes part in creative Chinese competitions as well as in HSK and, besides its partnerships to schools in the USA, maintains contact to schools in Xian and Tianjin (Tianjin Foreign Language School) for the purpose of international student exchanges.

The Convitto Nazionale di Roma “Vittorio Emanuele II”, Italy

<http://www.convittonazionaleroma.com/>

The foundation of the Convitto Nazionale of Rome goes back to the Pontificio Collegio Clementino founded in 1595. It turned into a public institution in 1891. It is now a State co-educational boarding and day school which incorporates Primary, Junior and High School. Started in 1993, the European High School adheres strictly to the Maastricht programme and the educational guidelines laid down by the European Union. It offers an innovative course of studies with an emphasis not only on the humanities but also on a wide range of other subjects. Great attention is given to language teaching, focusing on English and French, which are also used to teach Geography and History of Art. To further enrich the curricula offered by the Convitto and to promote its international approach, in September 2009 a new section of the Scientific High School was started, where Chinese is taught as a curricular language for five years. This “oriental section” also provides bilingual lessons of History and Geography. This is the first school to provide this opportunity in Italy and constitutes a precious opportunity to extend this experience to other schools in the whole country.

Kingsford Community School, UK

<http://kingsfordschool.com/>

Kingsford Community School is a mixed comprehensive community school for students between the ages of 11 to 16 years. Located within the London Borough of Newham, Kingsford is a thriving school with Specialist Language College status and a strong reputation for providing the highest quality educational opportunities in an inclusive student environment. It has a local and national reputation for our innovative teaching, international links and teaching of Mandarin, which is compulsory for all pupils for a period of their study in the school. In addition, it also provides Mandarin tuition to neighbouring primary schools. Whilst it upholds traditional values, academic achievement and standards of behaviour, it is an innovative school responding to the changing needs of its students and the demands of higher education and employers.

General Information

Campus Etterbeek

Address:

Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Pleinlaan 2
1050 Elsene
Phone: +32 (0)2 / 629.21.11
e-mail : info@vub.ac.be

Travel:

By train

The campus is located next to the railway station "Etterbeek". [Consult the timetables](#) of the Belgian National Railroad Company. (NMBS)

By subway/tram/bus

Subways, trams and buses in Brussels are run by the MIVB. Subway stations "Petillion" and "Delta" are closest to the Campus (+/- 15 minutes walk). There are several trams and buses from the different train stations in Brussels. Please consult [the timetables of the MIVB](#).

By plane

[Brussels Airport](#) (Zaventem) is the largest airport in Belgium. Most international flights arrive here. From Brussels Airport you can reach our campus by train or by bus (bus 12, Brussels City).

Other airports in Belgium are:

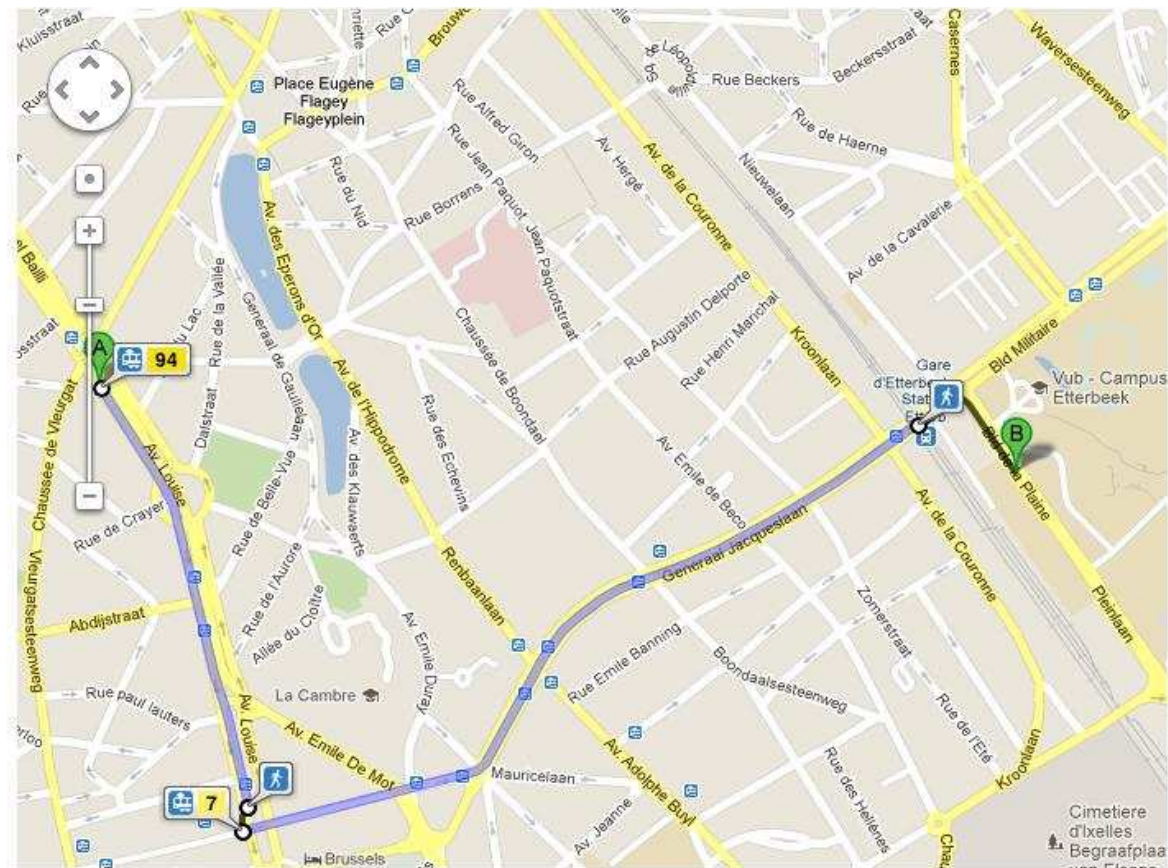
- [Ostend-Bruges](#) (Jetair, TUI Airlines Belgium...)
- [Liege Airport](#) (Thomas Cook, TUI Airlines Belgium...)
- [Antwerp Airport](#) (VLM...)
- [Brussels South - Charleroi Airport](#) (Ryanair...)

By car

- From France / Luxemburg / Namen: E411
- From UK / Ostend (Oostende) / Brugge / Gent: E40
- From Netherlands / Antwerpen / Mechelen: A12 or E19
- From Germany / Aken / Luik / Leuven: E40

A system of electrical bollards is in use at Campus Etterbeek to limit parking and traffic nuisance. The system works on the basis of number plate recognition. This means that cars with a registered number plate are able to get on and off the campus without any problem. People whose number plate is not immediately recognised can register via the intercom.

Google map from Hotel Brussels to VUB



A Avenue Louise 315, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Walk to Vleurgat

About 1 min

[Show details](#)

Vleurgat

2:50pm - 2:54pm

Tram - 94 - Stade - Musee Du Tram towards Legrand

(3 mins, 2 stops)

Legrand

About 1 min

Walk to Legrand

Legrand

3:01pm - 3:09pm

Tram - 7 - Vanderkindere - Heysel towards Heysel

(8 mins, 4 stops)

Etterbeek Gare

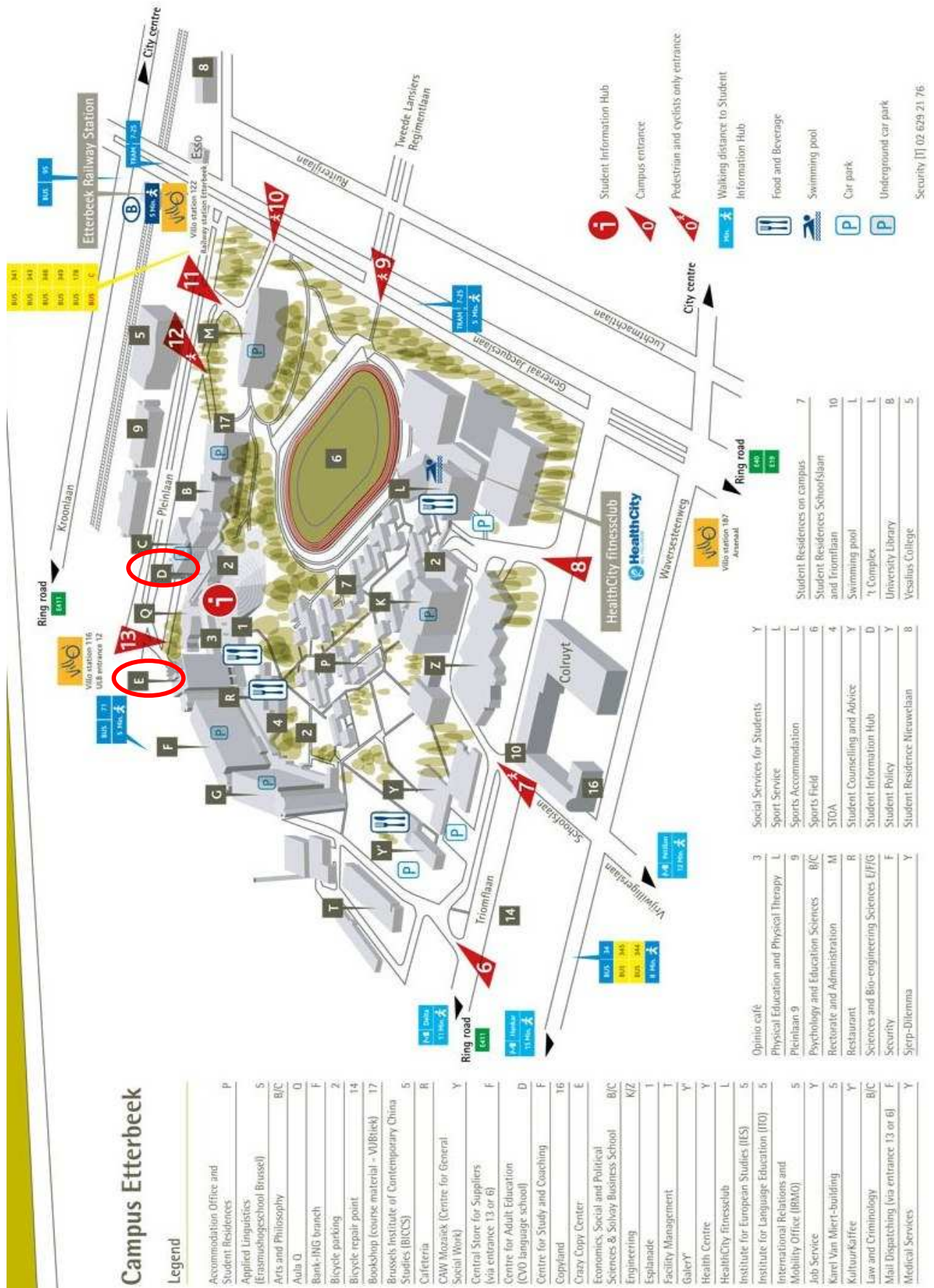
About 3 mins

Walk to Boulevard de la Plaine 5, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

[Show details](#)

B International Relations and Mobility Office (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Boulevard de la Plaine 5, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium



Source: <http://www.vub.ac.be/english/infoabout/campuses/etterbeek.html>

Symposium Programme

Day 1: Friday 19 October 2012 (Room D 309)

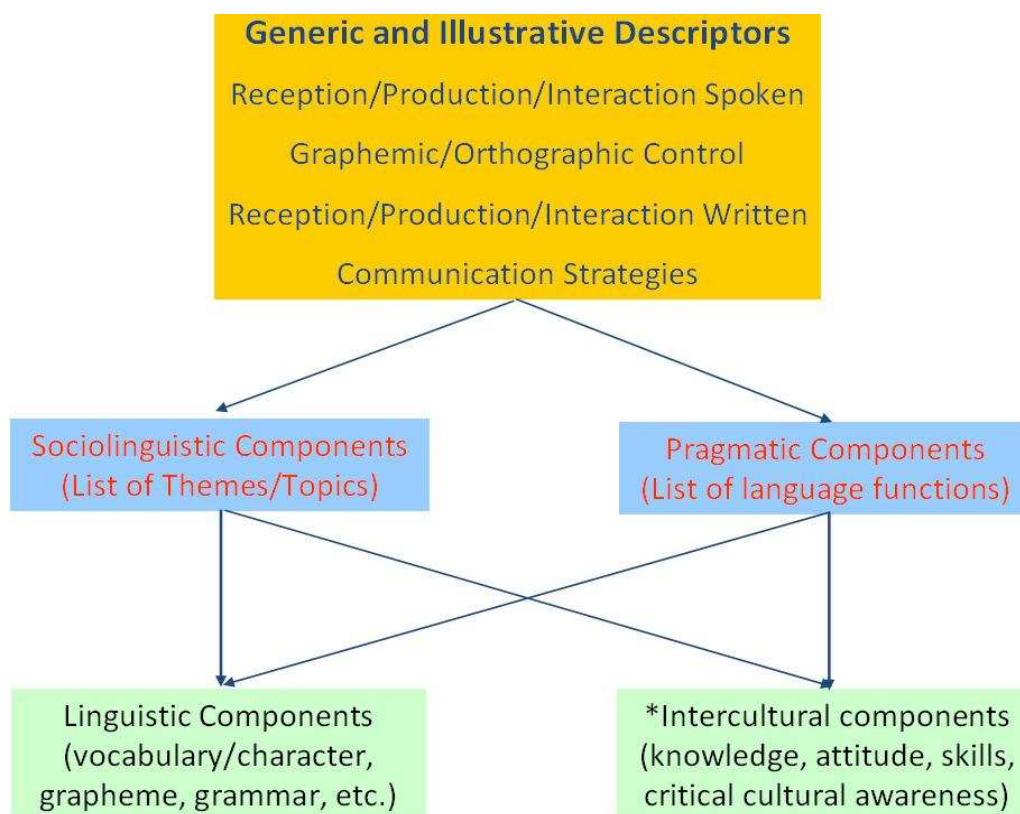
- 14.00 - 14.30** Welcome and Introduction
- 14.30 - 15.40** The project: background, description, achievements and challenges
- 15.40 - 16.00** Coffee break
- 16.00 - 16.40** Comments and feedback by invited experts
- 16.40 - 17.00** Further actions
- 17.00 - 17.30** Questions from the floor
- 18.00 - 19.00** Reception

Day 2: Saturday 20 October 2012 (Open Day, Room E 0.04)

- 09:30 - 10.00** Registration
- 10.00 - 10.15** Project Overview
- 10.15 - 11.40** Session 1: Detailed presentation of EBCL outcomes 1, including panel discussion and Q & A
- 11.40 - 12.00** Coffee break
- 12.00 - 13.10** Session 2: Detailed presentation of EBCL outcomes 2, including panel discussion and Q & A
- 13.10 - 14.10** Lunch break
- 14.10 - 15.40** Session 3: Remaining challenges and further actions, including Q & A
- 15.40 - 16.00** Coffee break
- 16.00 - 16.30** Summary of the Symposium
- 16.30 - 17.00** Close and networking

Presentation Document List

A structural view of EBCL documents for presentation



Document List

- ✓ **Main Document: EBCL A1-A2+ Can-do Statements Oct 2012 (70 pages)**
- ✓ **Appendices: Supporting Documents for CDS Oct 2012 (46 pages)**
 - **Appendix 1 EBCL Proposed List of Themes/Topics**
 - **Appendix 2 EBCL Proposed List of Language Functions**
 - **Appendix 3 EBCL Proposed List of A1 Characters (320)**
 - **Appendix 4 EBCL Proposed List of A2 Characters (630)**
 - **Appendix 5 EBCL Proposed List of A1-A2 Lexical Items (940) for Written Production**
 - **Appendix 6 EBCL Proposed List of A1 Lexical Items (589) for Oral Production**
 - **Appendix 7 EBCL Proposed List of A2 Lexical Items (1245) for Oral Production**

Space for Your Notes

