

# API Education Forum

16.00-17.30 CET 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Mediation in Practice

**Elisabeth Kolb, Maria Stathopoulou**

This session is divided into two separate parts. In the first part, Elisabeth Kolb will talk about the *Implications of Testing Cross-Linguistic Mediation in German School-Leaving Exams*. Her presentation will focus on the test formats used in B2/C1-level school-leaving exams to assess students' ability to mediate written texts from German into English or French.<sup>1</sup> After presenting the texts, tasks, and rating criteria, she will discuss the operations required of test-takers to successfully complete these assignments. Additionally, she will explore the impact that the introduction of mediation exams in high-stakes final assessments has had on teaching practices in secondary school classrooms, while also taking into account mediation activities at lower CEFR levels.

In the second part, Maria Stathopoulou will introduce the [METLA project](#) (*Mediation in Teaching, Learning and Assessment*) supported by the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) and present a) the *MELTA Teaching Guide* for foreign language teachers who wish to teach their students how to (cross)linguistically mediate and b) the *METLA databank* (repository) with mediation tasks for primary and secondary education students. The METLA resources draw upon the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – Companion Volume, provide essential information about linguistic mediation and propose innovative and engaging ways for teachers to teach and assess cross-linguistic mediation.

They:

- offer step-by-step guidelines on how teachers can design, adapt and evaluate their own language mediation tasks;
- include a variety of examples of cross-linguistic mediation tasks which involve different languages, addressing different learner proficiency levels and needs, and which are the result of a collaborative approach between researchers in the project and teachers in diverse educational contexts from across Europe.

## Bios

**Elisabeth Kolb** is a teacher trainer for English as a foreign language in Germany and has also worked as a curriculum and exam developer for French in upper secondary schools. She holds a doctorate and a post-doctorate in foreign language pedagogy from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich. Her most important publication is *Sprachmittlung: Studien zur Modellierung einer komplexen Kompetenz* (2016), which presents a comprehensive model of mediation in the foreign language classroom. She is also interested in international curriculum analysis and in inter-/transcultural learning.

**Dr Maria Stathopoulou** is Adjunct Lecturer at the Hellenic Open University. Member of the English team preparing the national foreign language exams in Greece, member of the authoring team for the mediation descriptors of the CEFR CV (2014-2017) and coordinator of the ECML project “Mediation in Teaching, Learning and Assessment” (2020-2022). She has published extensively on cross-linguistic mediation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iqb.hu-berlin.de/abitur/>