

16.00-17.30 CET 20th November 2025

Workshop (API members)

Exploring the potential of custom GPTs to support language teachers in adopting an action-oriented approach to learning design

Speakers: Marion Sadoux, Cornelia Wiedenhofer, Maria Luisa Coelho, and Eléonore Cossade

The University of Oxford in September 2025 rolled out access to Open AI ChatGPT-Edu to all its staff and students encouraging academics, professional services staff and students to explore the use of this closed version of ChatGPT (private cloud not feeding Open AI Large language Models) in their work. The Language Centre leadership team are planning to create and deploy custom GPTs to support tutors in their continued transition to an action-oriented approach to language teaching and we propose to invite API Education Forum members to critically evaluate the extent to which a custom GPT is able to support teachers through “Socratic dialogues” in developing meaningful and purposeful real-life scenarios for their classes and in increasing their critical awareness of how to construct an action-oriented scenario for their classes. We hope that this approach will help provide support for teachers who may otherwise be tempted to simply use non customised AI outcomes without critically engaging with the answers provided.

Participants will have the opportunity to preview a sample query and output prior to the workshop and to engage in small group guided experimentation with selected custom GPTs analysing the validity of the guidance and suggestions in its outputs. Discussions will focus on pedagogical, ethical and teacher development implications of integrating such tools in CEFR-informed frameworks. This will in turn enable us to refine the customisation of the GPTs and share them with the API Education Forum community of practitioners either as prompts or GPT customisation instructions.

Marion Sadoux is Director of the Language Centre at the University of Oxford. She has a long career in educational leadership in University Institution Wide Language Programmes . Her main area of research is technology enhanced language learning and teaching particularly in support of transitions to Action oriented plurilingual and intercultural approaches to language education.

Cornelia Wiedenhofer is a Departmental Lecturer in German Language and Programme Lead at the Oxford University Language Centre. She has extensive experience teaching German in UK higher education institutions, guided by an action-oriented plurilingual approach. Over the past two years, she has explored the potential and limitations of GenAI in language education, presenting her findings at various conferences.

Dr Luísa Coelho is a Departmental Lecturer in Portuguese Language at the Oxford University Language Centre, as well as a Portuguese Lecturer at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, where she is also the AI Champion. She has taught Portuguese in predominantly multilingual contexts and in recent years she has been keen on promoting plurilingual and pluricultural competences in the classroom as ways of creating a more inclusive and student-oriented approach.

Eléonore Cossade is a language programme lead and lecturer in French as a foreign language at the University of Oxford Language Centre. Her work focuses on learning design, with a particular emphasis on the integration of the action-oriented approach to her institution's flipped classroom model. This includes digital learning design and VLE (Canvas) expertise as well as language tutor development.