**RELANG Seminar**

**(Relating language examinations to the common European reference levels of language proficiency: *promoting quality assurance in education and facilitating mobility - RELANG*)**

**26-28 March 2014, Prague**

This workshop is being given within the framework of the ECML-EC Cooperation Agreement INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGIES AND ASSESSMENT IN LANGUAGE LEARNING. It was requested by the Czech Ministry of Education and the National Institute for Education. In this three-day workshop the participants will be introduced to the principles of valid and reliable language testing in relation to the CEFR model of language use. The aim of the activities on the first day will be to reflect and work on the principles used to guide any high-stake test or examination development, and present the first stages to link examinations to the CEFR,
i.e. familiarization and specifications. The aim of the activities on the second day will be to help item writers initiate guidelines for item writing (receptive and productive skills). Marking and grading for productive skills will also be presented with the next stage of linking, which is benchmarking and standardization. On the third day, the aim of the activities will be the follow up of the benchmarking and standardization process, for productive skills and the issues of security when delivering tests.

**Consultants**

**Jana Bérešová**

works at Trnava University as the Head of the Department of English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Education, teaching ELT, EAP and Lexicology. She has been working in the field of language assessment since 1986 when she started the reform of the school-leaving examination, introducing communicative language testing in Slovakia. She has written many books related to language testing and still coordinates a group of English item-writers. She is a member of TESOL, and president of the Slovak Association of Teachers of English. She also regularly presents her research at national and international conferences related to testing, e.g. IATEFL TEA SIG.

**Gilles Breton**

has been working in the field of language assessment since 1975. Among his different positions, he has been head of the pedagogical department of the Alliance française in Sao Paulo (Brazil), Mexico and Paris. He has also been in charge of the TCF (Test de connaissance du français) and has acted as director of the Quality and Expertise Unit within the *Centre International d’Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP)*. This unit also offers psychometric expertise. He has been a key figure within the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) special interest groups, in particular in the Code of Practice group. He currently carries out auditor training workshops as well as audits of international language exams (5 languages). He is a member of the jury for the “*Diplôme initial de langue française*” (DILF, level A1.1), the national test for migrants in France.