In View: The CEFR and English as a Lingua Franca

An analysis of CEFR practical advantages for the educational and business communities in Thailand as Catalyst Case Study Example of Developed Country in SE Asia

The Pyramid Group

The CEFR explained to the Thai Ministry of Education *(Structure)*

1. CEFR – Facts and Figures

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – Definition and Functions

Languages

syllabuses

common basis of elaboration.......

Curriculum guidelines

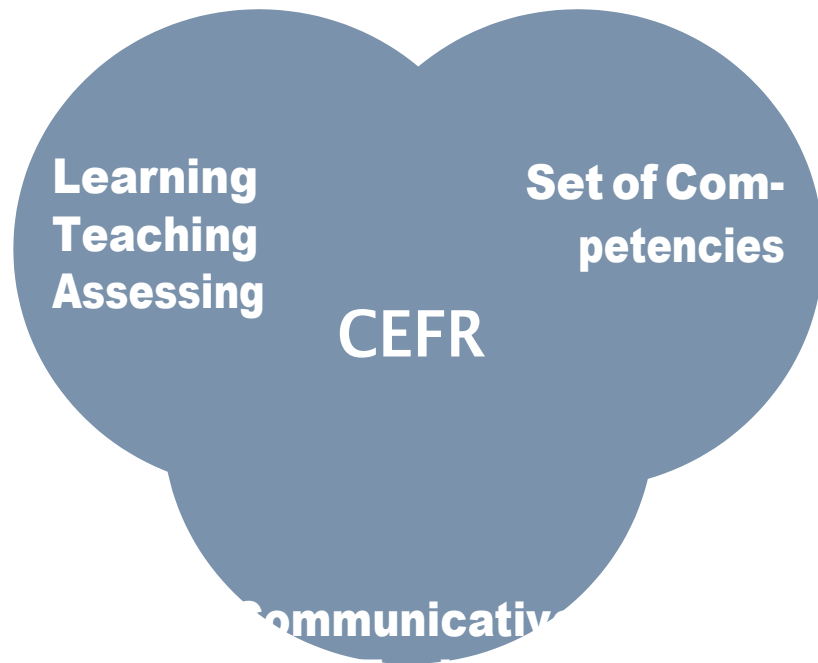Textbooks

Exami-nations

... across Europe and the world

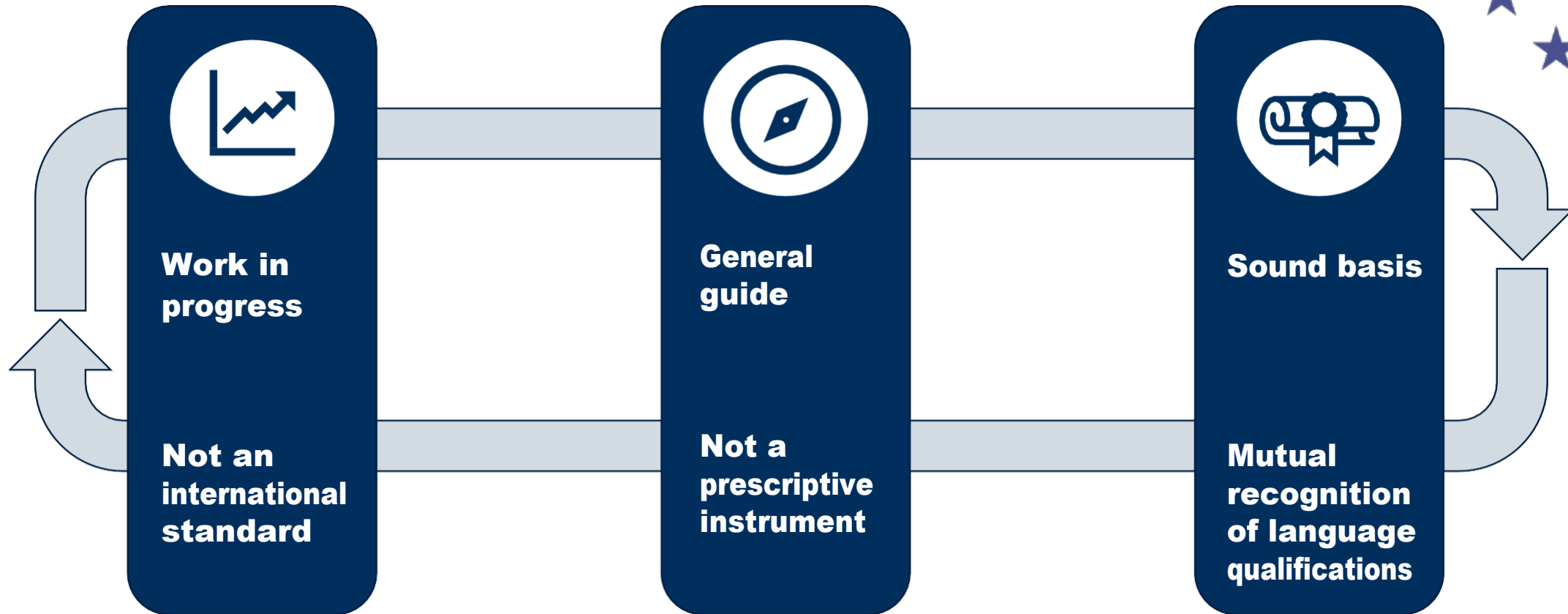(University of Cambridge, 2011, online)

The CEFR –
Definition and Functions

- The Standard for describing language ability

- Meaningful point of reference- six point scale understood globally

Learning Teaching Assessing

Set of Com-petencies

CEFR

Communicativ

International Teacher Training Organisation, 2019, online
Cambridge Assessment, 2019, online
EPALE - Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe, 2016, online

The CEFR-
Limitations and Original intentions

Work in progress

Not an international standard

General guide

Not a prescriptive instrument

Sound basis

Mutual recognition of language qualifications

(University of Cambridge, 2011, online)

The CEFR –
The Communicative/ Action-oriented Approach
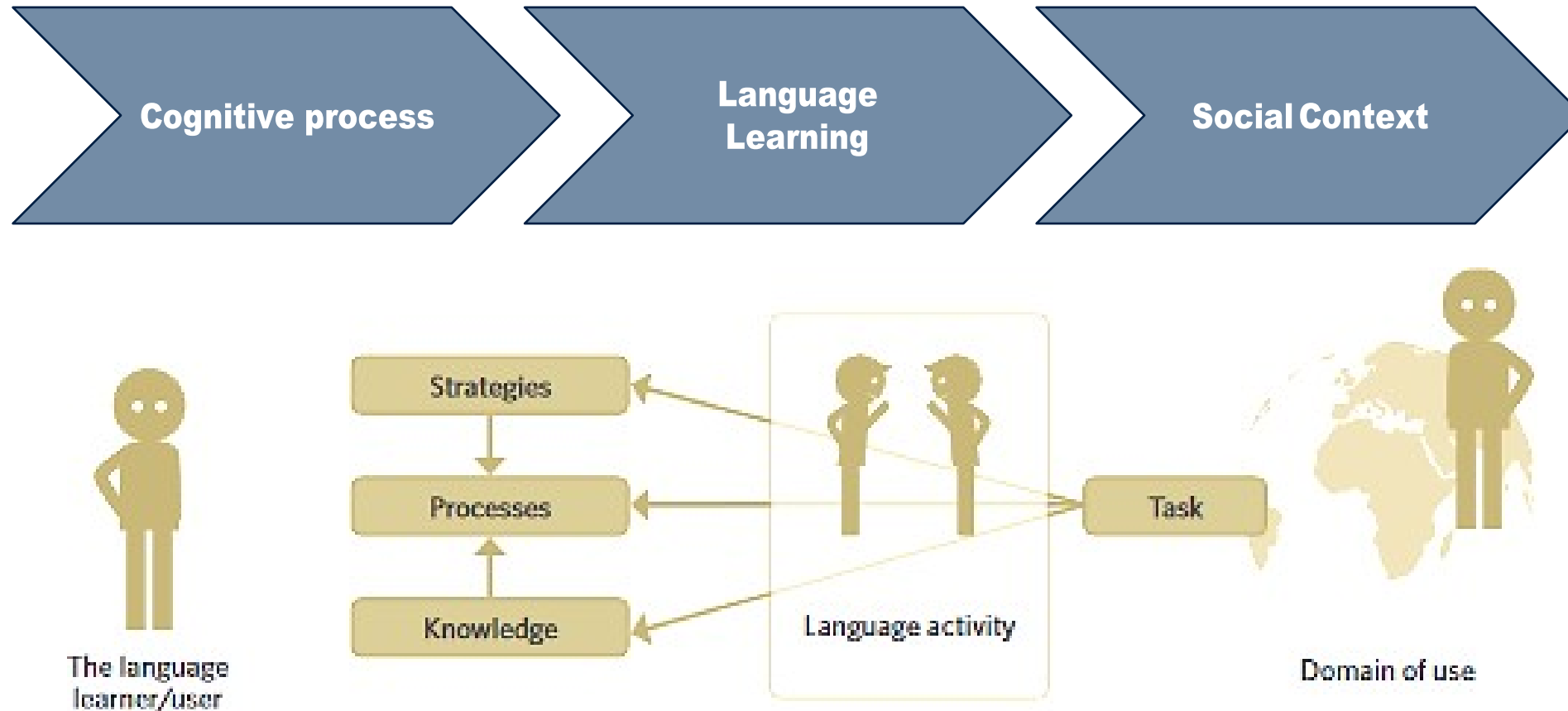
(University of Cambridge, 2011, online)

The CEFR
Structure

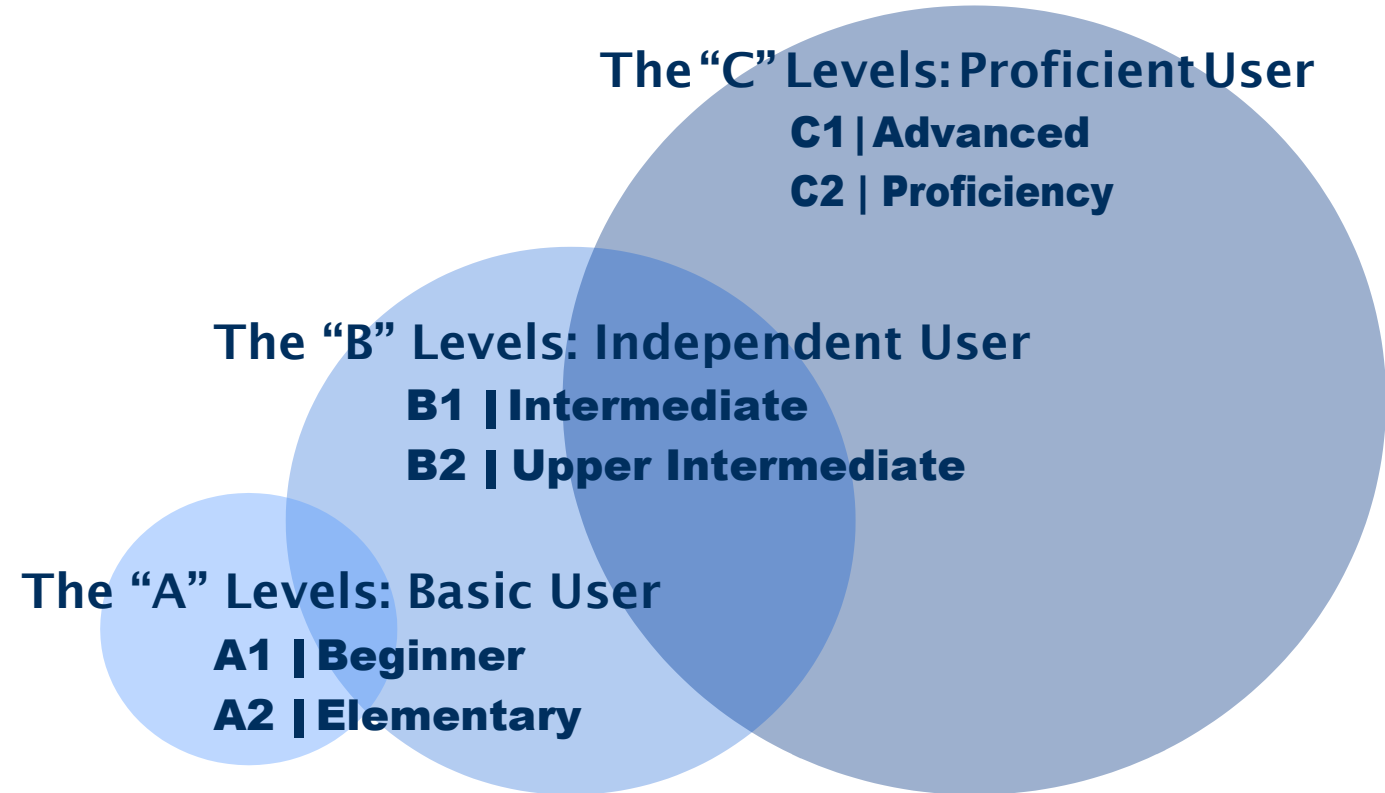| general context	details of context
education, university	undergraduate applicants to an English-medium university's humanities, sciences and social sciences courses
education, school	school students in a particular class
migration	migrants who have lived in country Z for less than one year
work	candidates from anywhere in the world

educational   *public*

personal   *occupational*

(University of Cambridge, 2011, online)

The CEFR
Language Levels

C2
C1
B2
B1
A2
A1

The "C" Levels: Proficient User
C1 | Advanced
C2 | Proficiency

The "B" Levels: Independent User
B1 | Intermediate
B2 | Upper Intermediate

The "A" Levels: Basic User
A1 | Beginner
A2 | Elementary
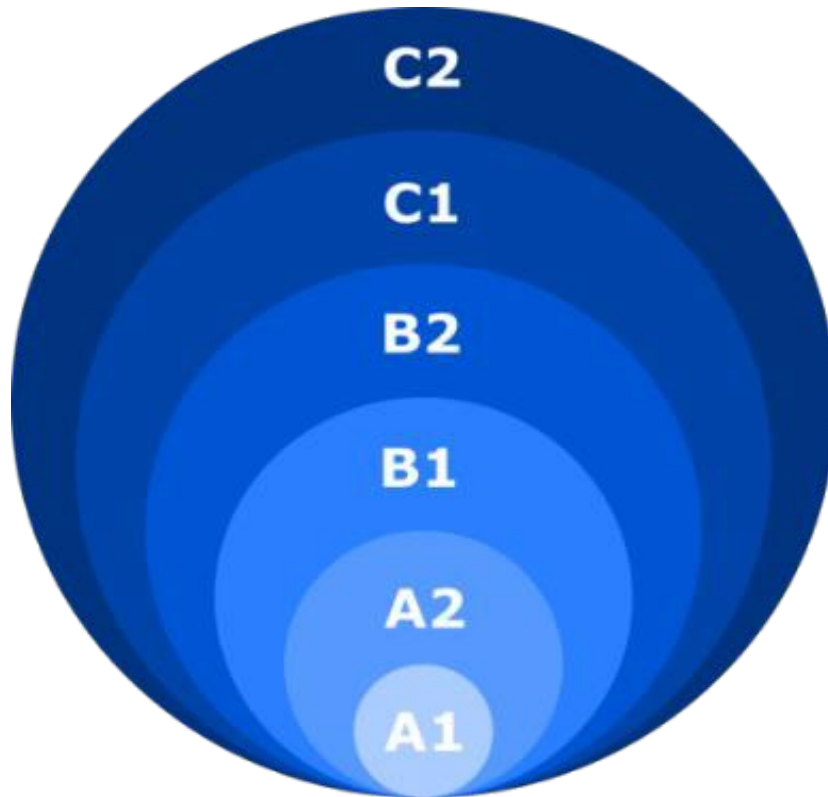
(Shannon Kennedy, 2020, online)

The CEFR
Transfer

(Cambridge Assessment, 2020, online)
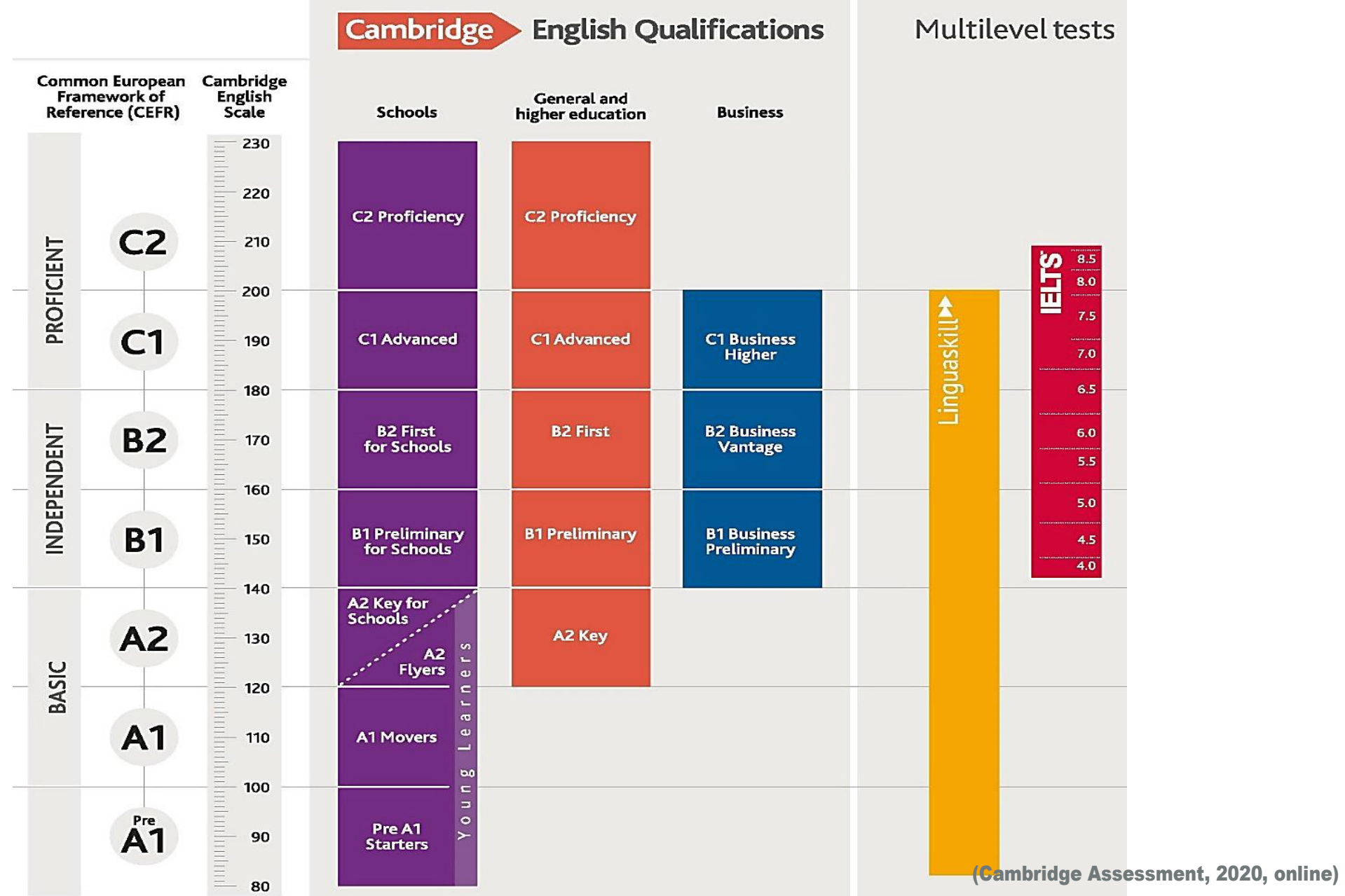
2. Lingua Franca

Lingua Franca

https://mycroft.ai/blog/lingua-franca-v0-1-released/

Origins:

- "Language of the Francs"

- Shared language for trade and communication

https://unsplash.com/photos/-uHVRvDr7pg

Current understanding:

- World language, vehicular language

- Use:
  - People with different mother tongues,
  - Neutral language or
  - Mother tongue of one

(Cambridge w.y., online, European Commission 2011)
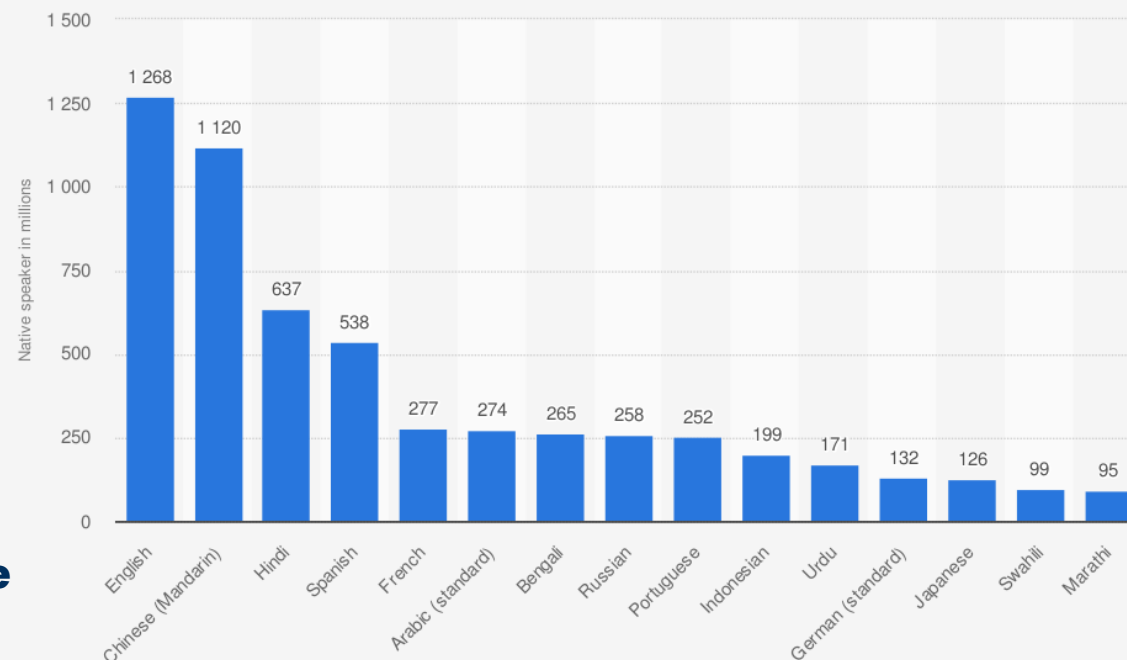
Lingua Franca
English as a Lingua Franca

Native speakers from:
- **United Kingdom,**
- **Ireland,**
- **the United States,**
- **Canada,**
- **Australia,**
- **New Zealand and**
- **Members of the former British Empire**

The most spoken languages worldwide in 2019 (by speakers in millions)

Native speaker in millions

Language	Speakers
English	1 268
Chinese (Mandarin)	1 120
Hindi	637
Spanish	538
French	277
Arabic (standard)	274
Bengali	265
Russian	258
Portuguese	252
Indonesian	199
Urdu	171
German (standard)	132
Japanese	126
Swahili	99
Marathi	95

Source
Ethnologue
© Statista 2020

Additional Information:
Worldwide; 2019

https://www.statista.com/statistics/266808/the-most-spoken-languages-worldwide/

(European Commission 2011)

Lingua Franca
English as a Lingua Franca

- Decreasing **number of native speakers**

- Increasing **number of second language speakers and speakers of English as a foreign language**

- **Need of vehicular language**
- **(One) working language of all international communication**
- **International business and corporate language**

TABLE 1 Worldwide speakers (millions)

Language	Ethnologue Native speakers (1)	Ethnologue Total speakers (2)	MT Native speakers (3)	MT Total speakers (4)
Chinese[a]	1,197	>1,197	1,161	1,165
English[b]	335	>765	357	1,123
Spanish	406	466	401	479
Hindi/Urdu[b]	324	>387	—	—
Arabic[a]	206	246	244	272
Russian	162	272	184	267
French	68	118	69	260
Bengali	193	250	—	—
Portuguese	202	217	209	222
German	84	112	89	168
Malay[b]	23	>163	22	158
Japanese	122	123	126	126
Turkish/Azerbaijani/Turkmen[b]	83	>83	91	102
Italian[b]	61	>61	64	77
Dutch/Afrikaans[b]	28	>28	22	37

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/twec.12643

(European Commission 2011)

3. CEFR Today

CEFR TODAY
CEFR in Thailand

English secondary language of elites

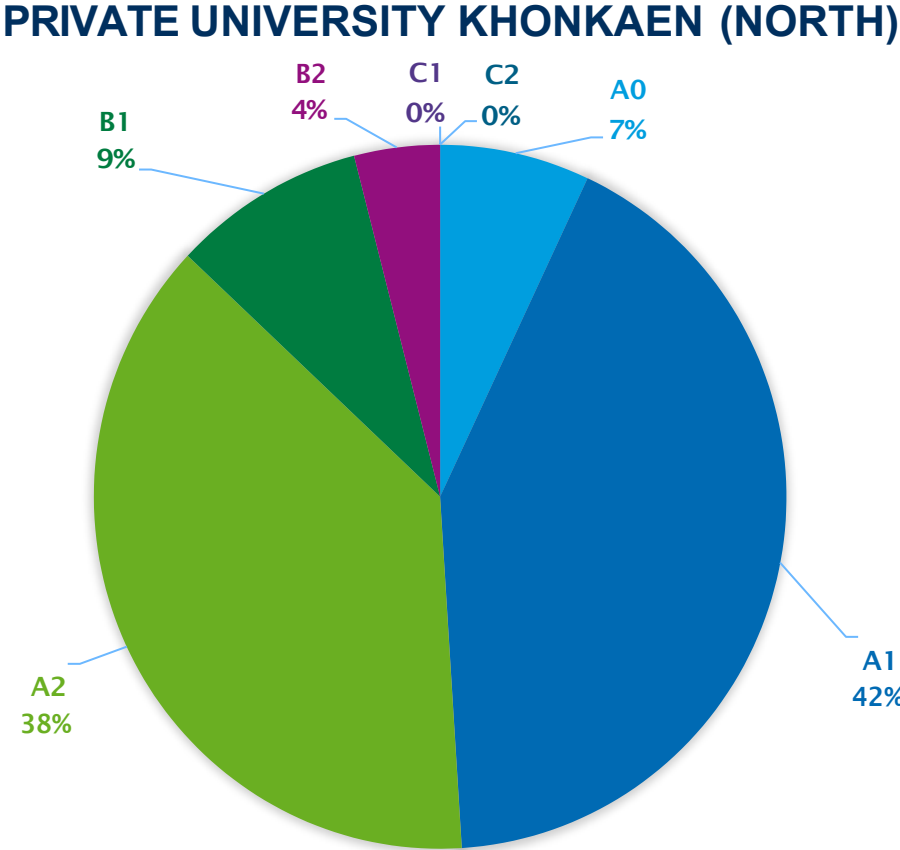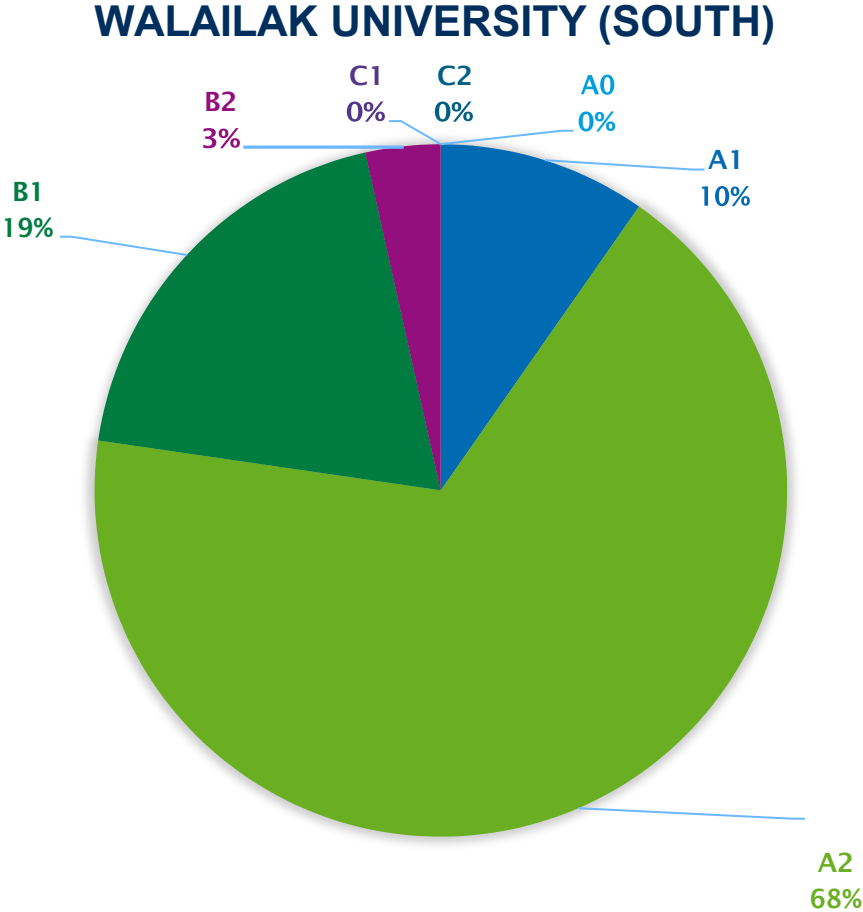**Thai Ministry of Education first introduction** **CEFR in 2015**

- **Targets for schools**

  - **Primary (Grade 6) students**

  - **Grade 9 students**

  - **Grade 12 students** -

https://pixabay.com/photos/book-asia-children-boys-education-1822474/

(CIA 2020, online; Richard Barrow 2020, online)

CEFR Levels Among First Year University Students (2019)

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY (SOUTH)

B2 3%
C1 0%
C2 0%
A0 0%
A1 10%
B1 19%
A2 68%

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY KHONKAEN (NORTH)

B2 4%
C1 0%
C2 0%
A0 7%
B1 9%
A2 38%
A1 42%

(Waluyo 2019; Chaisoda 2019)

CEFR Levels Among First Year University Students (2019)

WALAILAK UNIVERSITY (SOUTH)
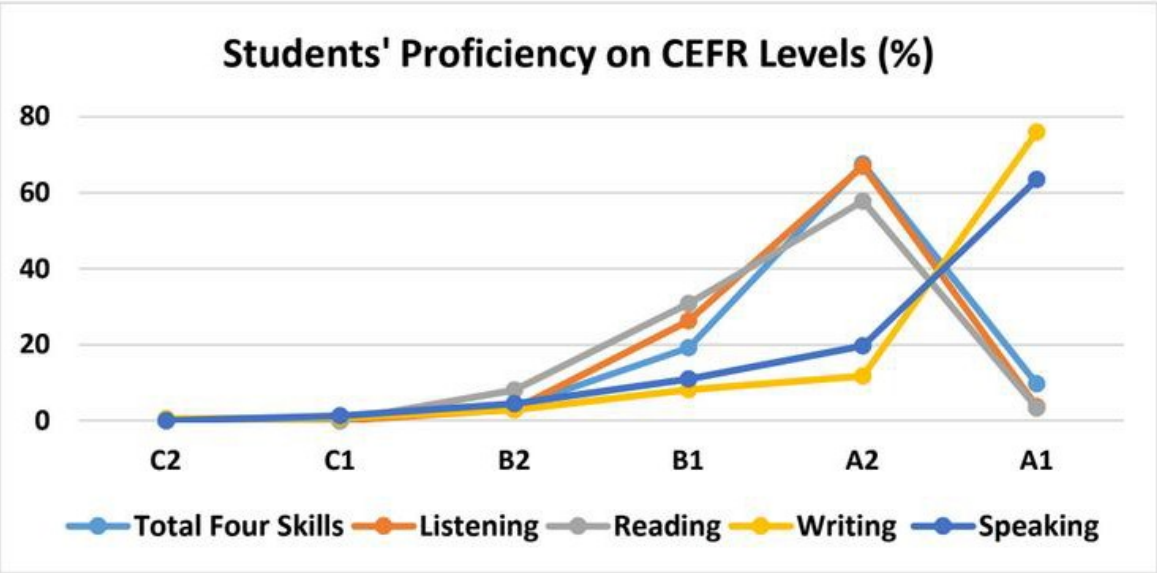
Chart 1. The distribution of students' proficiency on CEFR levels

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY KHONKAEN (NORTH)

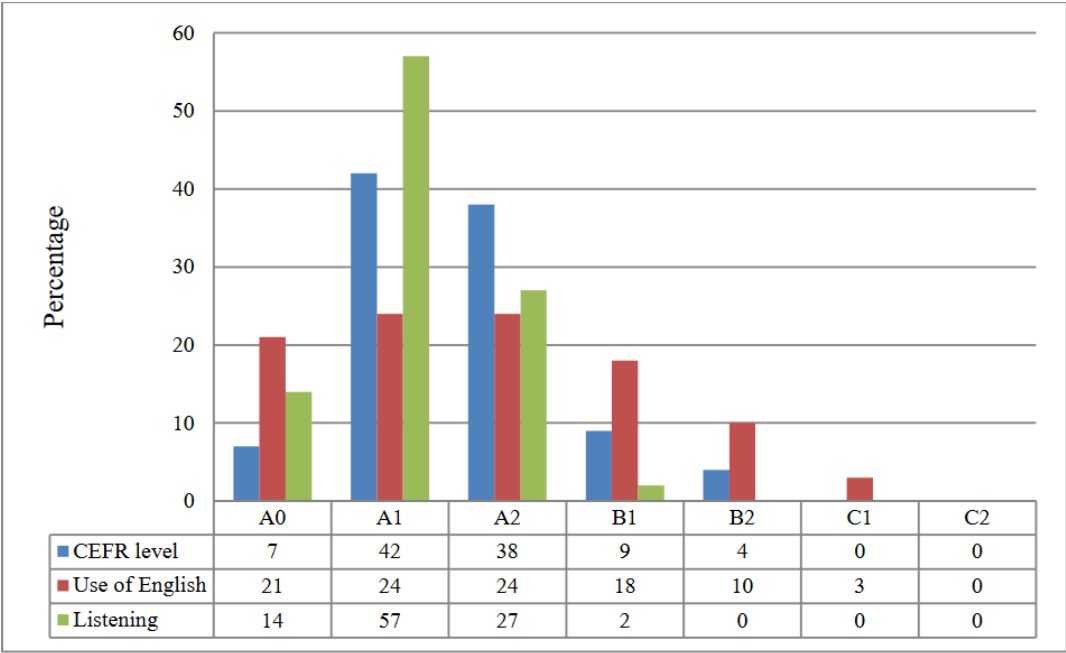|	A0	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
CEFR level	7	42	38	9	4	0	0
Use of English	21	24	24	18	10	3	0
Listening	14	57	27	2	0	0	0

Figure 4 The comparison of three levels of CEFR, Use of English, and Listening

What Changes Would Need to Take Place?

Teacher Education
- **understand, identify and apply CEFR**

Curricula
- **precise guidelines**
- **individual approaches**

Testing
- **increase transparency + comparability**
- **communication skills**

https://pixabay.com/photos/learning-school-outdoor-asia-book-1782430/

(Council of Europe, online; British Council, online; Maxwell 2015, online)

4. Advantages of the CEFR
Educational Communities

Advantages for Education Communities

for teachers
- **unification of tests and teaching**
- **unambiguous curricula**

for students
- **wider access to knowledge**
- **independent communication**

for graduates
- **easier identification of qualifications**
- **international education possibilites**

https://pixabay.com/photos/students-adult-asia-computer-1807505/

(Chaisoda 2019; Waluyo 2019; Maxwell 2015, online)

5. Advantages of the CEFR
Business Communities

Advantages for the Business Communities

General

- Language evaluation during job application process

For employers

- Recruitment of international talents
- International mergers and acquisitions
- Communication with investors
- Cost savings
- Reaching a bigger customer market

For employees

- Classification of suitability for jobs
- Wider range of career opportunities
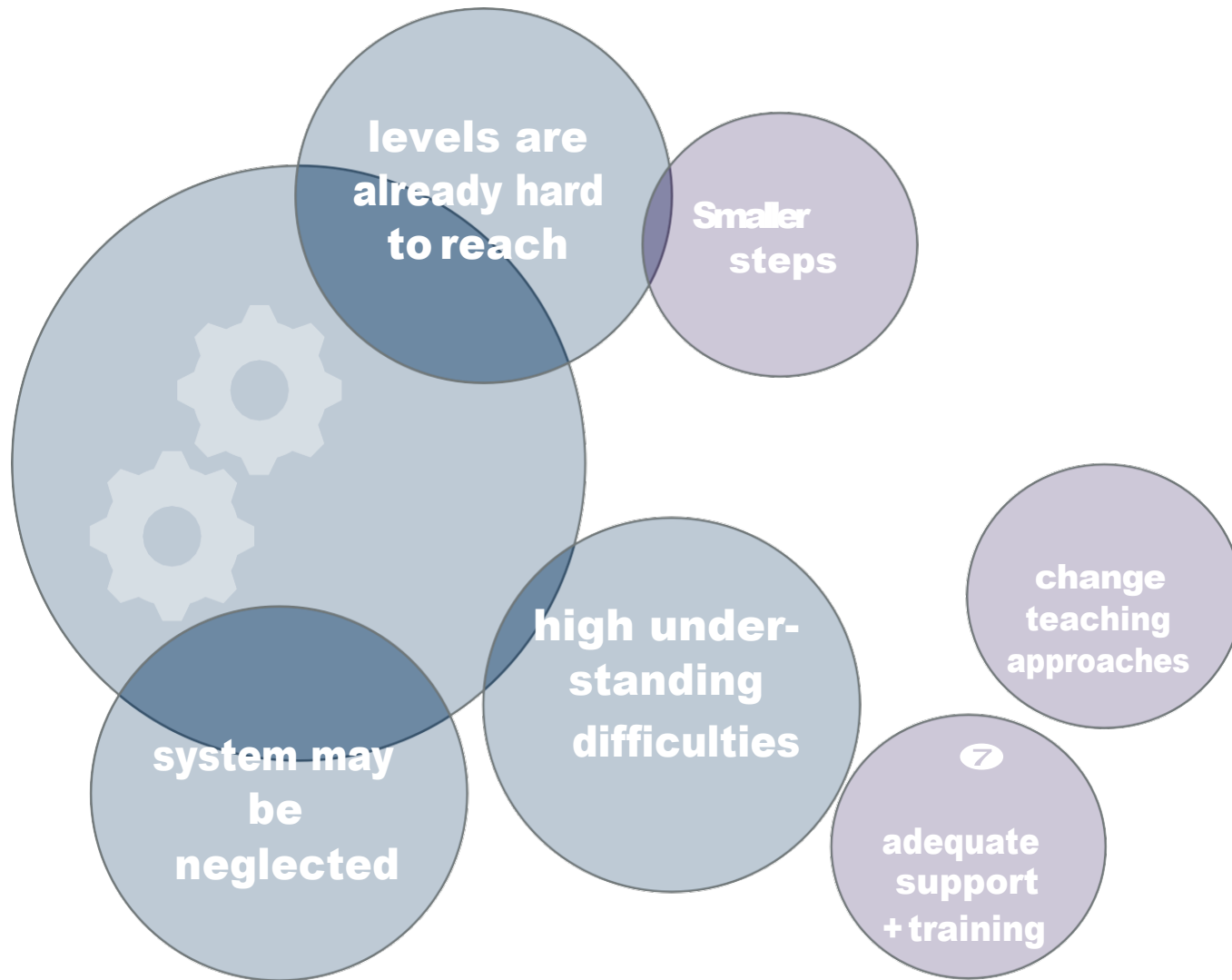

https://unsplash.com/photos/faEfWCdOKIg

(ESL 2015, online; Medium 2016, online; EF w.y., online)

6. Worries Regarding the Implementation of CEFR

Worries Regarding the Implementation of CEFR

levels are already hard to reach

Smaller steps

high under-standing difficulties

change teaching approaches

system may be neglected

❼ adequate support + training

(Maxwell 2015, online; CIA 2020, online)

https://pixabay.com/photos/education-photo-language-learning-4382169/

7. Discussion and Conclusion

Discussion and Conclusion

- Do you have any questions regarding the CEFR?

- What is your view on the adoption of CEFR?

- Do you see a chance for further measures to be implemented? Please elaborate.

https://pixabay.com/photos/school-appeal-students-obedience-1124744/

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