We are happy to send you the latest updates from the Harmonization Working Group.

Achievements - Last Term

Since we sent out the last newsletter in November 2017, the WG has completed the following:

- a presentation of the UN Levels (see graphics on the right)
- the updated Glossary of Terms
- the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Harmonization project
- the Collaboration Exercise for the Regular Levels (see next page for more info)
- the announcement of the UN Language Framework in the February 2018 global learning newsletter
First, we would like to thank the Heads of the UNOG and UNHQ Language Programmes, Virginie Ferre and Felipe Martín-Saráchaga, for their continued commitment to the Harmonization Project.

Second, we would like to share the current membership of the Working Group:

- Kieran Rigney, English teacher at UNOG, joined the team in January 2018.
- Li Bourrit (Chinese/UNOG) will stay involved in the project, but in a limited capacity due to scheduling constraints.
- Javier Serrano (UNON), Jérôme Quentin (UNHQ French) Mary Regan (UNHQ English) remain on the team, with Anna Sanvisens (UNHQ) and Fabienne Pairon (UNOG) continuing at the helm.

In Progress - Current Term

- **Description of UN Levels I, II, III (WLP) and IV**

  You may recall that in November, the Working Group sent out a survey on the WLP to Learning Managers, Multilingualism Focal Points and senior management. We are in the process of analysing their feedback (64 responses) to finalize the definition of the Working Language Proficiency. At the same time, Neus Figueras is working with us to develop descriptors for UN Levels I, II and IV. The Working Group will soon be asking for volunteers to do an exercise on these descriptors to see how clear they are.

  At the next Harmonization Workshops (see below for dates), we will request your feedback on the descriptors. As we did with the WLP, the Working Group will review all the feedback and revise the descriptors accordingly.

- **Collaboration Exercise**

  First of all, a big thank you to all of you for working so hard and so effectively on the Collaboration Exercise for the Regular levels. We heard from many of you how invaluable you found this interaction with your colleagues in other locations.

  The results of the exercise were collated and shared with all of you at our end-of-term meetings in December. You can see those documents here:

  [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11SQh7_apRNh-jFSol2BNjoCd74CWqKA2](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11SQh7_apRNh-jFSol2BNjoCd74CWqKA2)

  This term, the collaboration continues, but with the “Special/Specialized” courses. The Working Group has shared a template with all of the Language Coordinators and Focal Points. After completing the table in your language teams, you will meet with your counterparts in the LCP or LTP and with Javier Serrano or another teacher from UNON before week 8. You will share your results and talk about ways in which the two programmes might be able to cooperate and build more harmonization into the Specialized course programmes. We look forward to receiving your completed tables by 2 March.
• **Division of UN Levels into Sublevels and Courses**

Another big thank you to all of you for your input last term on the division of the new UN Levels into hours/courses. The language teams will continue to reflect on the breakdown this term, and in the future. The goal is to find a model where at least the first layer of sublevels is common to all duty stations, but that is also flexible enough to allow for local realities.

• **Enhancing Multilingualism**

As you know, the main goal of this project is to ‘harmonize’ language learning and assessment across the global Secretariat with a view to promoting multilingualism. The Secretary-General places great importance on the core value of multilingualism and we are happy to report that the Working Group was invited as a guest to the last meeting of the Multilingualism Focal Points at UNHQ. They identified several areas related to multilingualism where the UN Language Framework (UN Levels) could add value, including assessment of language proficiency for job recruitment and performance purposes.

• **Harmonization Workshops - Save the Date!**

  • UNOG: Monday 12 February 2.45 - 4.30 p.m.
  • UNHQ: Thursday 15 February 3.15 - 4.45 p.m.

At these workshops, the Working Group will seek your input on two topics:

1. the breakdown of the UN Levels into hours/courses
2. the draft definitions of the UN Levels

**Next Steps - Future Terms**

• The Working Group is hoping to extend its communication outreach by creating a presence on the Language Learning Services Unit (LLSU) page on the UNHQ HR Portal and on the UNOG Learning website (https://learning.unog.ch/). We are fortunate to have the cooperation of David Hattem in the LLSU as well as working group members with excellent creative and design skills. Stay tuned for future presentations, animations and conversations.

• **Templates for Curriculum and Course Programmes**

Next term, the Working Group will continue developing templates and initial outlines for the new Curriculum and Course Programmes. The goal is to have the the ‘final drafts’ ready by July 2018. Once again, the Working Group will seek your assistance and feedback when we get closer.