

Language requirements for adult migrants in Italy: a jigsaw of skills

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Outlines

- LAMI Posters: trends and access in EU
- From macro level to micro level: a LAMI Poster related to a single country
- The situation in Italy:
 - ✓ Overview
 - ✓ Language courses
 - ✓ Compulsory tests

Language **A**ssessment **M**igration **I**ntegration

Posters

Describe the scenario

LAMI Posters:

structure and contents

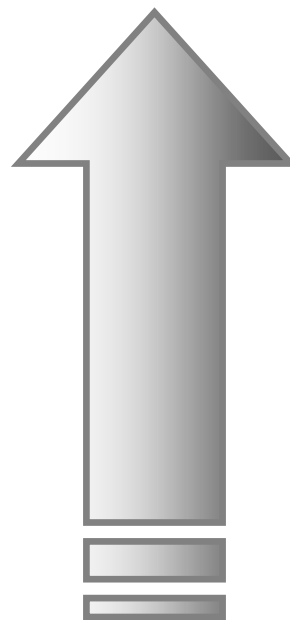
- **5 main areas investigated:**
 - 1. Overview (migrant population)**
 - 2. Policy**
 - 3. Teaching and Learning**
 - 4. Testing**
 - 5. Impact**

Test for migration purposes: a macro trend in UE

■ 2010: 75%

■ 2007: 61%

■ 2002: 29%



Access in a migrants' "journey"



Host country

Society

Employment

Visa

Long-term

Citizenship

Welfare

Literacy

Higher education

Language and KoS course

Language test

4 domains



Country	Entry	Permanent residence	Citizenship	Official courses
Germany*	A1 only for family reunion (exceptions for certain nationalities and for highly qualified persons, where there is NR)	B1 + KoS test	B1 + KoS test	Compulsory or optional (depending on country of origin and other criteria)
Italy*	A2 (only speaking) + KoS (both to be demonstrated by the first 2 years after the first entry) for all the ex EU citizen (age ≥ 16 years), with the exception of particular cases of refugee :	A2 (listening, reading and writing, not speaking)	NR	Language courses: optional and free of charge KoS course: compulsory (10 hours) and free of charge
Czech Republic*	NR	A1	B1 level + KoS test	Optional, paid by the candidates

KoS = Knowledge of Society

NR = No Requirements

***For more information see the SINGLE COUNTRY POSTER**

Italy: general information

- Around **5 million** foreigners
- **7.4%**: percentage of migrants in relation to the overall population (\approx 59 million)
- In the recent past immigration experienced **exponential growth**:
 - ✓ a 20 fold increase in 20 years
 - ✓ another 3 million in the last decade

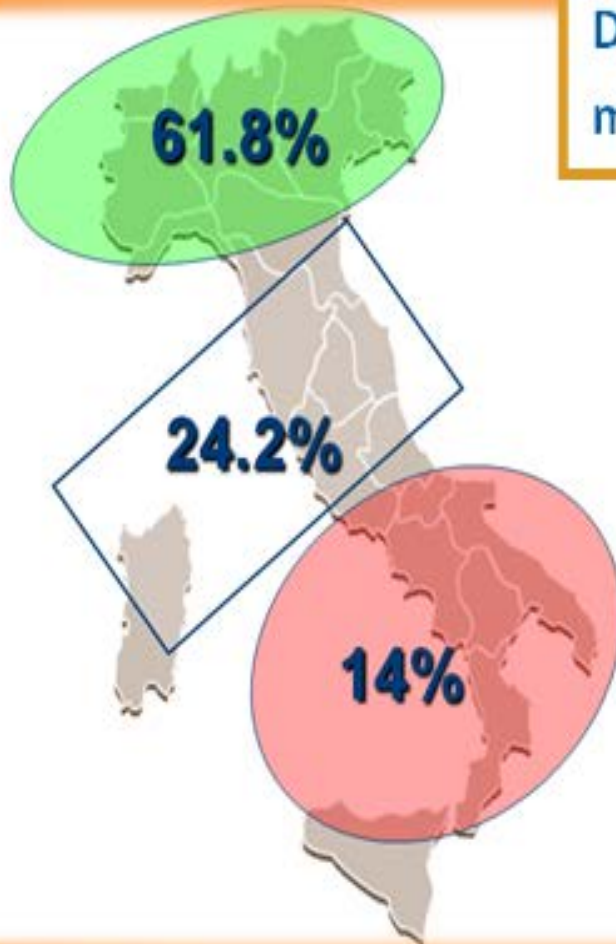


Every day ...

- 150.000 arrivals
- 70 marriages
- 200 births



Distribution of the migrant population



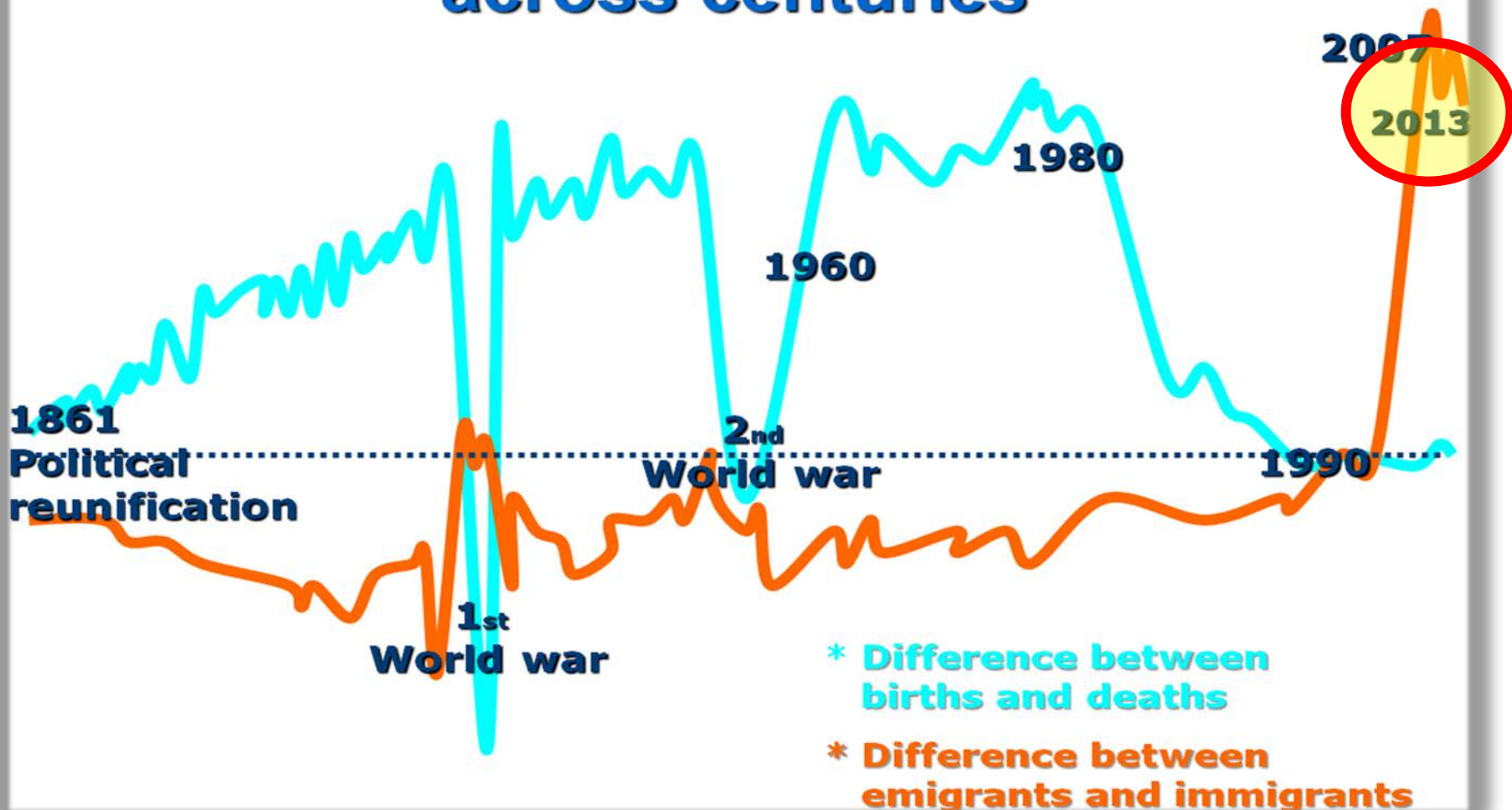
Largest communities:

1. Romanian (\approx 1 million)
2. Moroccan (\approx 500,000)
3. Albanian (\approx 500,000)
4. Chinese (\approx 300,000)
5. Ukrainian (\approx 220,000)

A changed scenario

- Recently a new trend is emerging, particularly because of the economic crisis:
 - ✓ on the one hand there are fewer refugees and fewer fluctuations in entrance numbers (-44% versus the boom in 2007)
 - ✓ on the other hand the number of foreigners who decided to leave Italy is growing, as well as the numbers of Italian emigrants

Natural balance* and Migrants' balance* across centuries



Less polarization

- **France** - 40% in the Paris area
- **UK** – over one third in the London area
- **Spain** – about half settled in Madrid and Barcelona.



Italy - Rome + Milan accommodate only **one fifth** of the over all number of migrants: the distribution over all the country is more pronounced (historical and geographical legacy)

Teaching and Learning 1

- Both public and private institutions provide language courses, optional and free of charge
- Main rule have the so called CTPs:
 - ✓ a network of State schools for adults' permanent tuition, founded in 1997
 - ✓ 2013: 512 CTPs overall the country, employing more than 4,000 teachers

Teaching and Learning 2

- In addition, some charitable organizations and private intercultural associations provide language tuition, with around 2,000 teachers involved on voluntary basis



3 lacks in language tuition

1. **Low percentage of adult migrants involved: 5.3%** of the overall foreign population (only 230,388 people)
2. **Not consistent attendance: 33% drop – out** (average)
3. **Scarce homogeneity** in terms of contents (syllabus, teachers' materials, etc.), despite the fact that in 2012 the Ministry of instruction (MIUR) published guidelines concerning band A. In these guidelines (not prescriptive) a duration of 80 hours of lesson per level is suggested. **No specifications are provided both for the bands B - C or for people with no literacy skills**

Policies: first entry

Law by decree called *Integration Agreement* (2012)

- Newcomers have to reach 3 goals over 2 years (with the possibility of 1 year extension):
 1. Collect **30 credits** recognized to various activities reflecting their efforts towards integration
 2. Attain the **A2 CEFR** level (only **speaking**)
 3. Demonstrate **KoS**, after attending a **compulsory KoS course (10 hours)**, during their first 3 months in Italy)



Accordo di Integrazione

Decreto 14/9/11

**Circolare Interno
5/3/12**

**Circolare Interno – Cooperazione
3/3/12**

**Accordo Quadro Interno - MIUR
7/8/12**

**Testo Unico
Immigrazione 286**

**Istruzioni operative MIUR
Circolare 30/10/12**

**Linee Guida MIUR
31/1/12**

**Circolare Interno
10/2/14**

Policies:

long term residence permit (CE chart)

Law by decree (2010)

- It is possible to ask for the CE chart for migrants who have lived in Italy at least 5 years. After the application, migrants have two months to attain the A2 (reading, listening and writing)

Citizenship and professional domain

- **Criteria for citizenship**

No language requirement

- **Criteria for employment**

Starting from 2010, many employers request the A2 (in all the 4 main skills) from migrants seeking employment. There are specific regional laws (not national) in different sectors: public transport, health, building, and the food and beverage industries

Testing related to the Integration Agreement 1

■ Language requirement: 2 options

1. Pass an official language certification \geq A2 (four main skills) produced by one of the 4 Institutions recognized by the State: University for Foreigners of Perugia (CELI exams); University for Foreigners of Siena (CILS exams); University of Roma 3 and Dante Alighieri Society (PLIDA exams). Only the first two provide specific tests for migrants, with a special rate of around €30
2. Pass an A2 oral exam at the end of a language course attended in a CTPs and structured following the MIUR guidelines. The speaking test is free of charge and it is developed, as is the evaluation criteria, by the CTPs teachers. No uniformity in terms of test format (tasks type, contents, assessment) is provided

Testing related to the Integration Agreement 2

- The CTPs will be the only providers authorized to the administration of the KoS test for those who will not attend the language course

Guidelines for the KoS test

NEWS



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

Dipartimento per l'istruzione

Direzione generale per l'istruzione e formazione tecnica superiore

e per i rapporti con i sistemi formativi delle Regioni

Uff. IV

Prot. 451/AOODGPS

Roma,

3 APR 2014

Ai Direttori Generali
degli Uffici Scolastici Regionali

Testing related to the CE chart

- Language requirement, also in this case: 2 options
 1. Pass an official language certification \geq A2
 2. Pass a specific A2 test produced, administered and marked locally by the CTPs following a *Vademecum* elaborated by MIUR related to listening, reading and writing



Impact

- **Integration Agreement:** if migrants are not able to attain all the 3 goals they are deported from Italy (with the exception of family reunion, refugees, asylum)
- **CE chart:** if migrants do not reach A2 level, they will not obtain a long-term residency permit, losing the rights to many public services

Impact study?

- Because of the *Integration Agreement* is a recent law, no statistics about candidates are available up to now
- In contrast, in relation to the A2 tests for the CE chart, the Ministry collected data:
 - ✓ **93,793 tests** have been administered since 2011
 - ✓ the **percentage** related to **who pass** the test is not at all homogeneous: **from 100% to 36%** with **unfair and macroscopic differences** between CTPs

Lack of comparability

- Caused by the correlation of 4 factors:
 1. **Scarce application of the *Vademecum***
 2. **Little practicality**, in terms of exam conditions
 3. Presence of **low literacy** skills among test takers (**an unexpressed demand that is emerging as indirect consequence of compulsory test**)
 4. Changing **political perspectives** in the different regions
- Moreover, the Government does **not provide compulsory courses for exam preparation** before the test administration

Lack of monitoring

- **No formal monitoring** and **no research on the consequences** has been officially commissioned
- An **impact study is not part of structured action**, but is limited to case studies promoted by single Institutions

A2 required: a jigsaw of skills

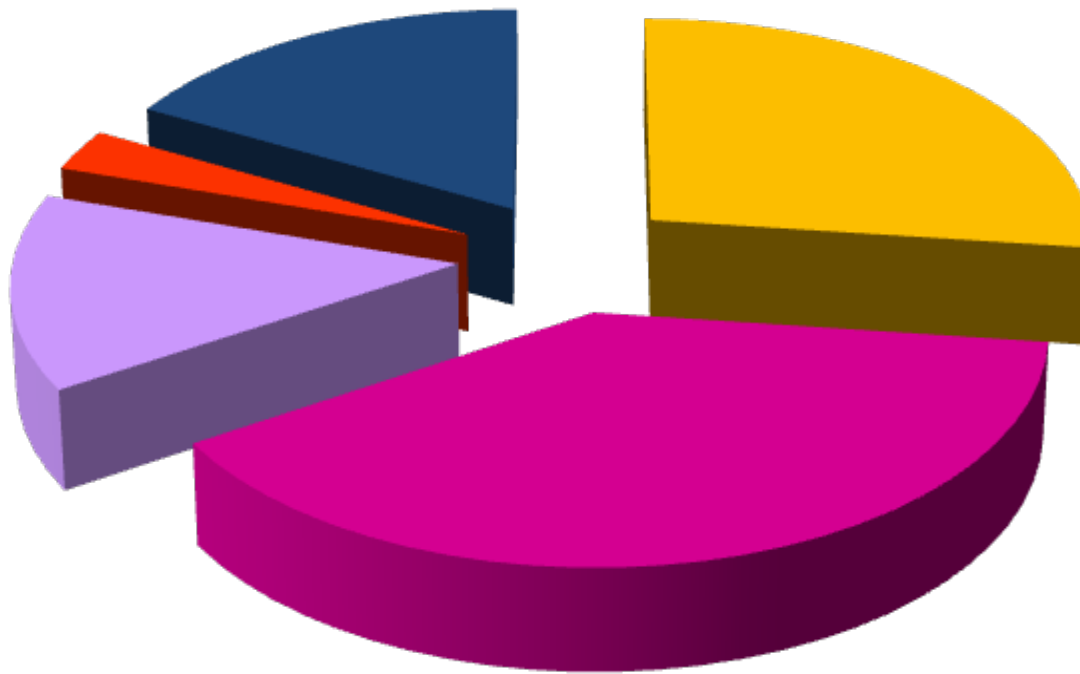
Long term residence permit:

listening, **reading** and **writing** (not speaking)



First entry:
(only) speaking

... but not for all ...



**2014 – 2016: 929,070 ex EU
citizens will have to sit
compulsory tests**

Migrants not involved

- EU citizens: 27%
- ex EU that just have citizenship or CE chart: 39%
- ex EU < 16 years old: 14%
- ex EU (particular cases of refugees/ family reunion etc.): 3%

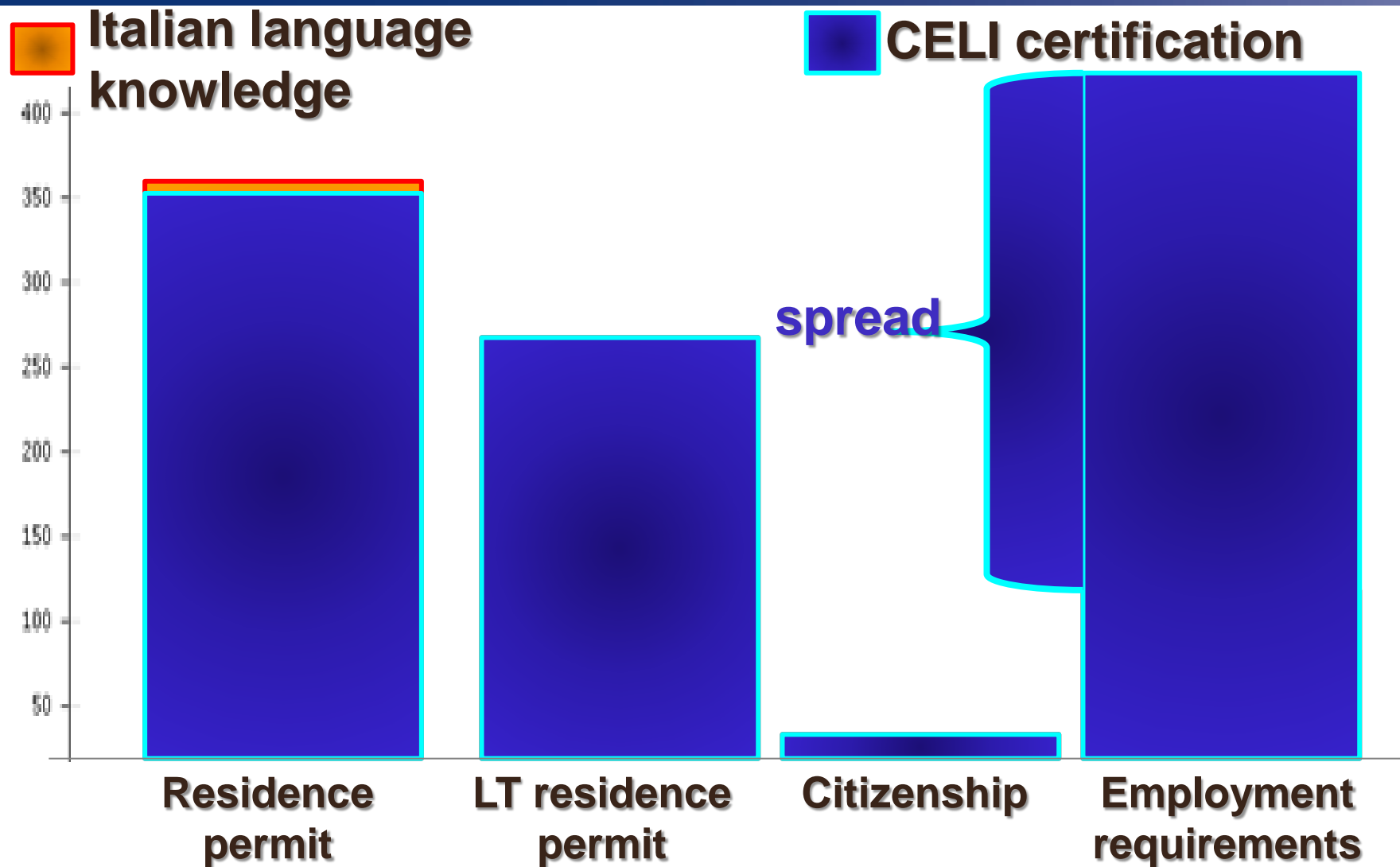
■ Migrants really involved: 17%

Testing related to **employment**

- In this case there is only one option: pass an official language certification \geq A2



In fact



CTP: courses and tests for migrants

Certificazioni/Attestazioni:

▪ Certificati/Attestati rilasciati nei CILS, di cui:	50.564
▪ Pari al livello A2	26.769
▪ Superiori al livello A2	7.060
▪ Inferiori al livello A2	16.735
▪ Certificati/Attestati rilasciati nei CBM:	89.775
<i>Totale Certificati/Attestati</i>	140.339

Summarizing: deep reflection on 2 percentages **17% VERSUS 5.3%**

- Instrumental use of the target language vs linguistic integration: pass the exam is more important than attend a course
- CEFR: not 6 levels but 3
- A2? It's enough

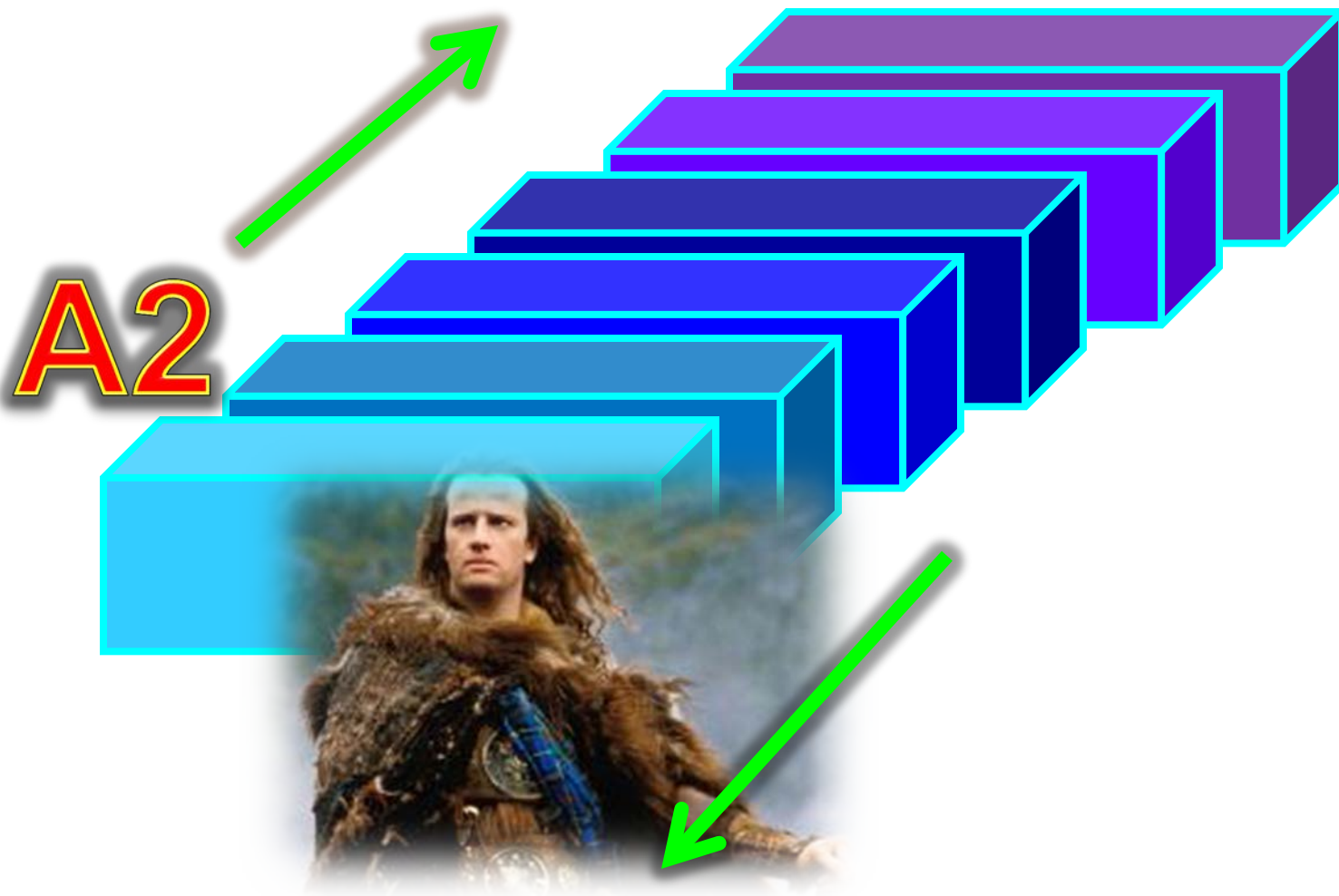
WRONG!

WRONG!

WRONG!

2 CHALLENGES

Conclusion



grazie