

Self-assessment test of Finnish language proficiency summary of an experiment

Digital Agenda 3.0



Self-assessment test of Finnish language proficiency – experiment



**10
months**

Language proficiency was tested in
20 test sessions between April and September 2024

Currently, Finnish language proficiency data is only available for

50%

of jobseeker clients

Number of foreign-language jobseekers in Espoo:

12,000

Involved in the experiment:

110 clients,

jobseekers and students

23

Espoo employees

+1,000

Annual increase in the number of foreign-language jobseeker clients

Affects the work of

200

personal coaches

The experiment implements the objectives of the Espoo Story

"2 Espoo provides services together with the entire Espoo community"

"7 Espoo is Finland's best city for integration"

The experiment supports Espoo's priorities for digitalisation

"3 The necessary capabilities, skills and resources for digital renewal"

"5 Smooth work with reformed support processes"

Objectives

- To make recruitment easier by allowing a language proficiency test to be included as part of the job application.
- To explore how the use of a digital language proficiency test and the availability of results affect employment.
- To make the language proficiency test available for independent use by clients and the results securely available to employers or personal coaches.

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Implemented by Espoo Employment Services

From the Employment Services, **Caritta Perttunen** acted as the proprietor and **Olga Silfver** as the contact person.

The experience was carried out in cooperation with Rouhia Oy (Reactored) in Espoo between December 2023 and September 2024.

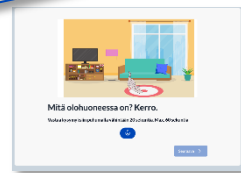
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[Introduction video](#) (YouTube)

Solution: Browser-based Finnish language proficiency test, which tests four areas of language proficiency:

1. listening,
2. reading comprehension,
3. writing and
4. speaking.

- Use on a computer or mobile device, independent of time and place
- Duration 20–30 minutes
- Automated checking of answers
- Results report available via a link and for downloading (PDF)
- Results are indicative, not definitive



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User experiences:

- User-friendly
- Provides test results quickly
- Suitable for different situations
- Allows for quicker initial assessment

“Good to get an idea by area of which tasks went well and which presented challenges.”

“This serves a very large part of our clients.”

What was learned from the experiment:

1. Requires a peaceful test environment
2. Users’ digital skills need to be taken into account
3. Users need to be motivated to take the test
4. Further development needs were identified

Involved in the experiment:

133
testers

Room for improvement:

- Reliability of the result requires further validation
- Attention must be paid to the question wording and images (accessibility)
- Possible introduction requires review of operational practices and spatial structure

Assessment accuracy of the solution was

70–80%
in the experience



Further paths: Espoo will consider further development opportunities and acquisition of the solution

Potential uses: Espoo’s employment, recruitment, education and integration services