

## **A02**

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### **Synergies and tensions in computerized language testing**

Developing computerized language tests involves many different stakeholders who have different focuses and interests. The authorities, test developers, test administrators, programmers, graphic designers, teachers, etc. cooperate in the effort to produce valid and reliable computerized tests, and synergies and tensions are part of the process.

The University of Bergen, Norway, is currently developing computerized National Tests of English for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in primary and lower secondary schools. In 2007, the responsibility for the delivery system for the national tests was contracted out to a new service provider, who was to provide the online assessment tools. The first full-scale piloting on the new computer platform took place in the fall of 2008. The first full-scale test will be administered to all schools in September 2009.

The aim of this presentation is to examine some of the synergies and tensions that occur in the process of developing computerized language tests. The primary focus will be on some of the main challenges faced in making the shift from a computer platform that functioned well for online testing, and to a new platform that was still under development.