

# International expertise and local knowledge: striking a balance

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**Global**

**Local**

# International expertise

- Experience in the field
- Continuous research & development
- Benchmarks & standardisation
- Different perspectives increase creativity
- Objective viewpoint
- Mentoring, networking & collaboration
- Initial / temporary / sporadic
- Costly

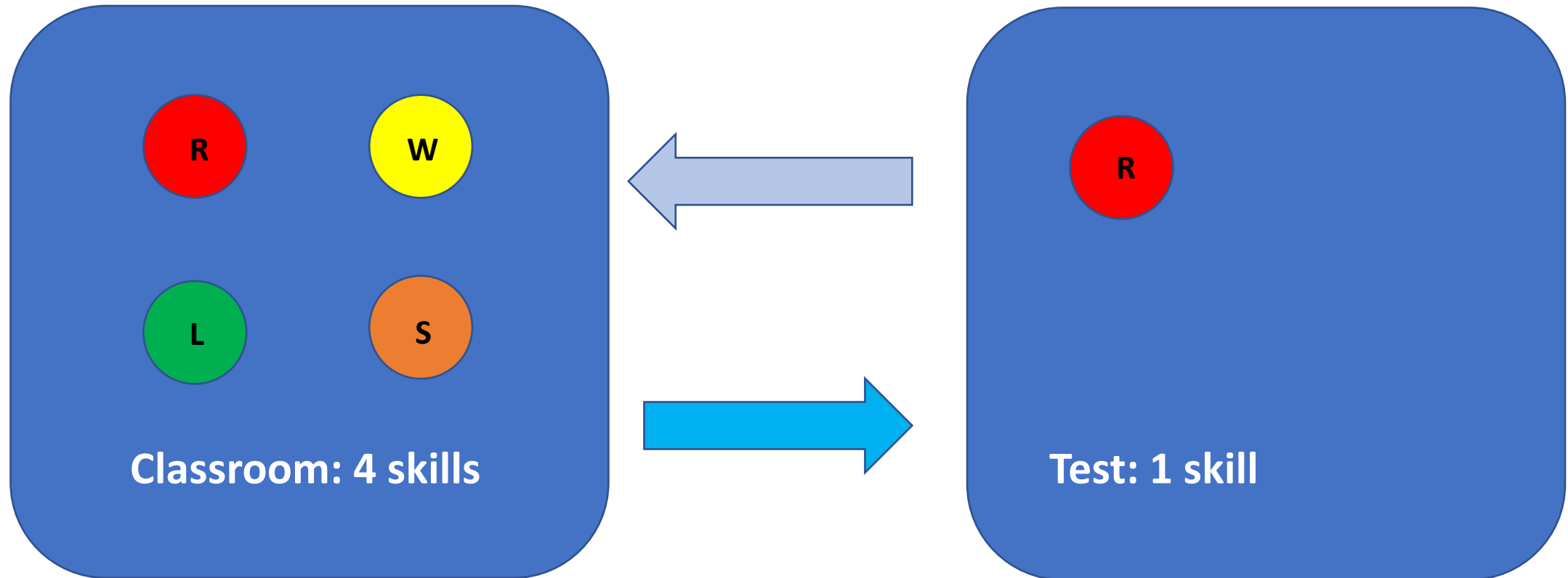


# Local knowledge

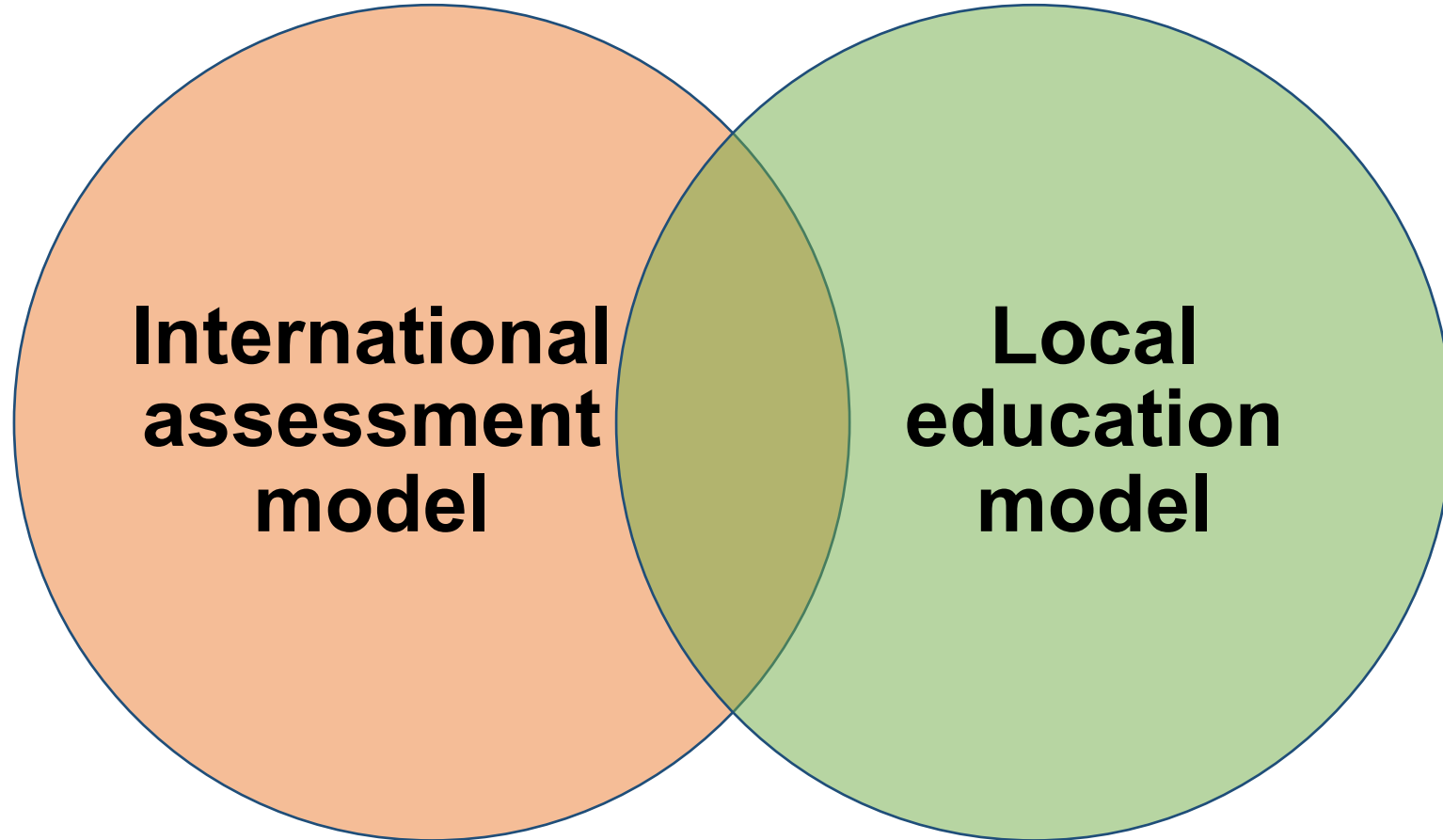
- Cultural relevance & engagement
- Contextual needs
- Changing requirements
- Macro vision of policy
- Locally trained teachers & sustainability
- Teacher assessment literacy & classroom practice



# Reversing backwash



# Integration



# Implementation vs. adaptation



Tomlinson's "most important materials development principle" (n.d: 8):

Teachers should be able to use materials as a resource, as opposed to having to "follow them as a script" (ibid).

# Implementation vs. adaptation

- Blind implementation of materials
- Risk of cultural misunderstandings
- Chasm between teaching and testing

- Localising increases cultural & professional/academic relevance for candidates
- Higher levels of engagement
- Promoting positive backwash
- Local ownership & empowerment



# Collaboration is key

- International collaboration on research
- Full disclosure for international consultants
- Input from local actors
- Regular follow-up and consultation
- Flexibility for local implementation
- Training for local sustainability



# Discussion



- ⌘ How are international and local expertise integrated in your context?
- ⌘ How could both be employed to better effect?

# References

**Tomlinson, B.** (n.d.) Principles and procedures of materials development for Language Learning. Retrieved 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019 from:

<http://www.iltec.pt/pdf/Principles%20and%20Procedures%20of%20Materials%20Development%20Paper.pdf> (adaptation of part of **Tomlinson, B.** (2010) Principles and procedures of materials development. In N. Harwood (ed.) Materials in ELT: Theory and Practice. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.)

# Thank you



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