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## “Quality assurance and self-assessment for schools and teachers ”

Project description	Version 2.0
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### 1. CONTEXT

The project seeks to meet the needs for efficient measures to promote quality assurance in language learning and teaching in the public and private sectors, especially in parts of central and eastern Europe experiencing the change from a highly centralised system to one with more autonomy for schools, teachers and learners. It has built on the experience gained in Workshop 17/98 in Graz on the “Concept of Quality in Language Education” and on the work of EAQUALS, the European Association of Quality Language Services, and regional associations such as Quest, the Romanian Association for Quality Language Services, and the Hungarian Association of Language Schools in the development of systems for quality assurance and quality control in language education.

The project addresses issues related to the development of appropriate models for quality assurance both in the development of educational concepts and practices and in the organisation of systems and schemes for quality control and inspection. It takes account of the Council of Europe’s Common Framework of Reference, the European Language Portfolio and the European Commission’s Quality Guide for the Evaluation and Design of Language Learning Programmes and Materials as instruments contributing significantly to coherence and transparency of standards in language education. It also seeks to adapt and disseminate systems and approaches which have been developed primarily in the private sector and for the teaching of English to the public sector and the promotion of plurilingualism.

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The establishment of high quality standards is not something which can be achieved by a purely top-down approach, and the activities place special emphasis on self-help and self-assessment for institutions, for teachers and for language learners.

## 2. AIMS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The producing of a *guide* as CD ROM and Booklet, to be complemented by a web page in the piloting stage;
- the process of producing the *guide*;
- enhanced co-operation (in the region and beyond), including also the consolidation of a network of professionals with interest and expertise in quality management in language education.

The major product of the project will be a *practical guide* in the form of a **CD ROM**: “**Aspects of Quality Management in Language Education**”, designed to help those involved in developing and implementing quality standards in public and private language education. It will include an analysis of generic approaches to setting standards and an analysis of those areas where standards need to be formulated in the context of local conditions and will be especially relevant to regional developments in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as to countries where such systems have not yet been introduced. The guide will be accompanied by 5 to 10 case studies, reflecting the issues and narrating how they were addressed and solutions found.

The process by which the guide is produced will also be an important outcome of the project. It involves co-operation and networking to collate and share the different experiences of participants in the initial regional workshop in Bucharest – which has also included a training element - and the team of experts who participated in the network meeting to conceive it. This networking has also promoted international co-operation in the establishment and development of quality control systems, and has already provided the basis for further projects. A description of the project process will be produced with the intention of sharing experience in the area of project management and international networking.

The final outcome will be the presentation of the CD ROM and training in its use to the wider audience of ECML members in a central workshop to be held in Graz in June 2002.

## 3. ACTION PLAN / PROJECT PHASES AND RELATED OBJECTIVES

### Phase 1

- Regional Workshop in Bucharest/Romania (Sep 2000);
- Networking / group work - collecting info of what already exists in the field, producing the instruments to facilitate the collection of data and opinion surveys.

#### *Specific Objectives of the Regional Workshop:*

- providing a **forum for networking and the exchange of expertise** in the domain of quality assurance and monitoring in language teaching / learning among professionals from different FL domains;
- awareness raising to **generic concepts and principles of quality management** (e.g. Council of Europe, EAQUALS, European Commission), incl. a comparative view of generic vs country specific aspects;
- identifying **case studies** to be included in the *Handbook / Guide* to be published as a major outcome of the project in 2002, as well as setting the basis for **teamwork** at regional level (and beyond), according to the participants' field of interest, for co-operation within the framework of the 3-year project.

## **Phase 2**

- Network Meeting for 10 experts in Graz (July 2001);
- Drafting materials, circulating them, etc;
- Editing the main project outcome, the *Guide* on CD ROM (editing meeting, Graz, Feb 2002).

### ***Specific Objectives of the Network Meeting:***

- **planning the end-product** / 'the *Guide*', conceiving the broad principles to be reflected in the publication;
- selection of material to be included (case studies as examples of good practice, questionnaires as instruments for awareness-raising & self-reflection / self-assessment etc.);
- deciding on the format and the structuring, on the approach to be taken; Action Plans for the next stage.

## **Phase 3**

- **Central Workshop** – Graz, June 2002;
- Finalising the *Guide* for publishing (November 2002);
- Publication of the *Guide*.

### ***Specific Objectives of the Central Workshop:***

- dissemination of good practice, reporting on project outcomes and developments, both in terms of products and processes;
- testing and piloting of the CD ROM;
- selecting and identifying further material for the CD ROM - case studies to be contributed by the WS participants;
- making sure that the public and private sectors are equally well represented in the end-product (the CD ROM), since at the moment we have more relevant materials from the private sector, represented by national associations, than from the public sector.

#### 4. PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE CENTRAL WS (JUNE 2002)

It would be desirable to have workshop participants / experts who are directly involved in quality management issues in the public and private sectors, and who can implement or disseminate quality systems, e.g.:

- representatives of the private and public sector with interest in introducing a quality management system and in potential decision making position, e.g. educational managers, heads of department;
- academic managers with some expertise in quality management (e.g. experience in lesson observation, developing staff appraisal systems, internal assessment of procedures etc.);
- quality inspectors in the public sector or private sector;
- people with relevant experience to contribute with ideas and resources to the project end-product / the CD ROM;
- professionals to whom the information in the publication could be useful and who could take the study further;
- multipliers' with possibilities for dissemination of project outcomes.

There will be both training and practice elements in the workshop, and the participants will be expected to actively participate and be able to contribute to the further development of quality assurance schemes.

It is desirable that they be involved in the dissemination of quality procedures and assessment criteria, with potential involvement in the setting up of quality assurance systems.

#### 5. WORKING LANGUAGES

*The working languages of the project are **English** and **French**. The participants are expected to have productive and receptive competences of one and receptive competences of the other. **Simultaneous interpretation between the two will be provided for the central workshop in June 2002, however not for the other meetings.***

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For more information on the project, visit the ECML website : [www.ecml.at](http://www.ecml.at) or click here: [2.7.1 Quality assurance and self-assessment for schools and teachers](#)