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Participant's report to the National Nominating Authority and the National Contact Point

Meeting report

In the three weeks after the event, please complete this report. It contains two sections:

1. **Reporting:** this is intended as a feedback on the event, on what was learnt, on how the event will affect your work and on how it will be disseminated. In addition to the ECML National Nominating Authority and the National Contact Point in your country the ECML will use the report¹ in the "Experts involved in ECML activities" section of each ECML member state website (please see <http://contactpoints.ecml.at>).

This section should be written in one of the project's working languages.

2. **Public information:** this is intended as an information on the ECML project and its expected value for your country. The content should be of interest for a larger audience. Thus it should link up to interesting publications, websites, events etc. which were discussed on the occasion of the workshop or which are relevant in your country. The public information should be a short, promotional text of about 200 words.

This section should be written in (one of) your national language(s).

The completed file should be sent to

- the ECML National Nominating Authority and the National Contact Point in your country (contact details can be found at <http://www.ecml.at/aboutus/members.asp>)
- and in copy to ECML Secretariat (Erika.komon@ecml.at)

within the given deadline.

¹ Only if you authorised the ECML to publish your contact details.

1. Reporting

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| Name of the workshop participant | Ailín Ní Chonchúir |
| Institution | Maynooth University |
| E-mail address | Ailin.nichonchuir@mu.ie |
| Title of ECML project | Mediation in teaching, learning and assessment (M.E.T.L.A.) |
| ECML project website | www.ecml.at/mediation |
| Date of the event | 18-19 May 2021 |
| Brief summary of the content of the workshop | <p>The ECML project 'Mediation in teaching, learning and assessment' (METLA) sets out to develop a teaching guide for foreign language teachers of primary and secondary education who want to include crosslinguistic mediation in their classrooms. As well as general information about the theory and practice of mediation, the guide will contain examples of mediation tasks in different languages which will draw upon the new descriptors of the Companion Volume of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR-CV).</p> <p>The aims of this online workshop were to (i) familiarise participants with the aims and objectives of the METLA project (ii) present the key notions of the project (iii) present participants with examples of crosslinguistic mediation tasks in different languages and (iv) provide participants with the opportunity of designing their own crosslinguistic mediation tasks.</p> |
| What did you find particularly useful? | <p>I found the groupwork which provided participants with an opportunity to design their own tasks particularly useful. It was very helpful to work with a group to discuss and design appropriate tasks – an opportunity to put the theory into practice. Listening to other groups present their group tasks was also a great opportunity to see the application of tasks to different settings.</p> |
| How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context? | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Research. I have started PhD research on teacher perceptions and experiences of crosslinguistic mediation in Irish language secondary schools. Participating in this workshop was particularly helpful for me as I had the opportunity to benefit from the experience and knowledge of experts in the field and |

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| | <p>reflect upon the application of what I learned about crosslinguistic mediation to the Irish context.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Sharing knowledge with my Department. The principal mission of Maynooth University's Centre for Irish Language is to provide quality Irish language teaching, testing and professional training, in response to changing educational environments within the University and the wider community it serves, locally, nationally and internationally. The Centre has always drawn on work done in Europe and its work in the area of language testing is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The publication of the CV in 2018, with the new Mediation Descriptors is an important step for all involved in language teaching and it was beneficial for our Department that I was able to attend this workshop and share the knowledge I gained from attending. 3. Teacher training. As coordinator of a teacher training certificate for Irish language teachers, I deal with teachers from various sectors – adult education, primary school, secondary school and third level. I will use what I learned from my participation in the METLA workshop to inform my course design and teaching and create an awareness of crosslinguistic mediation which was hitherto not incorporated in the training. 4. I provide mentoring and feedback for preservice teachers in Irish language secondary schools. One of the challenges that these teachers meet is uncertainty regarding the use of English/Irish in the classroom. I hope, as part of my research, to design a training module on mediation and in particular crosslinguistic mediation tasks as they would pertain to the Irish language secondary school subject classroom. I hope that this training will increase the teachers' awareness of mediation, of crosslinguistic tasks and enable them to design their own tasks for their own subjects. |
| <p>How will you further contribute to the project?</p> | <p>I would be happy to attend further workshops when they occur and participate in any other METLA training events.</p> |
| <p>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</p> | <p>I will organize an online meeting / presentation with my colleagues in the Centre for Irish Language in Maynooth University in order to share</p> |

- to colleagues
- to a professional association
- in a professional journal/website
- in a newspaper
- other

what I learned about mediation, the METLA project and in particular crosslinguistic mediation tasks.

I will incorporate what I learned into various workshops and training courses which I deliver on behalf of the Centre for Irish Language. As well as the Certificate in Teaching Irish to Adults (online), I facilitate other training and workshops throughout the academic year – these include training for Fulbright and Irish Canada University Foundation foreign language teaching assistants who take up placements to teach Irish in the US and Canada. I anticipate that what I learned during the 2-day workshop will inform the future content of those training courses and also work I do on task design for the language classroom.

2. Public information

Short text (about 200 words) for the promotion of the ECML event, the project and the envisaged publication with a focus on the benefits for target groups. This text should be provided in your national language(s) to be used for dissemination (on websites, for journals etc.).

Foilsíodh an *Companion Volume*, comhleabhar a dhéanann forbairt ar an bhFráma Tagartha Comónta Eorpach, sa bhliain 2018. Mar chuid den chomhleabhar seo, foilsíodh tuairiscíní don Idirghabháil mar ghníomh teanga den chéad uair – ag tabhairt úire is beocht di mar ghníomh cumarsáideach teanga. Tá sé mar aidhm ag tionscadal METLA de chuid an ECML treoirleabhar a fhoilsiú a bheadh dírithe ar mhúinteoirí teanga ag an mbun agus ag an meánleibhéal oideachais ar mian leo an idirghabháil thrasteangeolaíoch a chur san áireamh ina seomraí ranga. Mar chuid den tionscadal seo, d’eagraigh an ECML ceardlann dhá lá ar an 18-19 Bealtaine 2021. An aidhm a bhí leis an gceardlann ná (i) aidhmeanna agus spriocanna an tionscadail a chur os comhair na rannpháirtithe (ii) príomhphointí an tionscadail a mhíniú (iii) samplaí de thascanna trasteangeolaíocha i dteangacha éagsúla a chur i láthair na rannpháirtithe (iv) deis a thabhairt do rannpháirtithe a gcuid tascanna féin a dhearadh. Tá áthas ar *Lárionad na Gaeilge: Taighde, Teagasc agus Tástáil* in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad go raibh deis ag Ailín Ní Chonchúir ón Lárionad freastal ar an gceardlann agus a taithí a roinnt lena comhgleacaithe.

The CEFR Companion Volume with its new Mediation Descriptors was published in 2018, bringing a new perspective to the concept of mediation in language classrooms. The ECML project ‘Mediation in teaching, learning and assessment’ sets out to develop a teaching guide for foreign language teachers of primary and secondary education who want to include crosslinguistic mediation in their classrooms. As part of this project, the ECML organised a 2-day workshop on 18-19 May 2021. The aims of this online workshop were to (i) familiarise participants with the aims and objectives of the METLA project (ii) present the key notions of the project (iii) present participants with examples of crosslinguistic mediation tasks in different languages and (iv) provide participants with the opportunity of designing their own crosslinguistic mediation tasks. The Centre for Irish Language – Research, Teaching and Testing in Maynooth University was pleased that Ailín Ní Chonchúir from the Centre had the opportunity to attend the METLA workshop and share her experience with her colleagues.