ECML PROGRAMME 2016-2019
PROGRAMME 2016-2019 DU CELV
PROGRAMM 2016-2019 DES EFSZ

LANGUAGES AT THE HEART OF LEARNING
LES LANGUES AU CŒUR DES APPRENTISSAGES
SPRACHEN ALS HERZSTÜCK DES LERNENS

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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 report[1] 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.

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

Name of the workshop participant	Siobhán Donovan
Institution	University College Dublin
E-mail address	siobhan.donovan@ucd.ie
Title of ECML project	A Quality Matrix for CEFR Use
ECML project website	http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/QualityassuranceandimplementationoftheCEFR/tabid/1870/language/en-GB/Default.aspx
Date of the event	9-10 May 2017
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	The workshop brought together thirteen international practitioners – a mixture of participants from the initial networking meeting in November and others with experience on previous EMCL cognate projects – and the 5 members of the project team. After sharing our individual responses to the first version of the Qualimatrix – the online tool for the evaluation of potential or existing CEFR aligned courses/programmes/curricula by different target users – we then collaborated in small groups as well as in the plenary sessions in order to bring it to the next level. This involved contemplating ways of improving the overall design, considering a pathway system to address different target users, suggesting revisions of the questions and the draft tutorials, while continually keeping in mind the accessibility, transparency and benefits of the tool for the different needs of the divergent user groups.
What did you find particularly useful?	The workshop was extremely beneficial to me for several reasons: 1) Collaborating with practitioners from different countries and sectors of language teaching – primary, secondary, tertiary, decision-makers – and the CEFR experts, and sharing insights and approaches, which help me in my own design and teaching, and as well as consider ways in which my institution can better align its language teaching with the principles of the CEFR 2) The pre-meeting tasks really helped me to get a better understanding of the tool and what it is hoping to achieve 3) Working together in a positive and constructive dialogic environment, knowing that our suggestions and input were being

	actively taken on board in order to enhance the tool (e. g. adopting a system of different pathways for different users, expanding the tool to turn it into a portal with a possible glossary and hyperlinks to relevant websites) 4) My involvement in the project is very timely as coincides with the culmination of a large-scale Curriculum Review and Enhancement that was undertaken at my institution over the last 1.5 years 5) As a result of my participation in this project, I was invited to represent my University School at a workshop organized by our Applied Language Centre (a separate centre from my School) on language testing aligned to the CEFR, held by Carol Spoettl of the Language Testing Research Group at Innsbruck
How will you further contribute to the project?	I have agreed to pilot the tool. This will be done in conjunction with the other Irish participant, Aoife Ní Ghloinn. We envisage this as an interactive workshop open to colleagues from several Irish Third-Level institutions. It is hoped to link this up with the publication of the long-awaited and overdue National Foreign Languages Strategy. I intend to interview Jean Connacher at the University of Limerick who is embarking on an alignment of the language curricula at her institution, for possible inclusion in the examples of best practice
How do you plan to disseminate the project? - to colleagues - to a professional association - in a professional journal/website - in a newspaper - other	- Through the afore-mentioned plans for piloting which should bring together colleagues from different third-level institutions in Ireland - By talking about it at our annual German Studies Association of Ireland conference in the autumn - By putting a link to the project on our School's website - By bringing it to the attention of the Head of the Applied Languages Centre (ALC) at my institution

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.).

Within the context of a burgeoning plurilingualism in Irish society and the concomitant reforms currently underway within Irish education (introduction of new curricula for the 4 Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages from September 2017, the curricula reforms within many Irish Third-Level institutions) and as we eagerly await the imminent publication of the crucially important National Foreign Languages Strategy, awareness of the benefits and innovations of the CEFR is rapidly increasing, and interest in implementing CEFR-aligned curricula is growing. The development of an online tool for the evaluation of potential or existing CEFR aligned courses/programmes/curricula is thus particularly timely. The Qualimatrix tool targets different groups involved in MFL curriculum design – teachers, curriculum designers, decision-makers – at primary, secondary and third level. More than just a tool or survey, the Qualimatrix is a web-based portal containing short videos, tips, examples of good practice and links to cognate websites and useful resources. The accompanying questions are grouped according to the 4-

stage cycle often used within quality management and assurance: planning, implementation, evaluation and reflection. Upon completion of the online questionnaire, the user/user team is given instant evaluation. The tool will facilitate continual professional development by supporting practitioners who want to enhance foreign-language teaching programmes in line with best international practice.
http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/QualityassuranceandimplementationoftheCEFR/tabid/1870/language/en-GB/Default.aspx