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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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:Erika.komon@ecml.at))

within the given deadline.

<sup>1</sup> Only if you authorised the ECML to publish your contact details.

## 1. Reporting

<b>Name of the workshop participant</b>	<b>Aoife Ní Ghloinn</b>
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Maynooth University</b>
<b>E-mail address</b>	<b>aoife.nighloinn@nuim.ie</b>
<b>Title of ECML project</b>	<b>A Quality Assurance Matrix for CEFR Use</b>
<b>ECML project website</b>	<a href="http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/QualityassuranceandimplementationoftheCEFR/tabid/1870/language/en-GB/Default.aspx">http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/QualityassuranceandimplementationoftheCEFR/tabid/1870/language/en-GB/Default.aspx</a>
<b>Date of the event</b>	<b>9-10 May 2017</b>
<b>Brief summary of the content of the workshop</b>	<p>The aim of this ECML project is to develop an online tool that can be used to guide, support and foster self-reflection by language education practitioners regarding the use of the CEFR in language teaching, assessment, curriculum development and teacher training. This was the second workshop involving stakeholders from ECML member states in the development of the Qualimatrix tool. A major focus of the workshop was to gather feedback from these stakeholders on the current draft of the Qualimatrix and to work together to begin implementing relevant changes. A second focus was the compilation of illustrative examples of best practice in CEFR-implementation that will provide additional guidance to users of the Qualimatrix. Further work on the development of the tool was also discussed.</p>

<p><b>What did you find particularly useful?</b></p>	<p>The workshop further developed my understanding of quality assurance and quality management, and encouraged me to self-reflect on my own professional practice and on the ways I can contribute to quality assurance in CEFR use in Ireland.</p> <p>The discussions with other workshop participants were particularly enlightening in that they highlighted the common challenges associated with implementing CEFR-related change in various countries and educational contexts, while also presenting promising practices for overcoming these challenges.</p>
<p><b>How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?</b></p>	<p>I hope to use the tool as part of continuous professional development workshops and course evaluation procedures in my university.</p>
<p><b>How will you further contribute to the project?</b></p>	<p>I would like to organise workshops, both within and outside of my own university, in order to pilot the tool and gather feedback from various groups of stakeholders in Ireland, including teachers, course directors, and those involved in curriculum development and assessment. I would also be happy to contribute further in the compilation of examples of best practice in CEFR-implementation, in order to provide additional guidance to users of the Qualimatrix.</p>
<p><b>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to colleagues</li> <li>- to a professional association</li> <li>- in a professional journal/website</li> <li>- in a newspaper</li> <li>- other</li> </ul>	<p>I would like to collaborate with colleagues both within and outside of my university to organise a workshop or conference to stimulate discussion and self-reflection among university language departments in Ireland regarding the alignment of university courses and assessments with the CEFR, and the quality assurance issues involved in that alignment.</p>

<p><b>2. Public information</b></p>
<p><b>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.).</b></p>
<p>The use of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is becoming increasingly prevalent in language education in Ireland. It has been used in the development of the specifications for the new Junior Cycle language curricula, due to begin implementation in September 2017. There has been a move in recent years to align university language syllabuses and assessments with CEFR levels, partly in response to new regulations introduced by the Teaching Council of Ireland, requiring second level language teachers to provide evidence of a minimum language proficiency of CEFR level B2.2. The CEFR has also been used to inform the development of standardised language tests,</p>

language teaching materials and CALL learning resources.

This trend towards CEFR-alignment is set to continue with the launch of a long-awaited national strategy for language education in Ireland, due to be published imminently. According to a [Department of Education press release in April 2017](#), the strategy 'will mainstream use of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages'.

This commitment represents a very positive development, as implementation of the CEFR has great potential for stimulating innovation, as well as increasing transparency and cohesion in language education in Ireland as a whole. It is essential, however, that adequate quality assurance practices are established to ensure consistent, meaningful and effective use of the CEFR.

The ECML Quality Assurance Matrix will provide an invaluable resource to guide practitioners and policy makers in the planning, implementation and evaluation phases of CEFR-related projects, by encouraging self-reflection on key principles of quality, through the use of a freely accessible interactive online tool. In this way, it could contribute greatly to more meaningful, well-informed, consistent and effective use of the CEFR in all areas of language education in Ireland.