



R1

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

Name of the workshop participant	Siobhán Donovan
Institution	University College Dublin (School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics)
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	15-16 November 2016
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	Introduction of the proposed QualiMatrix: the online self-assessment tool designed to prepare for the introduction of / evaluate the success of the implementation of the CEFR in a particular context or curriculum. This necessitated a consideration of the different quality assurance concepts and especially a sharing of the different ways in which the CEFR is implemented (partially or comprehensively) in the countries of the different participants at all educational levels – primary, secondary and third –, and in the areas of curriculum design, teaching, assessment, policy-making and teacher education.
What did you find particularly useful?	1) Getting to know the other Irish participant, Aoife Ní Ghloinn, and hear about her research and expertise in using the CEFR in the assessing and teaching of Irish. Often in Irish universities, Irish and modern foreign languages are in different institutes and unless one is in applied linguistics, there is little opportunity to share best practice in language teaching and curriculum design. 2) Meeting the international participants and learning about how different countries apply and implement the CEFR in curriculum planning, teaching, assessment and teacher education, thereby getting ideas for the language modules I teach at UCD. 3) Experiencing the ECML first-hand was exciting, and 4) meeting with the experts in the field who were all so friendly and approachable. 5) The handouts and slides that were used. 6) I am not an applied linguist (I am mainly a literary scholar) and the whole experience has galvanised me as I prepare for another semester, made me study anew the CEFR, and made me realise how I can better align the 2 nd year German-language curriculum for which I have responsibility.

<p>How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?</p>	<p>I am better informed about a) the CEFR and b) how it can be implemented, and want to use this knowledge to better adapt our curriculum and assessment to the CEFR holistic and learner-centred principles. I intend to share my experiences of the workshop with my colleagues in my university in the full instance. The other Irish participant and myself continue to collect data on CEFR-related practices in Ireland, with reference to Irish and other foreign languages, and we intend to make this available to practitioners in our respective areas as another way of flying the CEFR flag and encouraging greater alignment. We are also considering the possibility of organising a workshop on the CEFR pending the publication of the much-awaited Irish National Language Policy on Language Education or when the QualiMatrix tool has been fully developed for use.</p>
<p>How will you further contribute to the project?</p>	<p>I have agreed to take part in the dissemination of ideas and suggestions relating to the project, though as I am not an applied linguist I am not sure how much help I can give.</p>
<p>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to colleagues - to a professional association - in a professional journal/website - in a newspaper - other 	<p>I plan to give a presentation to colleagues in my institution, but probably more about all aspects of the workshop, and in particular the benefits of CEFR-aligned curriculum, than about the QualiMatrix tool itself.</p>

<p>2. Public information</p>
<p>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.).</p>
<p>In a recent international workshop held at the ECML, a group of ca. 35 international practitioners came together to discuss the introduction of a proposed “QualiMatrix”, an online quality assurance tool designed for use before implementation of the CEFR in a particular context or curriculum, or as an evaluation of an-already existing implementation. In order for the participants to gain a fuller understanding of the approach and for the expert authors to devise a tool that is user-friendly (for both teachers and curriculum designers), a key and very beneficial focus of the workshop was the sharing of CEFR-related experiences in the different countries represented, at all education levels, and in the areas of curriculum, teaching, policy-making, and teacher education. The participants were introduced to the robust quality assurance principles underpinning the approach in building the matrix, and discussed in a very informative way the general principles of universal design that are the base for every aligned curriculum. The discussion of the tool and CEFR itself, together with the sharing of best practices and introduction to the facilities and projects of the ECML, made this an extremely stimulating conference.</p>