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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. Reporting

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

Name of the workshop participant	Aoife Ní Ghloinn
Institution	Maynooth University
E-mail address	aoife.nighloinn@nuim.ie
Title of ECML project	A Quality Assurance 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	<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. The workshop took place in the early stages of the project, and thus, served to involve stakeholders from ECML member states in the development of the Qualimatrix tool. The content of the workshop comprised three principal activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Gathering, sharing and discussing examples of CEFR implementation in each member state; 2) Presentations by the project team on the concept of quality assurance and on various approaches to assessing and managing quality; 3) The presentation of the initial conception of the Qualimatrix tool, with discussion and feedback from workshop participants.
What did you find particularly useful?	<p>The pre- and post-workshop tasks of compiling information regarding CEFR implementation in my country were extremely useful as they gave me a clearer picture of CEFR use in Ireland and brought me into contact with the network of people involved in its implementation in various educational contexts. The discussions with other workshop participants were enlightening in that they highlighted the common challenges faced in many different countries and educational contexts in implementing CEFR-related change, while also presenting promising practices in overcoming these challenges. The presentations on quality assurance and quality management were also very useful in deepening my understanding of these concepts. Overall, I found the workshop very motivating in the way that it encouraged me to self-reflect on my own professional practice and on the ways I can contribute to quality assurance in CEFR use in</p>

	Ireland.
How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?	I hope that my increased understanding of the concept of quality assurance and of approaches to quality management will help to inform the evaluation and reform of teaching and assessment practices in my professional context.
How will you further contribute to the project?	I will continue to compile information on CEFR use in Ireland, particularly on the challenges involved in implementing the CEFR and on promising practices that contribute to high quality implementation. I would also welcome any opportunities to engage further with the project team and with the Qualimatrix tool as it develops, for eg. by piloting the tool as part of evaluation and reform procedures in my own professional context and/or offering further feedback.
How do you plan to disseminate the project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to colleagues - to a professional association - in a professional journal/website - in a newspaper - other 	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.

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.).
<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 a programme for English as an Additional Language in Irish primary schools and in the development of the specifications for the new Junior Cycle language curricula, due to begin implementation in 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, language teaching materials and CALL learning resources. The implementation of the CEFR in these contexts 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</p>

contribute greatly to more meaningful, well-informed, consistent and effective use of the CEFR in all areas of language education in Ireland.