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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

Name of the workshop participant	Dr.Deirdre Ní Loingsigh
Institution	University of Limerick
E-mail address	deirdre.niloingsigh@ul.ie

Title of ECML project	Network Meeting: Language for work - Tools for professional development
ECML project website	http://languageforwork.ecml.at/About/tabid/4035/language/en-GB/Default.aspx
Date of the event	1-2 June 2017 ECML Graz, Austria,
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	Language for work (LFW): compendium of approaches; sharing & categorisation of approaches; identifying the key actors involved; professional development framework; LFW vision; Quick Guide; and LFW resource bank

What did you find particularly useful?

The opportunity to hear different accounts & stories about language for work initiatives from such a variety of contexts was most useful.

The following projects were of particular interest to me:

- Finnish language support for academics at the University of Jyväskylä;
- Task-based projects (e.g. French radio project) to promote language practice;
- The role of the language advocate and the ArbetSam approach in Sweden around the sharing of responsibility for language development; and
- Non-directive coaching (UK).

These relate very closely to my own interests in both practice and research at Aonad na Gaeilge (The Irish Language Centre) at the University of Limerick. Although, my practice relates to the promotion of a minoritised language in the workplace (Irish), I found many parallels with language support in majority language contexts across Europe.

It was very worthwhile to interact with others around ways to overcome some of the barriers to language learning and the implementation of a language policy in the workplace. The networking and idea-sharing which took place was powerful, productive and refreshing. I have widened my professional network as a result of the event and will follow up with a new contact in the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) at the University of Ottawa in particular. The discussion around stakeholders (actors) involved in language for work initiatives and supports and the promotion of a linked up “vision” was also very useful. The log of workshop discussions and resources on Padlet has provided a useful archive for participants post workshop. The overview of the work of the ECML and the direction from Susanna Slivensky regarding various themes and weblinks was also useful.

How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?

- I will draw on the shared good practice guides as reference documents in preparing teaching and learning materials for the revised Diploma in Applied Irish programme at the University of Limerick. This programme will target community groups involved in language planning as well as personnel involved in the provision of Irish-medium services in the public sector. Of particular interest is the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks publication *Work Ready*.
- Graz discussions on intercultural awareness are relevant to my professional context due to the increasing focus on the internationalisation of the University.
- I am interested in the general area of language and wellbeing and have recently launched a community-based project relating to the promotion of the Irish language in Limerick. Following the LFW event, I will draw on literature relating to language and resilience for refugees and their host communities. I intend to give further consideration to the importance of tapping into migrant interest in the language in the context of growing the number of new speakers of Irish in Ireland.

How will you further contribute to the project?

- I intend to add some resources to the LFW resource bank on practical ways to support language development at work. I will start by sharing some examples of blog entries which I've used to encourage reflection on the emotional aspects of being a language learner - speaker in the professional context.
- I will promote the LFW Network to colleagues involved in the Cost Action Network on New Speakers. I am an active member of this Network. Our Whole Action Conference will take place in Coimbra, Portugal in September 2017 and the focus here is on collaboration with policy makers and stakeholders with an interest in the dynamics of becoming a new speaker of a language in the context of a multilingual Europe.
- I will contribute some further "snapshots" of practice for the Quick Guide if required and I am happy to be the contact person should it be decided that the guide be translated in Irish. [Note that I do not deal directly with adult migrants and ethnic minorities in my professional role].
- Through my collaboration with Professor Marina Mozzon-Pherson (University of Hull) since the Graz workshop, I have become aware of the **L2 Paths project** funded by the European Commission where support materials on setting up a language advice centre and becoming a language advisor have been created - <http://www.l2paths.eu/> (I will add these to the resources section of LFW website).
- I am privileged to be working closely with Marina on academic articles on language advising for new speakerness. These are based on our Colloquium at the International Symposium on Bilingualism in June 2017
[\[https://www.conftool.pro/isb11/index.php?page=browseSessions&form_session=90&presentations=show\]](https://www.conftool.pro/isb11/index.php?page=browseSessions&form_session=90&presentations=show)
We are considering a "repositioning" of the role of language advisor, including that of the language advisor in the workplace. I am happy to keep the LFW Network informed about this work and our proposed plans regarding the establishment of a new international Professional Network for Language Advisors.

<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have already brought the LFW project to the attention of the Steering Committee leading the University of Limerick “University of Sanctuary” project. 17 scholarships for asylum seekers living in direct provision centres were announced on 19 June 2017 [http://www.ul.ie/news-centre/news/university-of-limerick-celebrates-university-of-sanctuary-award] • I am not directly involved in the provision of English language education and training to refugees or members of minority ethnic groups but I will pass on information on the LFW Network to relevant contacts at the Language Centre at UL. • I will inform <i>Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge</i> (Association of Irish Language Development Officers in the public sector in Ireland) about the ECML LFW Project. • I will report on my participation in the invited workshop in official reports to the School of Culture and Communication, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Limerick. I will send details of my participation to the Higher Education Authority; <i>An Coimisinéir Teanga</i> and to <i>Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge</i> at the new Government Department (June 2017) with responsibility for Irish.

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.).

[ENGLISH VERSION BELOW]

Tionóladh ceardlann dhá lá do 26 rannpháirtí ar cuireadh agus d'fhoireann an togra Teanga don Láthair Oibre ag an ECML, Graz, An Ostair ar 1-2 Meitheamh 2017. Eagraíodh an cheardlann mar chuid de thogra reatha an Líonra agus ba é an téama ná **Teanga don Láthair Oibre – Uirlisí don bhForbairt Ghairmiúil** www.ecml.at/employmentandlanguages

Pléadh cur chuigí éagsúla maidir le foghlaim teanga do chomhthéacsanna éagsúla oibre sna ceardlanna a reáchtáladh faoi stiúir áisitheora. Iad seo a leanas cuid de na comhthéacsanna sin: imircigh atá i bpostanna le pá agus le stádas íseal ag foghlaim na teanga náisiúnta; foireann teagaisc nó taighde idirnáisiúnta ag foghlaim teanga náisiúnta; nó foireann riaracháin ag foghlaim teanga chun freastal ar riachtanais reachtúla a bhaineann le teangacha oifigiúla.

Roinn An Dr. Deirdre Ní Loingsigh, Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge, Ollscoil Luimnigh a cuid taithí ar struchtúir agus ar thograí a bhaineann leis an gcomhairleoireacht teanga agus leis an tacaíocht teanga san ionad oibre a dhearadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm. Bhain na gníomhaíochtaí eile le measúnú a dhéanamh ar an téacs *Quick Guide* (dréacht) do dhaoine proifisiúnta a thacaíonn leis an gcomhtháthú teangeolaíocht imirceach; le sonrú ar rólanna agus ar inniúlachtaí chleachtóirí de réir na gcur chuigí éagsúla agus le himscrúdú ar conas mar a luíonn na rólanna agus na hinniúlachtaí seo le comhchreat um fhorbairt ghairmiúil.

Beidh sé ina bhuntáiste a bheith in ann tarraingt ar an réimse taithí agus ar na heiseamláirí tionscantacha a pléadh ag an gceardlann i gcomhthéacs na gcaighdeán teanga atá molta i mBille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2017 in Éirinn.

Ba chóir tarraingt ar an saineolas sin i ndrúchtadh treoirínte, acmhainní tacaíochta nó i ndearadh seimineár oiliúna do chomhlachtaí poiblí chun tacú leis an bplean chun caighdeán d'earnálacha éagsúla den tseirbhís phoiblí a thabhairt isteach in ionad chóras reatha na scéimeanna teanga amach anseo.

Tá eolas ginearálta maidir le gníomhaíochtaí an ECML ar fáil ag www.ecml.at/languagesattheheartoflearning

ENGLISH VERSION

A two-day ECML workshop involving 26 invited participants and the Language for Work Network project team took place in Graz, Austria on 1-2 June 2017. The workshop was organised as part of the Network's current project and the theme was **Language for work – Tools for professional development** www.ecml.at/employmentandlanguages

Approaches to work-related language learning in a variety of contexts such as: migrants learning the national language in often low-paid, low status jobs; international teaching or research staff learning the national language; or administrative staff learning a language to meet the requirements of Official Languages legislation, were shared in a series of facilitated workshop activities. Dr. Deirdre Ní Loingsigh, *Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge*, University of Limerick shared her experience of designing and implementing language advising and language support structures for the workplace context. Other activities involved the evaluation of a *Quick Guide* (draft) for professionals supporting the linguistic integration of adult migrants; the identification of practitioner roles and competences

required by the various approaches and an investigation of how these roles and competences might sit within a professional development framework.

In light of the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017, access to such varied experiences and innovative examples of good practice in language support will benefit the Irish context. Subject to the introduction of language standards instead of the current language scheme system, it would be useful to draw on discussions in Graz to inform new guidelines, support materials and training seminars which might take place for public bodies in Ireland.

General information on ECML activities is available at www.ecml.at/languagesattheheartoflearning