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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	Prof. Patricia Hermann-Shores, Ed.M (Patty Shores)
Institution	HfH Zürich : University of Applied Sciences in Special Needs Education
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Title of ECML project	“Promoting Excellence in Sign Language Instruction (Pro Sign II)
ECML project website	http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/SignLanguageInstruction/tabid/1856/language/en-GB/Default.aspx
Date of the event	1-2 March,2017
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	<p>The Pro Sign 2 project develops a professionally-oriented competency framework for sign language teachers/instructors. It also provides the basic B2 level materials and learning activities from different European signed languages. The project will also create an European language portfolio (ELP) which adapts the modality to match the specific requirements for signed languages.</p> <p>The workshop shared their planned outputs and outcomes. The former focuses on four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A comprehensive user guide for sign language teaching and learning within the framework of CEFR with an emphasis on B2 Level. -practical examples of how the existing learning and teaching tools are used in sign language education. -development of ELP for sign language learners. - a comprehensive analysis of the need for, and feasibility of a CEFR for sign language teachers with focus on B”. <p>The latter focuses on those planned outcomes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - professionalization and standardisation of sign language education. - Enhanced quality of sign language education, awareness of the linguistic and cultural diversity of

sign languages in Europe.

What did you find particularly useful?

1. The ongoing and expanded network within the Pro Sign 2 groups across Europe.
2. The actual Pro Sign 1 Common Reference Level Descriptors information and booklet in pdf as the background information.
3. The plenary presentation on the European language Portfolio (ELP) to review and refresh my present knowledge based on the Swiss understanding and the compared concepts to Rathmann and Leeson et al via her Irish examples. How could we adapt to the signed languages ? Leeson and Rathmann s short idea on the action research on ELP. I found that very significant and highly relevant.
4. The sharing of the current survey of the Pro Sign Team research on the sign language teacher training – it reflects an ongoing need to develop the training if the aim is to have the excellence in sl training. It was necessary that all of us discussed and shared this vision. In Switzerland, the Swiss Federation of the Deaf collected funding via donations to start the sign language teacher training program. HfH received the mandate to lead the Swiss German training. The Romandie is in process of finalising the plans and start the first training in January 2018.

The topic on the professionalism and standardisation of sign language teacher education was finally brought up for the first time . It is necessary to continue.

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

1. For my work at my university, it will enable me to continue working on the adaptations of Swiss German sign languages (DSGS) to the European Language Portfolio per se language biography. I work with both sign language teacher students and sl interpreting students so will cooperate with Leeson and Rathmann to launch the action research project.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. I am thinking how we could share our 25-30 years of knowledge of our part time sign language teacher training for deaf sign language instructors for our European partners. I am thinking of doing a project- book or video after our training, early in 2019. 3. For the Swiss sign language communities, I shall organise with the responsible parties to share about the ELP and how they could integrate this in their present sign language teaching. 4. Our University will launch the official CEFR project led by Haug and our team for the new SI interpreter training program starting as of September 2018 using the CEFR features incl. ELP.
<p>How will you further contribute to the project?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have volunteered to work with L. Leeson and C. Rathmann on the action research- European Language Portfolio (starting as of September 2017 and ending ca July 2018 collecting our learners s experiences . 2. My role as the national consultant to the Swiss Federation of the Deaf Sign language competence Centre- I shall share the workshop findings and output in their national-wide continuing education for sign language instructors in three language regions (Swiss German, Romandie and Ticino)
<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>In my application form, I mentioned that I shall be doing 3 activities. (27.1.2017). Those activities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My presentation of the project/event in my place of work. As of May 2017, I shall be teaching the new sign language instructor training program about the EMCL, Pro Sign 1 and 2 and introduce Pro Sign 2 per se the European Language Portfolio. 2. My preplanned arrangements with the Swiss Federation of the Deaf (SGB-FSS). B. Daiss and with the Sign language teacher association (BGA)- I shall submit an ongoing continuing education seminar/workshop on the ELP for three sign language regions- We begin to plan in March 2017 and aim for three trainings from 2018-2020. 3. My plans for the publications: <p>I have arranged with the journalist editor Martina Raschle, Visuellplus –Swiss Federation of the Deaf that I shall submit an article about this workshop of early May 2017. The text will then be translated in three written languages and later in three Swiss</p>

sign languages (DSGS, LSF and LSI)

I shall also submit a short text in our University HfH News for the intern and extern readers including all Swiss German cantons and their respective educational authority.

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.).

Note: This text will be translated in six languages in the early spring, 2017.

The proposed Text including the group photo (submitted by EMCL)

Patty Shores was chosen to represent Switzerland via the nominating committee of the EDK-EMCL in the new project: **Pro Sign II: Promoting Excellence in Sign Language Instruction**, in Graz, Austria. The first network workshop took place as of 1-2 March 2017.

The European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe started their new programme as of 2016-2019. The Pro Sign II Team s lled by C. Rathmann, Germany and his team, L. Leeson, Ireland, B. van de Bogaerde, Netherlands and T. Haug (Switzerland) . This project aims to develop a professionally-oriented competency framework for sign language teachers. It also provides B2 level materials and learning activites from different European sign languages. The creation of an European Language Portfolio is to take account of any modality specific requirements for sign languages. The development of professionally orientated curriculum descriptors is aimed with a bottom-up process, with input drawn from experienced sign language teachers via the workshops and network meetings. Those outputs and outcomes will be mapped to content to the current Pro Sign 1 CEFR descriptors. Moreover, the development of the European language Portfolio, allowing the deaf experts to contribute to the process from inception to completion is aimed.

The Pro Sign team aim to work closely with strong network of institutional and NGO at European and regional level including the expanded network of associate partners.

Reference: EMCL Pro Sign II:

[<http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/SignLanguageInstruction/tabid/1856/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>] Accessed on

12.03.2017