



DEVELOPING QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Head of the International Learning and Research Centre works to support the development of Quality Assurance practices, both nationally and internationally. In the United Kingdom this involves providing consultancy support to school and college collaborative partnerships engaged in producing Quality Assurance Frameworks for use in local areas in the development of the 14-19 curriculum reforms.

Internationally, the Head of Centre is participating in the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) second medium term programme. *The QualiTraining Project 2004 - 2007*, is producing a Training Guide for Quality Assurance. The Guide will address quality assurance in a coherent way across fields of language education, across languages and regions.

In October 2006, a central workshop was held in Graz, Austria to enable representatives from the Council of Europe Member States to sample and comment on the Guide, prior to publication. Laura Muresan, Project Co-ordinator, and Adrian Butler, Executive Director of the ECML, welcomed participants from 28 different countries: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. The three day event was led by the Qualitraining team, Laura Muresan (Romania), Frank Heyworth (Switzerland), Galya Mateva (Bulgaria) and Mary Rose (UK).

The workshop programme had been designed to allow each day to begin with examples of practice; case studies which exemplified the theory and the concepts developed in each unit of the Qualitraining Guide. The case studies were contributed by experts from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Spain and the UK. This was followed by input and activities relating to the main themes of the units. The feedback received from the participants has made a significant contribution to the shaping of the final publication.

The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to establish a quality network and to consider future joint work. This was highlighted by Adrian Butler in his final presentation of the outline of the themes for the ECML's third medium term programme (2008 - 2011). Further information about the work of the ECML may be found at www.ecml.at



European Centre for Modern Languages
Centre européen pour les langues vivantes



International Learning and Research Centre Journal

June 2007
Issue 9