



Participant's report to National Nominating Authorities and National Contact Points on workshops

1. Reporting

Name of workshop participant	Kevin Mc Dermott
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Title of ECML project	Language Associations and Collaborative Support
ECML project website	http://lacs.ecml.at
Type of the event	Central workshop in Graz
Date of the event	10-11 December 2009
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	Discussion of issues and challenges facing subject associations and familiarisation with work of ECML
What did you find particularly useful?	Introduction to work and resources of ECML
How will you use what you learnt/ developed in the event in your professional context?	Disseminate information and encourage Subject Associations in Ireland to avail of opportunities afforded by ECML
How will you further contribute to the project?	As requested
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 	Through website (www.slss.ie); at CPD events and through Newsletter



2. Informing the public

Text of about 200 words in your national language(s) to be used for dissemination (on websites, for journals etc.) with a focus on the benefits for target groups

Language Associations and Collaborative Support

The 'Language Associations and Collaborative Support' workshop held in the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz brought representatives from national associations and support agencies together to share experience, encourage collaboration and make the work of the centre more widely known in the Council of Europe member states.

The workshop participants discussed common concerns relating to the work of subject associations (how to maintain membership; the balance between voluntary effort and state-funded support...); issues of concern to language teachers (the use of target language; the integration of learning content into the language classroom; the promotion of plurilingual education...) and they were also briefed on the work and aims of the centre.

Currently the ECML is supporting its third programme of medium-term projects. This programme has the theme of 'Empowering Language Professionals'. It is intended to pursue the objective of empowerment through:

- o Enhancing the professional competence of language teachers
- o Strengthening professional networks
- o Enabling language professionals to have greater impact on reform processes
- o Contributing to better quality in language education in Europe

The participants to the Language Associations and Collaborative Support workshop discussed how these objectives were currently being met in their own situations.

The work of the European Centre for Modern Languages is closely allied to that of the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe. Therefore, many of the projects it supports relate to Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) and the European Language Portfolio (ELP).

To find out more about the Language Associations and Collaborative Support project, check out the website at: <http://lacs.ecml.at/>. Another ECML site worth checking out is the European Language Portfolio resource site: <http://elp.ecml.at/>. If you would like to learn more about becoming involved with an ECML project, the contact organisation for Ireland is Léargas (www.leargas.ie).