



DGIV/EDU/2010(46)

Workshop N° 4/2010 for ECML National Nominating Authorities (NNA)
Graz, 30 June – 2 July 2010

REPORT

[Online version:](#) (restricted access)



Moderation of the workshop

- Terry Lamb, President of the World Federation of Modern Language Associations (FIPLV) and co-ordinator of the Language Associations and Collaborative Support (LACS) project [<http://lacs.ecml.at/>];
- Steinar Nybøle, Observer to the ECML Governing Board, National Nominating Authority and former National Contact Point for the ECML in Norway and Governing Board member;
- Alan Dobson, chair of the ECML Governing Board (moderator of selected sessions);
- ECML staff (Waldemar Martyniuk, Executive Director, Susanna Slivensky, Deputy Executive Director / Head of Programmes, Michael Armstrong, Head of Administration, Margit Huber, Programme and Logistics Assistant, Catherine Seewald, Documentalist, Anna Kehl, Communication Assistant).

NNA workshop

Participants: 29 representatives of the ECML National Nominating Authorities in 28 member states and in Canada. Apologised for absence: NNAs of Albania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and Sweden

[List of participants:](#)

The celebration of the ECML's 15th anniversary formed an integral part of the workshop. In addition to the above participants, representatives of Austria as the host country, representatives of the member states to the Council of Europe (Austria, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Switzerland, and The Netherlands), a representative of the European Commission (Multilingualism Unit) as well as of the Directorate General for Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe were present.

[List of participants:](#)

National Nominating Authority: general definition of function

An ECML National Nominating Authority is a person/official agency in each member state responsible for selecting participants for the Centre's activities. The NNA acts as the relay between the expert community in their country and the ECML, soliciting applications for and nominating participants to ECML events based upon the participant profile and workshop description they receive in the regular calls for nominations sent out by the Centre.

[Website:](#)

Links to ECML websites

Some sources quoted in this report are password protected. As a National Nominating Authority or a National Contact Point, you need to register online to access the resources (for any question please contact: michael.armstrong@ecml.at).

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The second workshop of the National Nominating Authorities (NNA) for the ECML in 34 member states and in Canada was held in Graz on 30 June – 2 July 2010. The event was linked to the workshop of the ECML National Contact Points (NCP) on 29-30 June and to celebrations on the occasion of the ECML's 15th anniversary. The first day of the NNA workshop was foreseen as a collaborative day for discussions on common issues with a particular focus on the ECML programme 2012-2015. The afternoon of 1 July and the morning of 2 July included invited speakers and participants from the Council of Europe's headquarters in Strasbourg, the Permanent Representations of the Council of Europe, a representative from the European Commission, the Austrian Minister for Higher Education and Research, representatives from the Austrian Ministry for Education, Culture and Arts, representatives from the Austrian national, regional and municipal authorities as well as cooperation partners in the field of education and research (in total about 90 participants and presenters).

1. Workshop: context, aims and objectives, programme

National Nominating Authorities (NNAs) are the official agencies in each of the 34 member state and in Canada responsible for selecting the participants in the Centre's central and regional workshops. Identifying and selecting qualified participants for ECML workshops as national representatives is a precondition for the success of the ECML events and project results, as well as for the impact and sustainability of the work coordinated by the Centre at a national level.

The context of this meeting is detailed in the [workshop description](#). The workshop [programme](#) reflects the contents covered and the activities organised during the three days.

Expected outcomes of the workshop

- to further develop cooperation between the ECML and NNAs and to strengthen links with National Contact Points;
- to share examples of successful working practice in the selection of experts for ECML activities;
- to discuss and receive feedback on the concept for the ECML conference 2011;
- to discuss ECML website developments: launch of the new ECML portal, its benefits and the potential for further development of the site;
- to discuss feedback received through the workshop participants' reports to NNAs and review the reporting system;
- to hold discussions on the role of language education in national and European developments.

Expected outputs of the workshop

- information on the national nomination procedure for presentation online;
- NNAs' feedback on ECML draft call for submissions for the 2012-2015 programme;
- data from evaluation of the meeting;
- meeting report.

In preparation for the workshop participants were requested to provide a report on the "Benefits and impact of being a member state of the ECML" presenting a summary of the experience of the ECML's National Nominating Authorities with regard to the implementation of ECML work in their countries. The ECML received feedback from 21 member states. These reports provided a basis for discussions on the impact of ECML work with National

Contact Points on the first day of the workshop (30 June). These reports are published [online](#).

2. ECML evaluation scheme

Identifying and selecting experts who will be involved in the ECML's work and contribute to the dissemination of the results achieved within the national context are crucial for the impact and long term success of the Centre's activities and the implementation of innovative approaches in language education in the member states. For this reason one of the main challenges, which requires coordinated efforts of both the NNAs and NCPs, is how to ensure both that national experts are attracted to ECML events and that the profiles for workshop participants are fully met through the national nomination process.

The ECML evaluation scheme which applies to its programme of activities 2008-2011 may help to evaluate the benefits and impact of ECML activities at national level and to further reflect on nomination procedures.

2.1. ECML overall evaluation scheme

The participants took note of:

- the ECML's overall [evaluation framework](#);
- the results of the most recent post-event and impact surveys carried out in 2009 among participants in central workshops, regional workshops, network meetings and national events, and the project teams which show to what extent the ECML events meet the experts' expectations, how satisfied they are with the quality of services provided by the Centre, in particular with the pre-event information received, the facilities and the infrastructure, as well as accommodation and travel arrangements. Moreover, results of the survey provide evidence on the impact of ECML activities achieved in terms of competence development, involvement in professional networking, influence on reform processes within the professional environment and quality aspects of language education introduced and/or promoted in the participants' context [\[http://contactpoints.ecml.at/Evaluation\]](http://contactpoints.ecml.at/Evaluation);
- detailed results of post-event and impact surveys of workshops in 2008, 2009 and 2010 [\[http://govboard.ecml.at/Programme\]](http://govboard.ecml.at/Programme).

Participants were informed that the detailed data on evaluation results are available upon registration only.

2.2. Project evaluation exemplified by the project "Language Associations and Collaborative Support - LACS"

Terry Lamb, the coordinator of the LACS project [\[http://lacs.ecml.at\]](http://lacs.ecml.at) illustrated how a concrete project is evaluated throughout its lifetime.

Each project has its own evaluation plan provided by the team at the beginning of the project. Each project website includes the password protected section 'Management Plan' consisting of an action plan specifying the series of activities planned within the project, the project evaluation plan and a procedure for quality control (performance indicators applied), as well as a dissemination plan for the project results [\[http://lacs.ecml.at/ManagementPlan\]](http://lacs.ecml.at/ManagementPlan).

Project evaluation involves an annual procedure based upon a plan of intended activities for the year, output and outcomes drafted by the coordinator and reviewed by the project consultant. At the end of each year the coordinator reports on the implementation of the annual plan by means of self-assessment. The report for every project team is evaluated by the project consultant providing who drafts a summary report on all the projects he/she is monitoring. The evaluative feedback from the consultants is included in the ECML annual report.

3. ECML programme 2012-2015

3.1. Presentation

Draft Call for submissions for the 4th ECML medium-term programme of activities, document [DGIV/EDU/GRAZ\(2010\)36](#):

The concept for the Call for submissions for the 4th medium-term programme of activities of the ECML (2012-2015) as outlined in the internal working document [DGIV/EDU/GRAZ\(2010\) 36](#) emerges from a large-scale consultation process with the ECML stakeholders and will serve as the basis for drafting the final Call for submissions 2012-2015. The feedback received during the NCPs and NNAs' workshop will be included in the version of the Call to be discussed and adopted by the Governing Board of the ECML during its 19th meeting on 20-22 October 2010. The finalised version will be published at the beginning of November 2010. Proposals and tenders can be submitted until 1 May 2011.

3.2. Input from NNAs and NCPs

Participants found the following **aspects of the draft Call most attractive**:

- the coherence, concept of continuity and long term vision of the new programme structure will better meet the needs of national policies;
- the inclusive and learner centred approach (all languages for all learners);
- the shift from the teacher to the learner is much more comprehensive and should lead to more concrete outputs;
- project focusing on vocational schools;
- the new emphasis on both formal (classroom) and outside (informal) education;
- the high relevance of lifelong learning (p. 8 of the Draft Call, project D.7);
- the opening from development to mediation;
- further improving dissemination of ECML work (projects M.1, M.2, M.3);
- the balance between pre-defined and open projects;
- personalised project titles.

The draft Call for submissions for the 2012-2015 programme faces the following **thematic, operational and strategic challenges**:

- motivation, for example: motivating parents and stakeholders; how to motivate students to learn languages other than English; how to convince teachers to take on board this comprehensive approach – the idea that all teachers have a role in language education/that modern foreign language teachers think beyond the one/2 languages they teach;

- mediation & measurement (impact);
- broad focus versus concrete projects: finding a balance between the “visionary” and the “practicability” aspect;
- getting familiar with the tools;
- wider and more diverse stakeholder audience means greater and harder dissemination efforts; implications for nomination procedures and dissemination strategies.

The following **adaptations are recommended** to draft the final Call:

- too generalised or confusing terminology should be avoided and concepts should be formulated more explicitly; the concepts of “linguistic integration”, “minorities” (minorité/majorité, langue majoritaire/langue d’enseignement), “regional dissemination” and “regional cooperation” need in particular to be clarified;
- the topics for the Call for proposals need further elaboration (for example “formative assessment” - need to show the link/relationship to summative assessment, p. 10 of the draft Call);
- there should be a balance between majority and minority languages;
- learners with special needs (e.g. blind people) should be taken into consideration;
- the project results should be more explicit in terms of learner outcomes (e.g. clarify what “innovative” means);
- the profile of target groups should be better specified;
- all titles should be personalised.

3.3. Dissemination of the Call for submissions: suggestions by the ECML secretariat

The ECML proposes to use the measures outlined below for promoting the Call for submissions for the ECML 4th medium-term programme. Following the approval of the Call by the Governing Board the document will be published in November both in electronic format and hard copy and distributed to the following key networks in language education:

ECML/Council of Europe networks

- National Contact Points
- National Nominating Authorities
- Governing Board members
- Professional Network Forum partners
- Current/ former team members, associate partners, consultants and participants and the language professionals listed within the ECML experts’ database
- Language Policy Division
- European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
- European Wergeland Centre.



External networks

- Cultural institutes
- European Commission
- Language Network Graz (Sprachennetzwerk Graz)
- Other international organisations working in the field of language education
- Ministries of education of non-member states
- Other relevant professional associations
- Language education journals.

Supporting instruments/ materials

- A dedicated website
- A special issue of the European Language Gazette (end of November/beginning of December 2010) will be sent to the 6 500 subscribers
- A short flyer summarising the themes
- A press release on the Call itself in English, French and German (it may be translated into national languages with the kind assistance of the NCPs and/or NNAs)
- A PowerPoint for presenting the Call.

Events presenting/promoting the Call

Member states will be encouraged to host **national events** promoting the Call or to use appropriate events which are scheduled between November 2010 - April 2011 for presenting the Call. Support from the ECML will take the following form: ECML funding of (maximum) one local organiser, one national ECML expert and a European expert (or a member of the secretariat for certain events). Neighbouring member states would also be encouraged to organise joint events. Up to 34 events will be supported. In addition, there will be **secretariat missions** and **ECML experts' involvement in major language education conferences/events** such as the intergovernmental policy forum organized by the Language Policy Division in Geneva in November 2010 and the events of the partners in the Professional Network Forum. There is also the possibility of a virtual **online conference** on language education.

4. Communication and dissemination: next developments

4.1. New ECML website

A completely revamped version of the ECML website will be launched in September 2010. This new version aims to:

- use the same content management platform as the project and NCP websites of the ECML;
- highlight ECML publications and key resources;
- provide pathways for different target groups (experts, non-experts, policy-makers, ECML stakeholders such as NCPs, NNAs, Governing Board);
- facilitate wider communication and social networking;

- facilitate navigation (2 clicks policy);
- improve the service function (interactive databases);
- link all platforms coherently (projects, 'coordination' website, NCPs, Governing Board);
- to improve accessibility, attractiveness, transparency.

The ECML welcomes any feedback and comments relating to this new website (contact: michael.armstrong@ecml.at).

4.2. Conference 2011

2011 represents the culmination of the *Empowering language professionals programme* with a large-scale conference which will be held in Graz from the afternoon of 29 September to 1 October 2011.

Up to 250 participants will be expected to attend the event. Each member state will be invited to nominate two representatives.

The primary aim of the conference will be to disseminate the work of the 2008-2011 ECML programme of activities by presenting good examples which could be shared with others and to serve as a platform to launch the 2012-2015 programme of the Centre.

The set-up will be similar to the closing conference held in 2007. The Centre will organise a project exhibition and is examining the possibility of developing materials for wide-scale dissemination.

4.3. Dissemination of project publications 2008-2011

The project publications 2008-2011 will be displayed at the project fair within the framework of the closing conference 2011.

In December 2011 the publications will be sent to the NCPs, NNAs and the other ECML stakeholders.

All publications will be downloadable for free from the ECML website. Paper copies will be available upon order free of charge as long as ECML stocks permit. A certain number will be sold through the Council of Europe bookstore.

Interested parties are encouraged to translate ECML publications (which requires a Council of Europe authorisation to be obtained through the ECML) to facilitate their use in a national context. The translated publications will be made available on the ECML website for free.

5. Nomination process: good practice and challenges

How to reach and attract appropriate candidates is a key issue for reflecting the variety of background, qualifications, languages, expertise and practice in Europe and beyond. This challenge may become even greater within the prospective ECML 2012-2015 programme of activities which targets expertise well beyond the field of education in foreign languages.



5.1. ECML practice

The current nomination process is presented in the document "[ECML nomination process](#)". The different steps of nominating a national candidate for an ECML workshop are described from the definition of the participants' profiles by the project coordination teams to the Centre's post-event and impact surveys among the participants and project teams.

Nomination contingency

Sometimes no national representative or more than one candidate is nominated. Each member state benefits from a workshop participants' contingent. If this contingent has not been fully used (e.g. when representatives have not been nominated for each workshop) and if places are available, NNAs have the possibility to nominate more than 1 candidate for events of specific interest to their country.

Working languages

Concerning the working languages required for participating in a workshop, the NNAs' attention is drawn to the fact that participants should be able to use at least one of the working languages at B2 level.

ECML nomination form

The ECML will revise the nomination form sent to the NNAs as follows:

- contact details: a field will be added for specifying the institution of the participants nominated
- the multiplier's capacity will be explained.

[Nomination form](#) (revised):

Any further feedback from the NNAs is welcome at any time (contact: margit.huber@ecml.at).

With regard to ECML network meetings it was pointed out that participants of network meetings are nominated by the project teams. In the future NNAs and NCPs will receive a copy for information of the letter of invitation which the ECML sends to these experts.

5.2. Practices of the NNAs: promoting the calls for nomination, nomination procedures, current and future challenges

Starting with a presentation of the case study of the nomination process applied in [Norway](#) the NNA poster exhibition and brainstorming highlighted effective practices in promoting the calls for nominations and selecting the most appropriate candidates for ECML workshops, follow-up involvement, challenges linked in particular to the next programme of activities, and ideas for revising nomination procedures.

Nomination practices vary according to the national contexts and time and resource implications.

Workshop participants reported that the calls for nomination can be open (the Calls are published and experts can apply), semi-open and/or closed (the process of nomination is an internal procedure).

With regard to enhancing the effectiveness of the nomination procedure a discussion was held on whether it would be useful to maintain a database with responses, profiles, geographical distribution, obstacles, reporting, impact and dissemination activities. The question of whether this should be a role for Governing Board members is addressed in this respect.

Nomination procedures also vary according to the size and situation of a country: candidates may be chosen directly by the NNA, jointly by the Nominating Authorities and the Contact Points, committees, ministries or inspectors.

A committee in charge of the call for nominations is in particular recommended as an effective practice which contributes to greater transparency and makes it easier to give feedback. However, this is a resource issue, especially in member states where there are regions with a large degree of autonomy (Spain, Germany, UK etc).

Dealing with limited resources and motivating candidates represent the most frequently faced problems for attracting and selecting the “best” candidate.

Dissemination is ensured either by the NNAs and/or the NCPs. Different tools are used for this purpose: lists of multipliers, universities, agencies, quality assurance departments etc, newsletters, institutional websites, teacher training seminars, involvement of ECML participants in seminars etc.

Whether involvement in ECML activities is recognised differs from one country and institution to another. However this aspect may be key in attracting candidates and a wider range of experts in the future. A central issue is to examine to which extent participation in an ECML event is or could be formally recognised as in-service qualification for participants and contribute to their professional development and career.

Moreover, experience shows that the additional workload linked to the pre- and post-workshop tasks may discourage potential candidates. Project teams are asked to bear this aspect in mind when they design the tasks.

Current post workshop follow-up include a series of activities: writing reports and articles, organisation of or involvement in seminars (school-based seminars, teacher training seminars, seminars for inspectors, associations, etc), conferences and workshops.

The following ideas were expressed with regard to the implications of the new programme:

- for selection of the candidates:
 - nomination procedures should be as transparent and fair as possible;
 - nomination procedures should be more open; the scope of the call for nominations may have to broaden to other networks, institutions and experts;
 - ways of raising awareness of subject teachers may be explored;
 - the profiles of the experts requested should be clearly mentioned in the calls for nomination;
 - the readiness to engage in a medium- to long-term process should be a precondition to be nominated;
 - if future projects are to involve teachers of other subjects, two experts from each member state should be nominated – a languages and a subject teacher;
- for follow-up activities:
 - participants should not focus exclusively on dissemination of workshop results, but more on concrete products once the project has produced its publications;
 - participants could also systematically be encouraged to write an article for the professional newsletter.

5.3. Online provision of information for the expert public

The NNAs drafted a short description of their national nomination procedures which will be published on the country page of the ECML's Contact Points website [<http://contactpoints.ecml.at>] after final approval by all parties involved.

6. Celebration of the ECML's 15th Anniversary

Following the internal discussions between the NNAs and the ECML secretariat the workshop continued with the official celebrations of the 15th anniversary by welcoming guests from ministries and embassies of ECML member states.

For 15 years the European Centre for Modern Languages has been serving the community of language education professionals in its 34 member states. The unique intergovernmental centre is integrated within the Council of Europe's Department of Language Education and Policy and comprises the Language Policy Division, the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement on the ECML and the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

During the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the European Centre for Modern Languages on 1 July 2010 in Graz, the Austrian authorities unanimously praised the achievements of the Centre. Being a "success story", for Claudia Schmied, "plurilingualism" in globalised societies is "more important than ever." In the message she sent to the meeting, she stated that "the fostering of the linguistic and cultural diversity represents also an asset for the upholding of our democracies," also in respect to the integration of migrants. In the area of education and science, Beatrix Karl, Federal Minister for Science and Research, mentioned that the "cross-border mobility" is a rising phenomenon to be supported. Speaking several languages, she added, would be a "prerequisite for the productive exchange on an international level."

The member of the Parliament of the Province of Styria, Gerald Schöpfer, was impressed by the integrative power of multilingualism in modern societies. The mayor of Graz, Siegfried Nagl, stressed: Graz is proud to be "the city to host the only European Centre dedicated to the implementation of language policy in Europe."

For the Director General of Education, Culture, Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, the Centre is "ideally placed" to answer to new challenges in the field of language policy and professional development by developing innovative approaches in language teaching. The Centre acts like a "catalyst and provides means of support for educational change within its 34 member states."

The representative of the European Commission, Fiorella Perotto, Deputy Head of the Section for Multilingual Policy of the Directorate General for Education and Culture, stressed that the "ECML has become a landmark in encouraging excellence and innovation in language teaching. We appreciate, in particular, its expertise and networking skills in our fruitful co-operation."

A panel discussion entitled 'Promoting quality education in modern multilingual Europe' highlighted the situation of plurilingualism in Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands. Presentations included comments on the challenges of increasing diversity and migration. It was pointed out that the Centre has an important role to play in providing effective and efficient support for its member states in view of these challenges.

On the final workshop day linked to the anniversary celebrations a panel discussion entitled „the ECML within the context of European language education and policy" was moderated by Alan Dobson, Chair of the ECML Governing Board. Representatives of National Nominating Authorities from Armenia, Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland presented their statements on how their country has benefited from being an ECML

member state and to what extent the work of the ECML has influenced the situation of language learning and teaching at national level.

7. Workshop evaluation by NNAs: participants' feedback

Based upon the expected outcomes and outputs of the NCP workshop (see point 1) the following results can be highlighted::

With regard to outcomes of the NNA workshop:

- examples of successful working practice in the selection of experts for ECML activities were presented and discussed (see point 5.2.);
- plans for the ECML conference 2011 were discussed (see point 4.2.);
- ECML website developments were discussed (see point 4.1.);
- in the light of feedback received through the workshop participants' report to NNAs the reporting system has been discussed and reviewed;
- discussions on the role of language education in national and European developments were held with participants attending the celebrations for the 15th ECML anniversary representing the political stakeholders of the Centre (see point 7).

With regard to the output of the NNA workshop:

- information on the national nomination procedures was gathered during the meeting and will be presented online by the end of October 2010;
- the ECML draft call for proposals for the programme 2012-2015 was presented and discussed (see point 3);
- data from evaluation of the meeting is available on the [website](#);
- meeting report.

Due to the setup of the workshop comprising internal discussions between the ECML and the NNAs followed by official celebrations, the feedback questionnaire of the workshop was completed by participants at the end of the second workshop day. The feedback included 28 responses out of 29 participants. Open comments praised the good balance between group work and plenary sessions and the fact that the group discussions fed into the plenary sessions. Participants were pleased to have been given the opportunity to share ideas with their colleagues from other countries and to develop useful recommendations both to take home and for the ECML. Participants expressed a need for additional workshop documentation in the form of handouts and PowerPoint presentations to accompany presentations.

With regard to the quantitative results of the questionnaire targeting the ECML programme objectives competences – networks – impact – quality, workshop participants provided the following feedback:

1. This event has contributed to developing my professional competence: 96 % strongly agreed or agreed.
2. This event has motivated me to become more active in networking with the professional community: 93 % strongly agreed or agreed.
3. This event encouraged me to play a more influential role in reform processes in my professional environment: 81 % strongly agreed or agreed.



4. This event highlighted quality aspects of language education that I will promote in my professional environment: 74% strongly agreed or agreed.

In conclusion, 93 % of the participants stated that this event has met or exceeded their expectations.

The full workshop evaluation results are available on the [website](#)

The ECML secretariat would like to thank all participants for their valuable contributions and for their commitment to cooperation with the ECML.

The ECML secretariat wishes to express particular appreciation for the professional moderation of the event by Terry Lamb and Steinar Nybøle.

