

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES, GRAZ

7th meeting of the Professional Network Forum on Language Education
Graz, 8-9 December 2016

DGII/EDU/GRAZ (2017)13rev – 31 May 2017

Meeting summary

I. Opening of the meeting

<Appendix I: Agenda>

The meeting took place on 8-9 December 2016 at the ECML in Graz and was moderated by Sarah BRESLIN, Executive Director of the ECML.

Representatives from 14 of the 16 current members of the Professional Network Forum attended the network's 7th meeting:

- ACTFL – Meg MALONE
- AILA – Bernd RÜSCHOFF
- ALTE – Waldemar MARTYNIUK
- CEL/ELC – Jolanta URBANIK
- CercleS – Helena SAJGALIKOVA
- EALTA – Claudia HARSCH
- EAQUALS – Peter BROWN
- ECSPM – Bessie DENDRINOS, Ms Gudrun GISLADOTTIR
- EPA – Arja KRAUCHENBERG
- FIPLV – Terry LAMB, Judith RICHTERS
- IAM – Joachim SCHLABACH
- ICC – Anthony FITZPATRICK
- OLBI – Hilaire LEMOINE
- ECML – Sarah BRESLIN, Susanna SLIVENSKY, Michael ARMSTRONG

In addition, Gilles FABRICE from APICAD, the International Association for the Promotion of the Online Intercomprehension, attended the meeting for the first time.

On this occasion, it was not possible for a representative from the European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL) or the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) to attend the meeting.

II. Aims of the meeting

The primary aims of the meeting were to:

- offer the members of the Professional Network Forum a platform for information and exchange on the latest developments in language education and assessment;
- discuss the role of language education in the current European context and to what extent the members of the Professional Network Forum were responding to current challenges
- look at the possible updating/renewal of the 2010 Graz Declaration on Language Education in the light of recent societal/political developments
- look at ways of attracting language professionals to get involved in European cooperation.

- further develop the dissemination potential of the Professional Network Forum

III. Feedback on ECML colloquium, 7 December 2016. Ensuring quality in language testing and assessment: the contribution of the CEFR

Individual members of the Professional Network Forum, who had attended the colloquium, commented that:

- the event was well organised and provided sufficient opportunities for exchange at the end of each session;
- the livestream was good quality and enabled a large number of colleagues in different countries to follow the event;
- the case studies presented were well received and the recommendation to develop a follow-up publication based on the national case studies was worthy of consideration;
- it would be useful to contact everyone who attended the conference to gather thoughts and ideas, in particular with a view to organising conferences on similar topics in the coming years.

All sessions from the colloquium are available online at the following address:

<http://www.ecml.at/Events/ECMLcolloquium7December2016/tabid/2975/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

IV. Update on network partner activities and recent/forthcoming events of the PNF members

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) <http://www.actfl.org>

- ACTFL currently has around 13,000 members.
- A new 'Centre for Assessment, Research and Development' was established in 2016. This aims to support the provision of high quality language instruction to students across all levels and languages.
- ACTFL launched a 'Lead with languages' campaign in March 2017 which focuses on the promotion of language learning and offers concrete reasons and examples why language learning is important: <http://www.leadwithlanguages.org>

Annual conventions:

17-19 November 2017 in Nashville <https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo>

16-18 November 2018 in New Orleans, in cooperation with FIPLV

International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) <http://www.aila.info>

- AILA has a membership of more than 8,000 individuals worldwide, who, as researchers, policy makers or practitioners, are active in the field of Applied Linguistics.
- AILA coordinates global networks, establishing research networks (ReN) for a period of 3 years on areas of specific priority. There are currently 18 ReNs, all of which are global in scale.
- The next AILA world congress in Europe will take place in August 2020. Under the title of 'Understanding Languages – Celebrating Diversities', the event in Sarajevo will focus on regional integration, with support from associations for applied linguistics in Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

AILA World Congress

23-28 July 2017 in Rio de Janeiro

<http://www.aila.info/en/congresses/upcoming-congresses.html>

Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) <http://www.alte.org>

- ALTE currently has over 30 member institutions, over 40 institutional affiliates and hundreds of individual affiliates.
- It coordinates a series of Special Interest Groups, in areas such as the 'Use of the CEFR in the labour market', 'Language Assessment for Migration and Integration' (LIAM) and 'Young Learners'.

- ALTE offers, among others, courses for members in the foundations of language testing.
- ALTE was involved in the development of the DIALANG application which reports a learner's level of skill according to the CEFR scales of proficiency. After a period of technical issues, the application is now online again: <https://dialangweb.lancaster.ac.uk/>

ALTE 6th International Conference,
Learning and Assessment: Making the Connections
3-5 May 2017 Bologna
<http://events.cambridgeenglish.org/alte-2017/call-for-abstracts.php>

Conseil Européen pour les Langues / European Language Council (CEL/ELC) <http://www.celelc.org>

- The headquarters of CEL/ELC have moved from the Freie Universität Berlin to Universidade do Algarve
- Wolfgang Mackiewicz has taken on the role of honorary President
- CEL/ELC currently has 4 Special Interest Groups focusing on the themes of:
 - 'Languages in education';
 - 'Languages and rights';
 - 'Languages and sciences'.

Conferences

1-2 Dec 2016, 'Languages and societal challenges: the role of higher education' conference in Milan
<http://www.celelc.org/>

11-12 May 2017, International Congress on Interdisciplinarity in Social and Human Sciences. Faro, Portugal
<http://cieo15.wixsite.com/interdiscip2017>

European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS) <http://www.cercles.org>

- Approximately 350 language centres are currently members of CercleS.
- CercleS has 12 focus groups on areas such as the 'ELP/CEFR', 'Language Testing and Assessment' and 'Language Policy'.
- AKS, one of the founding members of CercleS, is responsible for the development of UNlcert®, a certificate that is specifically based on language competences at university level – in particular with regard to enrolment into Masters programmes, this represents a significant area of work.

Next annual conference in Poznan, Poland, 2018 – no web coverage yet

European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA) <http://www.ealta.eu.org/>

- EALTA is an association focused on professional working in the area of testing and assessment.
- Individual membership of EALTA is for free.
- In addition to conferences and workshops, EALTA organizes professional development webinars and summer schools.
- It currently runs 7 Special Interest Groups on the area of testing and assessment

14th EALTA conference

'Language testing and assessment Its role in mobility and social integration'

1-3 June, Sevres, France

<http://www.ciep.fr/en/ealta2017>

Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality in Language Services (EAQUALS) www.eaquals.org

- EAQUALS works both with its own members and in partnership with other leading educational organisations in projects to develop tools needed in the profession.
- EAQUALS is currently actively involved in two ECML projects related to the CEFR and was the progenitor of the Graz Declaration on language education in 2010.

- The European Profiling Grid (EPG) developed by EAQUALS as part of a consortium of partners is now in its 3rd year of piloting. The tool is available in 11 languages (<http://egrid.epg-project.eu/en/egrid>). The aim of the EPG is to help improve the quality and effectiveness of language training.
- With regard to the CEFR, a graphical representation of progression according to the levels of language proficiency defined in the Framework is featured in Appendix IV of this report ('CEFR Spectrum').

EAQUALS International Conference
27-29 April 2017, Riga
<https://www.eaquals.org/events/>

European Parents' Association (EPA) <http://euparents.eu>

The European Parents' Association currently has 24 full members and lobbies at European level on behalf of approximately 150 million people.

EPA is currently involved in 3 ongoing projects

- Sequences – on early childhood education and care;
- ParentHelp – supporting newly arrived migrants, especially parents and families to start their normal life;
- ELICIT Plus - offering training for pre-service and in-service teachers as well as 'mixed audiences', including stakeholders in education, especially parents and students in the field of European Literacy and Active Citizenship.

EPA General Assembly and 'A more socially just Europe for children and parents?!' conference
22-25 April 2017 in Paphos, Cyprus
<http://euparents.eu/a-more-socially-just-europe-for-children-and-parents-invitation/>

European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism, (ECSPM) <http://ecspm.org/>

As of early 2016 the ECSPM is an independent non-governmental, non-profit association that intends to carry on the work of the European Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism, which was launched by the Commission through the DG EAC in 2009 and re-launched in 2012 and mandated to work toward the development of: (a) coherent plans to raise awareness regarding the value of European linguistic diversity (b) strategies allowing Europeans to learn at least two languages plus L1 starting from an early age, and (c) proposals facilitating the mainstreaming of multilingualism in relevant EU programmes, research and policies.

The ECSPM operates for the promotion of research into multilingualism as well as into language policies for multilingualism in all aspects of social life by way of focusing on people, and on their ability to use a variety of semiotic resources to access education, social affairs and culture, to participate as active citizens, to benefit from better communication and wider employment opportunities. It has 29 European Networks as its founding members, 10 European Networks as its active members (3 more pending for active membership), 2 partnerships (and 1 more pending), while it is advised by a Multilingualism Expert Group of 9 distinguished academics.

Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes / International Federation of Language Teacher Associations (FIPLV) <http://fiplv.com/>

- The organisation has a long tradition in supporting the teaching and learning of languages, promoting multilingualism and as an umbrella organisation in bringing networks in the area of languages and language education together.
- FIPLV holds world congresses every three years, with the next one scheduled for 2018, taking place in New Orleans in collaboration with ACTFL.
- FIPLV was the instigator of the LACS projects within the ECML programme, which most recently developed the 'Online directory of language associations/organisations' and the 'Guidelines and practical examples of using ECML resources in different contexts'.

Launch of the FIPLV East European Region.
22-25 June 2017, Varna, Bulgaria
See <http://www.beta-iatefl.org/annual-conference/conference-call/>

FIPLV World Congress 2018
16-18 November 2018. New Orleans, USA:

International Association of Multilingualism <http://www.iam.wildapricot.org>

- IAM established a Research Network (ReN) on Multilingualism (for 2014-2017) within the framework of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA).
- Representatives of IAM worked with the ECML on the PlurCur project on whole-school language policy which involved 14 schools from 7 countries.
- IAM holds conferences every two years, the most recent was the international conference on the theme of third language acquisition and multilingualism, held at the University of Vienna on 1–3 September 2016.

XIth International Conference on Third Language Acquisition and Multilingualism
13th - 15th September 2018 at the University of Lisbon (Portugal)
<https://iam.wildapricot.org/2018-IAM-L3-Conference>

International Language Association e.V (ICC) <http://www.icc-languages.eu>

ICC 2017 Conference
The use of “New Media” in Language Learning/ Teaching
21-23 April in Graz
<http://www.icc-languages.eu/conferences/24th-icc-annual-conference-2017-graz>

Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa (OLBI/ILOB)

www.olbi.uottawa.ca

- OLBI, is the ECML Contact Point in Canada. Within a new Memorandum of Cooperation for the ECML's 2016-19 programme, OLBI will cover the cost of two students and two visiting scholars to work with the ECML in Graz for a 1-2 month period. OLBI is also currently involved in 8 of the projects of the Centre;
- A research forum on digital literacy with Christian Ollivier, the coordinator of the ECML's E-lang project, took place at the University of Ottawa on 9 December 2016, <http://www.uocal.uottawa.ca/en/node/17181>
- As a 150th anniversary gift to Canadians, the Government of Canada has committed to set up an online portal to offer all Canadians the opportunity to learn English or French through free courses online. OLBI will be a major partner in delivering this commitment. Presently the offer of 2nd language learning is available at no charge exclusively to newly arrived immigrants to Canada.

Symposium
Immersion in higher education symposium – where do we stand today
11-12 May 2017-
University of Ottawa, Canada
<https://immersionconf.sciencesconf.org>

International Association for the Promotion of the Online Intercomprehension (APICAD)
<http://www.miriadi.net/en/apicad>

APICAD was represented at the meeting of the Professional Network Forum for the first time. It is an international association created in 2014 in Lyon by to manage the Miriadi network and organise training for online intercomprehension in networking groups. Its purpose is to promote intercomprehension on a worldwide scale, giving particular priority to online intercomprehension. The association has links with the work carried out by the ECML's CARAP/FREPA project.

European Centre for Modern Languages www.ecml.at

Forthcoming ECML activities, likely to be of greatest interest to the Professional Network Forum partners are featured in Appendix II of the report

Following the announcements a 'speed-dating' session was held, where partners shared information on developments and initiatives with colleagues from other organisations within the PNF

V. Possible renewal/revision of the 2010 Graz Declaration,

The participants worked in groups to discuss the possible revision/relaunch of the [Graz Declaration on language education](#).

Prior to the group-work individual members indicated how they had disseminated the Declaration in 2010.

In many cases the text had been published on websites and raised at board meetings. In addition:

- CEL/ELC published the Declaration in the European Journal of Language Policy;
- FIPLV published it on its website and informed member organisations;
- the ECML published the Declaration on the website. It was quoted widely in statutory documents and heavily influenced the Call for submissions for the 2012-15, with the values expressed underpinning the subsequent programme.

It was agreed that any revised text should be positive in focus, reflect core values shared by all members of the Professional Network Forum and be accessible to the outside world, and in particular to a young audience.

One group worked on developing the following short statement which could accompany the Declaration:

As mobility of people and globalization have increased since the 2010 Graz Declaration on language education, the imperative to demonstrate support and respect for linguistic and cultural diversity in modern European societies has never been more critical. Language is necessary to access education and participate in the democratic society. Unrestricted and fair lifelong access to quality education is a fundamental human right and a pre-requisite for a humane, inclusive and peaceful Europe. Social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship form the cornerstones for shared economic prosperity. We regard Europe as a place where the rights of all – those living here and those still to arrive – are respected, supported and protected.

A second 'authoring' group agreed to review the text of the Declaration itself and make a proposal on whether the text should be revised/updated to reflect current 'burning issues', or remain in its original form.

Subsequently to the meeting, as a consensus was not reached among members regarding either the need to update the Declaration or with regard to the short statement, it has been decided to maintain the status quo and to address the matter at the next PNF meeting.

VI. Dissemination/awareness-raising

Updated partner presentations

New presentations received from ACTFL, IAM, OLBI, EAQUALS, ECSPM have been added to the [Professional Network Forum](#) page. Other contributions received from partners containing details of updates can also be uploaded to this page.

A series of short interviews with the members of the PNF were recorded and are now online and following approval, will be published on the Professional Network Forum web pages:

- ACTFL – Meg MALONE
- AILA – Bernd RÜSCHOFF
- EAQUALS – Peter BROWN
- ECSPM – Bessie DENDRINOS
- EPA – Arja KRAUCHENBERG

- FIPLV – Terry LAMB
- ICC – Anthony FITZPATRICK

Communication initiatives

- The members of the Professional Network Forum were invited to keep the ECML informed of forthcoming major events (such as those indicated above) which could be published in the Centre's Online International Events Calendar: www.ecml.at/internationaleventscaendar.
- The ECML plans to feature one PNF Association in each forthcoming edition of the Centre's [European Language Gazette](#) which is published 6 times a year. The ECML will take up contact with individual representatives once a clear timetable has been established for 2017/18.
- In addition to promoting PNF events and presenting the respective Associations in the Gazette, the ECML welcomes proposals for news items or new publications releases which can be disseminated via various different media (such as the Gazette, ECML news page and social media).
- The ECML established a series of [thematic areas](#) covering 12 areas of expertise. In addition to introductions to each of the areas, these showcase ECML publications, projects and training and consultancy activities, feature interviews with project coordinators and provide details of experts in the respective areas, news articles, ECML and international events. The areas also promote other studies and publications by the Council of Europe, European Commission, resources from national bodies as well as materials developed by the members of the Professional Network Forum.
- In 2016, an 'Online directory of language associations/organisations' was established, featuring around 350 language associations in Europe. Over the coming months the ECML will be contacting all associations to invite them to update details and propose new entries. The directory was originally established through the ECML's LACS project involving, among others, FIPLV, IDV, FIPF. All members of the PNF feature in the [directory](#). PNF members were invited, where they are umbrella organisations, to also encourage their member organisations to join the directory.
- Members of the PNF were also informed of the promotional brochure featuring all ECML publications resulting from the 2012-15 *Learning through languages* programme and invited to publicise this to their membership. The brochure can be downloaded at: <http://www.ecml.at/Portals/1/mtp4/ECML-publications-4mtp-EN.pdf>. The members were also encouraged to provide feedback on resources they used within an online survey developed for each publication.

With regard to the PNF members' preferred media of communication, there was a range of responses including: RSS newsfeeds, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and blogs.

VII. Closing statements

In the final session of the meeting, the PNF members discussed measures to assist the ECML in attracting language professionals to become involved in European cooperation, and the format of the next PNF meeting in 2017. The following suggestions were made:

- In order to reach new audiences, the ECML could involve youth organisations such as the European Students' Forum (AEGEE) and the European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding network (EE-YFU) in its activities. Summer schools and webinars represent potentially effective ways of reaching a wider public – summer schools in particular could target new entrants to the language teaching profession;
- PNF partners could act as advocates for the Centre and inform the secretariat where they are aware of important events in non member states which involve decision makers/ECML target groups. Where they are in a position to do so, PNF members could also recommend potential contacts in these countries;
- with regard to possible one-off events specifically targeting a wider public, the ECML could consider a number of areas, such as vocational education (for example, based around the Entrepreneurs skills certificate), advocacy for language learning addressing motivational issues in learning languages other than English, and a follow-up to the colloquium on 'Ensuring quality in language testing and assessment', providing an overview of certification;

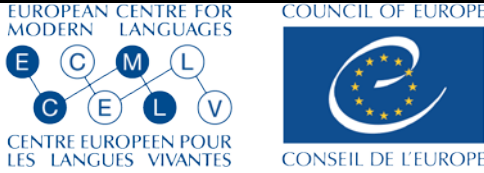
- the next PNF meeting in 2017 should follow a similar format (i.e. 1.5 days, with the event linked to a conference/colloquium immediately prior to the meeting).

In closing the meeting, Sarah BRESLIN thanked the members for their active participation. She also highlighted the unique nature and expertise constituted by the Forum.

Proposed dates for the next meeting of the Professional Network Forum (revised on 31.05.17):

- **afternoon of 14 December and full day of 15 December 2017.** The meeting will be preceded by a colloquium on teacher education for diversity on 13-14 (morning) December to which the members of the PNF are warmly invited.

APPENDIX I

	
<p>Wednesday evening, 7 December 2016, 19.00: Formal reception hosted by the City of Graz</p> <p>Thursday 8 December – 7th ECML Professional Network Forum on language education</p>	
09.00 – 9.30	<p>Opening:</p> <p>Welcome to ECML/introductions/agenda overview</p> <p>Update on developments within the ECML</p> <p>Feedback on Colloquium: “Quality in language testing and assessment: the contribution of the CEFR”/ideas for future colloquia</p>
9.30 – 10.30	<p>Session 1: Update on network partner activities</p> <p><i>Aim: to highlight key developments/events as a lead-in to Friday morning’s speed-dating activity – maximum 5 minutes per organisation</i></p> <p>Format</p> <p>4 x 5 minute updates/presentations followed by discussion</p> <p>4 x 5 minute updates/presentations followed by discussion</p>
10.30 -11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00	<p>Session 1 (cont.): Update on network partner activities</p> <p>Format</p> <p>4 x 5 minute updates/presentations followed by discussion</p> <p>4 x 5 minute updates/presentations followed by discussion</p>
12.00 – 13.00	<p>Session 2: “Europe in crisis?”</p> <p>What is the role of language education in the current European context? How are we, within our institutions, responding to the challenges, particularly in relation to the refugee crisis? Is plurilingualism under attack? (decline in languages on offer in schools and universities/dominance of English)</p> <p>What more can be done? (lead-in to discussion after lunch on Graz Declaration)</p>
13.00 -14.30	Lunch break

14.30– 15.30	<p>Session 2 (cont.): “Europe in crisis?”</p> <p>Discussion on possible renewal/revision of Graz Declaration, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the existing version been used? • If deemed effective, what revisions, if any, are needed? • How can the commitments be translated into action?
15.30 -16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17:00	<p>Renewal/revision of Graz Declaration, 2010 (cont.)</p> <p>Discussion on publishing/promoting the Declaration – what leverage does it/could it have? Feedback on the day</p>
<p>Friday 9 December – Meeting of the Professional Network Forum</p>	
09.00 – 11.30 with coffee	<p>Session 3: “Speed-dating”: follow-up to network partner updates</p> <p>(time for PNF member institutions to further discuss potential joint activities)</p>
11.30 – 12.15	<p>Session 4: Dissemination/awareness-raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we support each other in disseminating our work?
12.15 – 1300	<p>Session 5: Attracting language professionals to get involved in European cooperation (through the ECML/PNF member institutions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges and current initiatives • Further suggestions
13.00 – 13.15	<p>Concluding remarks</p>
13.15 – 14.45	<p>Buffet lunch +promotional video interviews with PNF members <i>(for those who can stay on)</i></p>

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES, GRAZ

7th ECML Professional Network Forum
Graz, 8-9 December 2017

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Appendix III

Key ECML dates in 2017

4-5 May 2017

Workshop 2/2017 for ECML National nominating authorities and ECML National contact points

Venue: ECML, Graz, Austria

Participants' profile:

ECML National nominating authorities and ECML National contact points

Objectives of the workshop

- to further develop networking and dissemination among National contact points and National nominating authorities;
- to present concrete cases of impact of ECML work in member states particularly with regard to ECML publications of the programme 2012-2015 (e.g. teacher training programmes, teaching practice, publications related to ECML activities);
- to gather ideas for supporting use of ECML publications.

For National nominating authorities:

- to identify issues in nominating experts for ECML workshops and propose solutions.

European Day of Languages

26 September 2017

Website: <http://www.coe.int/edl>



10-11 October 2017

Workshop 3/2017 “Digital literacy for the teaching and learning of languages”

Venue: ECML, Graz, Austria

Coordinator: Christian Ollivier, La Réunion, France

Co-animators: Ulrike Hofmann, Austria; Catherine Jeanneau, Ireland; Katerina Zourou, Greece

Working languages: English and French, with simultaneous interpretation

Participants' profile:

Professional background:

- Teachers in secondary schools, higher education or adult education;
- Teacher trainers.

Experience, competences required:

- Basic computer, smartphone, tablet and internet browsing skills.

Expected involvement/tasks before, during and after the event:

Before: participation in online trainings (first steps of the training workshop)

During: participation in developing tasks, exchange of good practice and resources to include in the project resources.

After: implementation of the tasks that were developed during the workshop, feedback on experiences and exchange of information on the project platform, dissemination of the project and its resources, conduct trainings.

Project site: www.ecml.at/e-lang

16-17 November 2017

Workshop 4/2017 “Developing language awareness in subject classes”

Venue: ECML, Graz, Austria

Coordinator: Marita Härmälä, Finland

Co-animators: Artashes Barkhanajyan, Armenia; Jérôme Béliard, France; Eli Moe, Norway

Working languages: English and French, with simultaneous interpretation

Participants' profile**Professional background:**

- Subject teachers of 12/13 year-old learners;
- Teacher trainers, head teachers;
- Those responsible for developing education programmes for migrant learners;
- Language teachers who have already assumed the role of mentor of subject teachers.

Experience, competences required:

- Experience with the age group and with second language learners.

Expected involvement/tasks before, during and after the event:**Before:**

- Filling in the online questionnaire;
- Studying the example materials;
- Collect examples of "good explanations" from different countries;
- Teachers will be asked to feedback on material that the team will send to them in preparation of the workshop.

During:

- Provide feedback and ideas on the method and teaching materials developed;
- Developing guidelines for designing teaching materials for different subjects;
- Developing guidelines for designing tools to increase subject matter teachers' awareness.

After: pilot and implement example materials.

Project site: www.ecml.at/languageinsubjects

29-30 November 2017

Colloquium on Pluralistic approaches for teacher training (CARAP/FREPA)

Coordinator: Michel Candelier, France

Co-animators: Anna-Schröder Sura, Germany, NN, NN

Participants:

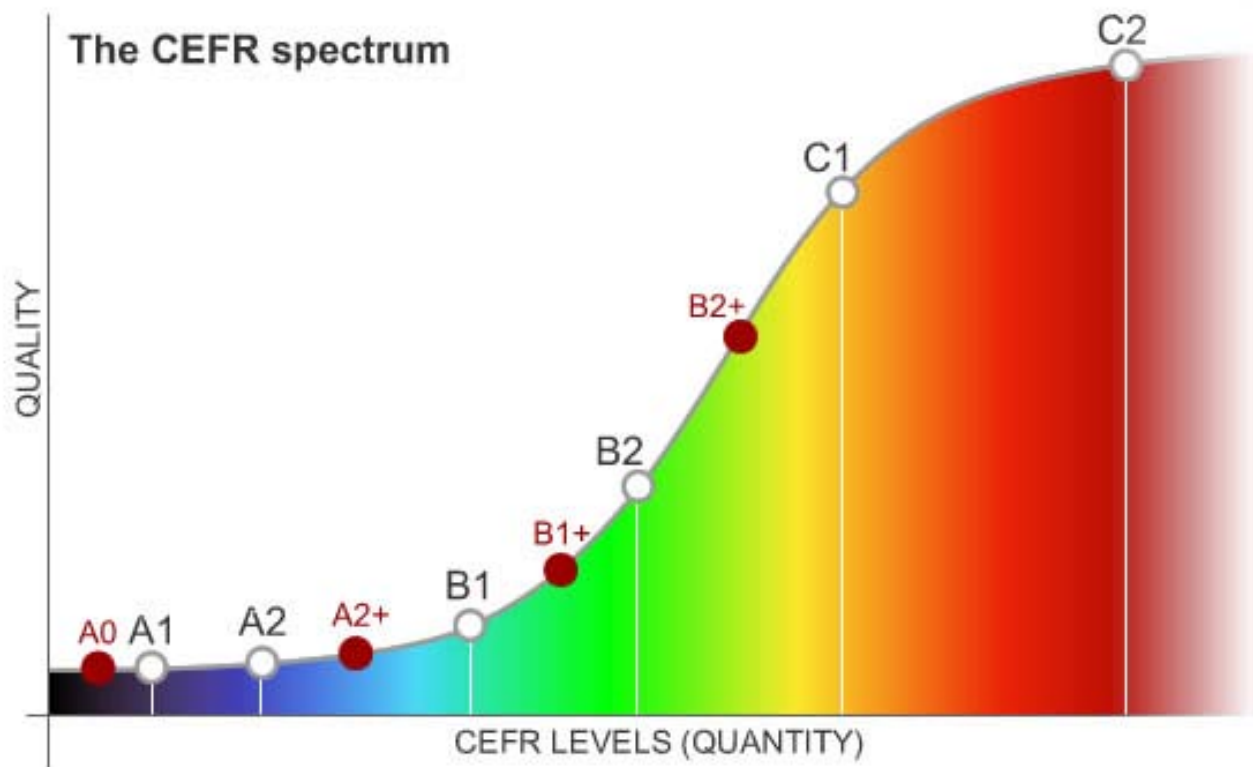
Project website: <http://carap.ecml.at>

1-2 December 2017

Annual meeting of the ECML's Professional Network Forum

Venue: ECML, Graz, Austria

Appendix IV



This graphical representation of the CEFR is designed to help those who are not language professionals (such as parents, employers, public administrators, etc) gain an overview of the complex structure of the CEFR at a glance. This spectrum, based on that of natural light, illustrates that there are no distinct boundaries between levels but that they flow into one another. The two axes of the graph illustrate the two fundamental, distinct sets of descriptors: qualitative and quantitative. It also shows how the levels are related and how new ones might be inserted. It has no zero point and no end point. It further allows organisations to add their own scales in parallel: for example, below the horizontal axis, the quantitative one, to illustrate how many hours teaching it takes on average to reach a given level.