

## **Minutes of Foreign Languages Advisory Group**

**22 March 2018**

Refer to [Annex 1](#) for a list of attendees and apologies.

### **1. Introductory remarks by chairperson**

Members of the Foreign Languages Advisory Group were welcomed and given an opportunity to introduce themselves. The chair noted apologies from those absent.

### **2. Terms of Reference Discussion**

The draft Terms of Reference were circulated to attendees to review and comment was invited. Further observations were to be submitted by 5 April and terms to be signed off at the next meeting.

### **3. Presentation and Discussion on Foreign Languages Provision in Post-Primary Schools**

A presentation was given on the provision of foreign languages in post-primary schools based on a survey carried out by the Post-Primary Languages Initiative as part of the Foreign Languages Strategy.

Subsequent discussion was held by the group on the findings from the presentation. Topics covered included the importance of awareness raising, non-traditional teaching methods (e.g. blended learning), European comparisons, subject choice and incentives to study foreign languages.

Further comments on the audit were invited and agreed to be submitted by 26 March.

### **4. Actions in the Foreign Languages Strategy**

Discussion was held on key upcoming actions for the forthcoming quarter from the Foreign Languages Strategy. This included a discussion on the importance of an awareness raising campaign due to start and the appointment of language champions.

## **Annex 1**

### **Attended**

#### **Departments and Agencies**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Department of Education and Skills                | Eamonn Moran (Acting Chair)<br>Leona De Khors<br>Daniel Kearns<br>Trudy Duffy<br>Alan O'Callaghan<br>Joanne Tobin<br>Maria Lorigan |
| Department of Foreign Affairs                     | Alma Ní Choighligh   |
| Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation | Don O'Connor   |
| National Council for Curriculum and Assessment    | Evelyn O'Connor  |
| Léargas   | Emma Grainger  |
| Higher Education Authority                        | Gerry O'Sullivan   |
| Post-Primary Languages Initiative                 | Karen Ruddock  |

#### **Representative Groups/Institutions**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals | Regina Butler     |
| Language Teacher Professional Networks                   | Salvo Cacciato    |
| Irish Second-Level Students Union                        | Colin Clarke      |
| Initial Teacher Education                                | Dr Celine Healy   |
| Languages Expert   | Dr Deirdre Kirwan |
| Ibec   | Sylvia Guadino    |

#### **Apologies**

Ruth Carmody (Chair, Department of Education and Skills), Eddie Ward (Department of Education and Skills), Anne-Marie Manton (State Examinations Commission), Geoff Browne (National Parents Council Post-Primary).