

## Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG)

27<sup>th</sup> September 2018. 10.30 am G13/14

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### **Attendees:**

Evelyn O Connor CAP (Chair)  
Leona De Khors CAP DES  
Niamh Houlahan CAP DES  
Alan O Callaghan International DES  
Sinead Middleton Teacher Education DES  
Joanne Tobin SPEE DES  
Trudy Duffy Higher Education DES  
Maria Lorigan Inspectorate DES  
Deirdre Kirwan Language Expert  
Padraig Francis DFA  
Ann Marie Manton SEC  
Alan Power DBEI  
Celine Healy Language Expert  
Sylvia Gaudino IBEC  
Marianne Doyle PPLI  
Karen Ruddock PPLI  
Mary Elaine Tynan NCCA  
Wilma Slevin Language Teacher Professional Networks  
Emma Grainger Leargas  
Regina Butler NAPD

Craig Neville UCC – Guest Speaker

Apologies: Gerry O Sullivan HEA

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Evelyn O Connor welcomed the group and introduction of members

### **2. Minutes from previous meeting.**

One slight adjustment received from TES and updated in the minutes from 22/05/18

### **3. Presentation by Craig Neville UCC**

Craig Neville from UCC gave a very interesting presentation on the work that the UCC School of language are doing to include the Foreign Language Strategy in their teaching. Examples were given of how Goals 1-4 are being actioned. Included in this were examples of language adaptation to suit medical students, understanding what students understand their own linguistic identity to be, information on translation studies and examples of employer engagement.

### **4. Presentation by Marianne Doyle PPLI**

Marianne Doyle from PPLI gave an update on the work that PPLI has carried out to date on the awareness raising campaign for Languages Connect and their plan for the coming months.

A follow on discussion was had where topics included

- school exchanges for students and how they are organised,

- the need for support for teachers from management in schools,
- teachers dedicating their own personal time to languages,
- expectations that can be expected from schools,
- differences between what happens in foreign countries and in Ireland,
- E Twinning programmes,
- the idea of private companies organising exchanges
- teacher education and exchanges
- support available for teachers, access to workshops and continuation after, access to classes and funding for these
- need for more language champions

## **5. Q3 Updates**

Leargas gave an update on work carried out by Leargas, including language officers, ELLA awards, European Languages Day, teacher opportunity information days, training cooperation activity, summer courses, and research projects.

PPLI provided an update on PPLI progress. Some points noted were in relation to; Rebranding and Languages Connect, teacher upskilling for teachers who are qualified in a language but not teaching that language, Fund for School Exchange programme, JC Polish, Lithuanian and Korean, communities of practice and developing support materials.

Languages Connect booklets were distributed to the group.

D.ES Teacher Education Section(TESS)) gave an update on the ongoing work that they are involved in. JCT have provided training for junior cycle teachers in more subjects. TESS has also been working closely with the Teaching Council to determine how the actions from the Strategy will be incorporated into their teaching.

NCCA gave an update on their ongoing actions in the strategy. Updates included details of new publications of examples of work by German, French and Italian students, development groups being formed to begin work on new leaving cert curricular language specifications, and communities of practice. Work on the new primary education curriculum is also getting underway.

D.ES International Section gave an update on what the International section in DES have been involved in. Some points noted were in relation to a meeting with the Spanish Ambassador on 24<sup>th</sup> September, a meeting between the German and Irish ministers for education meeting next week, and an upcoming meeting in China, all of which include discussions on how those countries can support Ireland in relation to implementation of the strategy. .

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next FLAG meeting will be held in January 2019 but no date was confirmed.