

Foreign Languages Advisory Group
Minute of Meeting on 1st May 2019, 10am,
G13/14, DES, Marlborough St, Dublin 1

Attending:

D.ES: Evelyn O'Connor (Chair) CAP, Leona De Khors CAP, John Harper CAP, Alan O'Callaghan International, Joanne Tobin SPEE, Trudy Duffy H.Ed,

Alan Power D.BEI, Karen Ruddock PPLI, Wilma Slevin TNPs,

Apologies:

AnneMarie Manton SEC, Celine Healy MUI, Deirdre Kirwan, Regina Butler NAPD, Gerry O'Sullivan HEA.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentations

- Helen McMahon – Enterprise Ireland, Grad Start Programme
Helen gave a very interesting presentation regarding the Grad Start Programme and how EI are trying to push the language element of this through additional grant aiding (70%) and through promotion with colleges, FETs and at jobfairs. EI is of the view that languages are essential particularly for business with export focus. They are currently reviewing the stay back scheme.

- Joan McNaboe – SOLAS, Skills and Enterprise Research Unit.
Joan outlined the role of SOLAS in looking at the labour market to identify training requirement. In a recent exercise on irishhobs.ie website, only 5% of jobs advertised had

French/German in title. National Skills Bulletin identified a shortage where a language element is required.

There was an Open Discussion on both presentations.

High demand/small demand/ specific demand. Business tend to buy in language specialists rather than look for skills domestically, particularly for high skill jobs. Other skills are seen as more important.

Also discussed the need for a cultural understanding – e.g. to correctly interpret on-line content.

Going forward, future skills needs automation/ digitisation.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 15th January agreed.

4. Update on Working Groups (SPEE/ PPLI)

PPLI circulated their 2018 Annual Report highlighting progress in the PP sector.

SPEE updated the Group about the newly established EI working group which met at end of March and going forward plans to meet in advance of FLAG. Reps include EI, IDA, PPLI, D.BEI, IBEC, Board Bia, IMS Labels and 1 x Financial sector.

Discussed EI Global Graduate programme, IASTE Leargas programme, IDA immersion programme.

SPEE indicated significant interest and a need to communicate, to create linkages and to promote resources.

H. Ed advised that they are considering options regarding a HEd working group and the most effective way of tapping into what is being done.

5. Update on actions

CAP provided update from NCCA on a range of languages including the development of new LC Curricular languages.

6. Update on CLIL project

PPLI provided update on the pilot CLIL project.

8. Date and proposals for next meeting

Thurs. 5th September

TPNs will give presentations.

9. AOB

SPEE advised that 2019 Springboard courses (1 year part time), to be announced by the Minister shortly, will include a range of languages.