**Summary of DES meeting –**

Stakeholder's forum was held on Thursday

18th June, 2015

Presentations are available at:

http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Curriculum-and-Syllabus/Foreign-Languages-Strategy/

Round table discussions

Table 1 Pedagogy:

Importance of CEFR

Different teaching approaches needed

Positive experience as teacher training important

Proficiency needed for teachers.

Table 2 Benchmarking & qualifications:

Benchmarking to CEFR is necessary, but not sufficiently clear to stakeholders in itself. Development

of a national framework of language qualifications needed

Immersion is very valuable, and not only for language graduates. However, it must be better advertised (not a gap year), managed (nature of exchange at least as important as its duration) and exploited (classes in the target language)

CLIL approach limited by lack of dual-skilled teaching staff; tap into guest lecturers from partner universities abroad

EU passport = many models in use, lack of consensus on a single format negates its impact

Languages: compulsory or optional? Necessity of promoting languages to decision-makers; of presenting multilingual (Irish) role-models to young people; re-iterate the motivational value of attaching internationally recognised qualifications to language learning.

Table 3 Skills mix:

Link up secondary and third education

Other disciplines with a language

Migrant community should be included

Need for immersion and work placements.

Table 4 Promotion & awareness raising:

More events like the Language Fair & GradIreland

More dissemination at regional level

Embed from an early age; include Irish (and English) in awareness-raising programmes

Develop culture of multilingualism and make language learning & teaching “normal” and fun

(motivation)

Combat perceived incompetence and battle actual skills deficit

Info packs for CEFR

Develop system of school-based > regional > national Olympiads in languages, possibly combined with language summer camps

Use Transition Year in secondary schools for language projects

Promote Erasmus for language learning: school visits, videos, youtube

Germanconnect.com campaign

Create programme: career options for language graduates

Industry-based programmes: i.e. SAP programme of studying abroad

Follow STEM example

A “National Centre” for languages is needed: coordinate language teaching & learning; networks & database of Education & Business; collaboration between subjects

Table 5 Employment and Languages:

Awareness raising – BS in secondary schools

Case studies needed

Transferable skills & awareness

Language and cultural skills also at non proficiency level

Target people with language skills and add other skills (e.g. marketing/sales)

Use SA

Career advisors in 2nd & 3rd level should create databases & guidance

Research on the effects of learning Irish

No discussion time given at the end.

Question on matriculation was not really answered. The autonomy of third level institutions was

emphasised.