

**Press Release 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**CNGL Researchers awarded European Language Label 2010**

The Deputy Director of the Centre for Next Generation Localisation (CNGL), Prof. Vincent Wade (TCD), and CNGL PhD student, Neil Peirce (TCD), have been awarded the European Language Label for their project Language Trap: An Adaptive Language Learning Video Game.

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, eleven Irish projects were awarded the European Language Label for innovative ways of teaching and learning languages by Professor Tom Collins, Dean of Teaching and Learning at NUI Maynooth, at an awards' ceremony in NUI Maynooth today.

The Language Trap game is a key component of the CNGL Education and Outreach Programme. The game is an interactive language learning game to aid students preparing for the Leaving Certificate German Oral Examinations. The game presents an innovative approach to language learning using synthesised speech dialogues combined with a state of the art learning personalisation system. Over 80 students have used and evaluated the game this year.

Dr Muiris Ó Laoire, Chair of the Irish National Jury, commented that, as in previous years, innovation and excellence are clearly recognisable in the eleven projects awarded this year, which cover a wide range of successful ideas and effectively attested approaches and methods in language learning. Award-winning projects like these provide a potential source of inspiration for others working with different languages and in different contexts. Dr Ó Laoire observed, "As we continue to confront economic obstacles, we need more than ever to identify and award the innovators in our field and to learn from those who create flexible responses and encourage initiative."

In his keynote address, Professor Tom Collins stated that with the shift in the global centre of gravity from the United States of America and Europe, assumptions that a proficiency in English would guarantee economic social and cultural mobility to Irish people, no longer hold. He added, "We must therefore become much more serious in our engagement with language learning and in our readiness to take on the challenges involved in it."

The European Language Label, which is simultaneously run in over 20 European countries, has been a major event in the languages' calendar since 1998. The Award recognises creative and innovative ways to improve the quality of language teaching and learning. This year's winners were selected on the basis of excellence, innovation, creativity and their ability to serve as a model for others. The projects this year were exceptionally innovative, with learners ranging from primary school through to adults. The projects highlighted the importance of language learning in the creation of an

inclusive multicultural society and the significance of real life situations in providing motivation for learners to develop and enhance their linguistic competence.

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Information about the Language Trap Game: <http://seriousgames.cs.tcd.ie/index.html>

### **The Centre for Next Generation Localisation**

The Centre for Next Generation Localisation (CNGL) is a dynamic Academia-Industry partnership with over 100 researchers developing novel technologies addressing the key localisation challenges of volume, access and personalisation. CNGL is based in DCU, TCD, UL and UCD and we have nine industrial partners.

Our key research areas are Language Technologies (Machine Translation, Speech Technology), Digital Content Management Technologies (Adaptive Hypermedia, Information Retrieval and Information Extraction), Workflows, Standards and Software Engineering research.

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