

## CIRCE

NL/06/B/F/PP/157627

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=3102>

## Project Information

Title: CIRCE  
Project Number: NL/06/B/F/PP/157627  
Year: 2006  
Project Type: Pilot Project, project with multiplying effect (2000-2006)  
Status: granted  
Country: NL-Netherlands  
Marketing Text: Full project title: Continued Innovative Research and Development of Certification for the European labour and training market. The CIRCE website for publications is [www.circe-leonardo.org](http://www.circe-leonardo.org). For a growing number of new job profiles no European or national qualifications are available. Examples are "web designer", "web master", "call center agent", "E\_Sales marketeer", "on line teacher", all of them without European standardization. For some certificates, VET institutes have turned to Anglo\_American products, without bench marking against European or national standards. Emerging job profiles call for innovative certification development. The CIRCE-project addresses this development need with a special focus on disadvantaged learners and their needs.

Summary: CIRCE builds on the results of the PACE-project, that was dealing with the innovative development of Partial Certificates for lower and medium levels in education. The CIRCE partnership continues this effort, addressing the whole sector of vocational education and training (VET), but still with an open eye for the needs of disadvantaged people, including people with disabilities. Most important is the explicit focus of this project on recent and ongoing developments in the economy and on the consequences that we may deduct for the labour market. A constantly developing economy is urging the VET sector to respond with new job profiles and corresponding curricula, but this response is in many cases lacking or quite slow. Moreover, we observed that the official accreditation procedures are often interfering with a quick and adequate innovative change in education. Hardly anything is so successfully resistant to innovation as the national vocational qualification structures. Therefore we expect that our innovative efforts may have effect on the informal part of the training sector first and to influence the formal part in second instance.

Description: This project is inspired by the work in the PACE-project, funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme. Most PACEpartners are represented in this project again. Studying the existing practice and development of certification, the partnership observed a clear lack of innovation in the labour and training market in all participating countries: the development of new certificates is limping behind the actual innovation of job profiles and work floor activity in SME's and NPO's. In a high tech, knowledge based economy, new competences of working people are required, but the VET sector is not yet responding in full measure. The CIRCE proposal reflects the strategic objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration: improving the quality and effectiveness of training systems and facilitating access for all to training. The project will strengthen the European dimension in VET and the transparency of certification, while deploying a bottom up approach in the innovation process. For a growing number of new job profiles no European or national qualifications are available. Examples are "web designer", "web master", "call center agent", "E Sales marketeer", "on line teacher", all of them without European standardization. For some certificates, VET institutes have turned to Anglo-American products, without bench marking against European or national standards. Emerging job profiles, like the Seminar House Manager and the Online Facilitator, stress the need of innovative certification development. New competences will cut through the traditional boundaries between the economic areas of tourism, agri culture, administration and industry, requiring IT skills in almost all cases. The PACE project has resulted in partial certificates and courses, among others for the Office Assistant, combining basic administrative and computer skills. Jobs requiring this combination of competences are existent in the European labour market for years, but no official qualification exists. The development and accreditation of relevant certificates is essential to fill the gap between training offer and job demand. The PACE -project

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offered practical guidelines for the development and benchmarking of partial certification, CIRCE will extend the scope of these guidelines to the development of new certificates. The first step will be a thorough labour market research, involving field research in SMEs and NPOs, using interviews and questionnaires, supported by literature survey and information obtained from educational and economical experts. This step is to be followed by the certificates definition and testing in practice. The project will focus on job profiles involving IT related competences, as this reflects significant recent economic developments. Moreover, ICT related jobs are often more easily accessible for people with disabilities and thus will offer better employment opportunities to people threatened with exclusion. The core project structure consists of the link between the job qualification demand seen from the employer's point of view and the development of new certificates to be included in the VET system. Benchmarking of the new certification structure will involve sectoral organisations for vocational training and employment, (inter-)national certification institutes like Cedefop. The project will enhance the innovation of the VET sector by enabling effective matching of (new) labour market demands.

Themes: \*\*\* Vocational guidance  
\*\*\* Access for disadvantaged  
\*\* Lifelong learning  
\*\* Recognition, transparency, certification  
\* Labor market  
\* Equal opportunities  
\* Continuous training

Sectors: \*\* Accommodation and Food Service Activities  
\*\* Human Health and Social Work Activities  
\*\* Information and Communication  
\*\* Education  
\* Other Service Activities

Product Types: CD-ROM  
procedure for the analysis and prognosis of the vocational training requirement modules  
DVD  
description of new occupation profiles  
website  
transparency and certification  
program or curricula

Product information: All outputs will be published on the website: [www.circe-leonardo.org](http://www.circe-leonardo.org). Relevant output includes: A pair of innovative job profiles for each participating country, focusing on growing economic sectors. New certificates will be developed including the corresponding training materials and tests. By means of a well directed valorisation process they will obtain their place in the national and international certification structure, leading to a better match of new job demands and the VET system.

Projecthomepage:

## Project Contractor

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