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## - What is the project about?

The project named "Accreditation Centre for VET Curriculum Developers" was launched in November 2007 with the support of the Lifelong Learning - Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission. The realization is carried out by 8 VET expert institutions of 5 countries. The 24 month long project serves complex aims with regards to the tendencies in electronic curriculum development. The number of electronic curricula shows continuous rise in the field of VET, while the developers of the curricula gather around separated developing workshops. In most member countries as well as on EU level a common regulation system and a standardized requirement system set of criteria towards the quality of the electronic curricula is missing. Also there is a lack of database of accredited experts in electronic curriculum development and a database of accredited electronic curricula.

The premier aim of the project is to establish the European Accreditation Centre for VET Curriculum Developers. The elements of the Accreditation Centre would serve - in a complex way - for the good of all parties directly or indirectly interested in electronic curriculum development: teachers and trainers developing electronic curricula (curriculum developers), teacher and trainers applying electronic curricula in their work, and learners using electronic curricula for the learning process.

Curriculum developers - by using the *Prior Learning Assessment System (PLAS)* service of the Centre - may assess their prior knowledge in curriculum development. They may obtain a picture about the quality assurance tendencies in the field of VET curriculum development from the *Accreditation Requirement Criteria Package (ARCP)* and from the *Standardized European Accreditation Regulations (SEAR)*. With the help of the core curriculum of the electronic *Training Course (TC)* of the Centre they may prepare for an accreditation process (*Accreditation Process- AP*) through which they may become Accredited Electronic Curriculum Developers and can be included in the searchable *Database of Experts in Curriculum Development (DECD)*.

The international recognition of the Centre is planned to be realized through the networks of the European Union, primarily through the Training of Trainers Network (TTnet) of the European Centre for Vocational Training (CEDEFOP). Formal accreditation is planned to be recognized by the Directorate General for Education and Culture (DGEAC) of the European Union.

## - Whom does it serve?

There are several beneficiaries of the project. Once those who actually are or would like to be involved in curriculum development, and all people and institutions using the services of curriculum developers directly or indirectly. The following institutions and groups fall into these categories:

1. Teachers and trainers, who can assess, ameliorate and accredit their competences related to curriculum development;
2. Public institutions responsible for curriculum development at national level;
3. Private and public training institutions aiming at enriching their training provision with modern curricula;
4. Companies wishing to provide competence-based, modular in-company training for their employees;
5. Students at schools, adult learners and any employees taking part in in-company training organised by accredited professionals in the

ACVDC system.

## **- What are the expected products?**

### ***Accreditation Requirement Criteria Package - ARCP***

ARCP contains two parts:

1. Characteristics of a good e-learning curriculum.
2. Package of competencies that are demanded to be able to develop curricula described by the above characteristics.

The establishment of the accreditation requirement criteria package would serve to standardize the profession of electronic curriculum developer and to differentiate it from the "simple" teacher and trainer role. One type of curriculum developers may be named *web 2.0 compatible curriculum developers*. They have to be able to develop modularised, outcome based curricula in both the traditional and in the e-learning environment, by applying the innovative pedagogies (cooperative methods, problem-base learning, etc.) and the most modern teaching tools (e-learning), and by establishing connections between the general-professional and the theoretical-practical subjects.

### ***Standardised European Accreditation Regulations - SEAR***

SEAR describes the accreditation procedure in a "legal" way. It includes the competency requirements (ARCP) and any formal requirements, documentation (forms to be filled in) demanded to become an accredited curriculum developer and it determines and supplies the procedure for accreditation of the candidates.

### ***Prior Learning Assessment System - PLAS***

The prior learning assessment process is devoted to evaluate the knowledge of teachers and trainers, who would like to be accredited curriculum developers. It is a knowledge assessment tool evaluating the knowledge of the candidates against the ARCP. If the candidates are successful in the assessment process, they can be included in the European Database of Experts on Curriculum Development (DECD), if they need to improve their knowledge they may enrol to a training course designed on the basis of the ACVCD core curriculum (TC- see below).

### ***E-learning Training Course - TC***

The e-learning training course will be a core/frame curriculum for the training of teachers who want to become accredited curriculum developers. Based on the core curriculum anyone who would like to provide training in the subject can create a local curriculum. The project will produce a sample on-line course to demonstrate the idea of the training.

The on-line e-learning course based on the core curriculum will contain : 17 hours theory; 40 hours practice; 3 hours test and controlling questions. (It will be offered in CD\_ROM format also.)

If someone going through the PLAS turns out to be in need of training in order to successfully complete the exam, he/she may choose to participate in the TC which prepares him/her for the accreditation.

### ***Accreditation Process - AP***

The process contains two parts as described in the SEAR:

On-line exam which assesses the necessary competencies of a candidate;

Administrative documentation necessary to be filled in and submitted for accreditation and be included in the Database of Experts.

### ***Database of Experts in Curriculum Development - DECD***

European Database of Experts in Curriculum Development

A pool where the experts who successfully had gone through the Accreditation Process may be included. (If they wish so.)

In the database the experts will be searchable by classification, specialization, spoken languages, country, years of practice, sectors, etc.

## **- How can you be involved?**

The products of the project are expected to be realized by the end of 2009.

ARCP and SEAR are planned to be ready by the end of 2008 including the national validation processes during early Autumn.

PLAS, TC and AP are planned to be piloted during the Spring of 2009.

Experts interested in taking part in the validation process and/or in the piloting are welcome to **contact the relevant institution in their country**. (See below: Partnership: dissemination partners.)

### **- How far are we up to until now?**

The kick-off meeting of the project was held on 28-29 February 2008 in Budapest. The partners agreed on the timetable and the main concepts concerning the working methods with regards to the preparation of the Accreditation Requirement Criteria Package and the Standardized European Accreditation Regulations.

Presently the national research works are being carried out in the form of conducting surveys in the subject of electronic curriculum development, by standardized questionnaires.

The next phase will be the processing of the survey results and the compilation of the first versions of the ARCP and SEAR to make them ready for national validation.

The next Newsletter of the project (coming in October 2008) will inform about the results of the national validation processes as well as the realized Accreditation Requirement Criteria Package and the Standardized European Accreditation Regulations.

### **- Who are the partner countries and institutions?**

8 partners from 5 countries are taking part in the project. The partnership contains two types of members: content developers and dissemination partners

Content developers are responsible for the creation of the products (ARCP, SEAR; PLAS, TC, AP) and they take part in the dissemination activity at national level.

The dissemination partners organize validation and piloting of products at national level, provide feedback on the first versions of the products; and carry out dissemination activities at national and international conferences and fairs.

#### *Content developing partners:*

Digitális Pedagógiai Szakmai-szolgáltató Intézet - Hungary  
<http://www.dpszi.hu>

Wirtschaftsakademie Schleswig-Holstein GmbH - Germany  
<http://www.wak-sh.de>

Istituto Jacques Maritain - Italy  
<http://www.maritain.org/>

Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) - Lithuania  
<http://www.vdu.lt>

#### *Dissemination partners:*

Institut für Bildungsforschung der Wirtschaft - Austria  
<http://www.ibw.at/>

Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung - Germany  
<http://www.bibb.de/de/index.htm>

Oktatásfejlesztési Observatory - Hungary  
<http://www.observatory.org.hu/>

Istituto per lo Sviluppo della Formazione dei Lavoratori - Italy  
<http://www.isfol.it/>

## - Imprint

This publication is the electronic Newsletter of the ACVCD project published regularly in every six month. It contains news, information, and up-to-date issues connected to the topic of electronic curriculum development and developers, and the work of the project.

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Coordinator organisation:

Digitális Pedagógiai Szakmai-szolgáltató Intézet (Digital Pedagogy Professional Service-providing Institution)

1036 Budapest Pacsirtamező u. 41.

Phone: + 36 1 437 0376

Fax: + 36 1 437 0375

[info@acvcd.eu](mailto:info@acvcd.eu)

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**More information:** [www.acvcd.eu](http://www.acvcd.eu)