

Transfer between Formal, Informal
and Non-formal Education



Project Co-ordinator
Pat Davies, EUCEN

The Transfine partnership is built around an inner circle of 5 European networks covering the fields of Socrates, Leonardo and Youth: EUCEN (lead partner), EAEA, FIEEA, AEFP, SEFI. These will draw on an outer circle of experts, stakeholders and organisations with specific experience of the theme and/or a specific interest in the outcomes. The inner circle will be responsible for carrying out the work to achieve the objectives of the project and will call on the outer circle for information, advice and feedback on the results as they emerge.

The objectives of the project are : to collect, analyse and build on work already carried out at national and EU level in the 3 programme areas and across formal, informal and non-formal education; to investigate the feasibility of an integrated set of procedures for a system of transfer and accumulation of qualifications ; to create, develop and propose the principles, methods and tools for such a system ; and to construct a specification for pilot projects to test the proposals.

The project work will be undertaken in 3 phases :

1. **Review of the state of the art at European level** – May 2002 – October 2002: collection and analysis of documents, analyses, reports, project experiences in Socrates, Leonardo and Youth, relating to ECTS, APEL, forms of certification and recognition.
2. **Analysis of needs** – November 2002 – March 2003: survey by a team of researchers in each of 5 countries of the needs and expectations of 4 key groups of stakeholders – political and policy decision makers, social partners (including trade unions and enterprises), providers of education (universities, vocational training organisations, voluntary sector etc), and experts/organisations that understand the needs of individuals. The team of researchers will also review the relevant legislation and regulations in this field.
3. **Proposals for the future** – April – July 2003: production of the final report and proposals for the future (see expected outcomes below) containing proposals for an architecture for a new integrated system, the process by which this may be achieved, a set of tools and methods to implement it, and a specification for pilot projects to test it.

The project is innovative in a number of ways: its structure – the inner circle of European networks and the outer circle of expert individuals and organisations ; the scale and scope of the objectives and outcomes ; the range, depth and quality of the expertise mobilised ; the range of methods and tools used to achieve the objectives ; the interactive nature of the design to build a consensus around the results.

Dissemination will be embedded into the project: all the key players and stakeholders will be involved in the collection of data and in a seminar at the end of phase 1 and 2 to give feedback and advice.

The outcomes of the project will be :

- The adoption of a common transversal language
- The specification for an integrated approach for the recognition, accumulation and transfer of different forms of education and learning, including the tools, methods, a glossary of terminology and an outline of the pilot projects to test the proposals.
- Awareness and understanding among decision makers and stakeholders of a new 'culture' of recognition of learning
- Identification of the needs and expectations in relation to a new approach
- Proposal for a way forward including dealing with the obstacles that will be encountered
- New opportunities for excluded groups
- Experience of co-operation among European networks covering a wide range of education and training
- Recommendations for the extension of the proposed approach
- Opening of new opportunities for current and future EU programmes and actions.