

Press Release [V. large]

Twelve European Information associations cooperate to enhance professional competencies

A meeting to study the enhancement of the competencies of European information professionals was convened in Paris, the 15 June 2007, by the ADBS. In attendance of the meeting were representatives of professional associations from twelve countries : Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

European certification of competencies

The morning session allowed to take stock of the development of **Eurocertification**, the European device of certification of competencies in conformity with the international standard ISO 17024. Associations in seven countries are already involved in the award of **European certificates of qualification level in information services**, applying the rules established in 2003-2004 by the CERTIDoc Consortium.

Joint communication activities have been planned to come into operation within the next few months, with a view to broaden the audience of the Eurocertification and to heighten the awareness of some prospective partners : recruiting officers, heads of human resources, national agencies for employment, and also the professional bodies.

The Euroguide of competencies

The afternoon session was dedicated to the follow-up of the ***Euroguide LIS***. The 2nd edition, issued in 2004, is now available in eleven languages and had a real success in all Europe and even outside. Hundreds and hundreds of printed copies were bought, thousands of users downloaded it when visiting one from the web sites where it is freely available. All the participants to the meeting stressed the significance of this reference tool for the profession and outlined the diversity of the uses made of it. In some countries it was the basis for redesigning the LIS curricula in universities and professional schools, in full accordance with the provisions for an Higher Education Area required by the Bologna process. Being a tool which cannot be missed it must evolve at the same pace as the profession and the practice within information services.

In view of the elaboration of a 3rd edition to be issued in 2009 the decision was made to set up a "Consortium for the Euroguide", as a common roof for all bodies involved in the translation or the updating of the Euroguide. In each country (or linguistic area), a national association will be a member of the Consortium and will serve, when the need arises, as a switching point for other associations or organizations in the country using the *Euroguide*. A wiki will be set up to further the collaborative work of the various associations and make travels less necessary. The terminology used in this tool will also be checked and made more precise.

European collaboration

The information profession has from now at its disposal the *Euroguide* and the Eurocertification which are, at the European level, two major tools for analysing and fostering the competencies of the professionals.

The European meeting of the 15 June 2007 has shown the relevance of the “project approach” for a work jointly done by various associations at the European level. It also made apparent a strong tendency to rely on a collaborative method of work, as a tool of that kind cannot be elaborated by an association alone, especially when the frontiers between occupations become less rigid. In some countries (e.g. Switzerland, Italy), local consortia grouping several professional associations have been set up to ensure a better participation to these European undertakings.

In addition the meeting brought to light the driving role of the ADBS, which for fifteen years had invested in the conception, maintenance and promotion of these tools for a collective management of professional competencies.

For more information,