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International education and training

Activities in Cirius



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Cirius works to promote the internationalisation of education and training in Denmark and to ensure Danish participation in international education programmes.

Cirius provides information and guidance to users from all educational sectors and levels, i.e. from primary and lower secondary education to university and adult education, and from formalised education to youth and cultural activities taking place outside the formal education system.

Cirius works with the entire world. The centre has a wide network with organisations in other countries, which gives a good overview of international possibilities for Danish pupils, students and teachers' participation in education programmes. Cirius also provides information to foreigners about educational matters and possibilities in Denmark, and this adds to the profiling of Danish education and training at the global scene.

Cirius was established in July 2000 as an independent, governmental institution connected to the Danish Ministry of Education.

List of contents

Information and service □ 7
Board of directors □ 8
Committees □ 9
Management and presidency □ 10
Missions and funding □ 11
Knowledge and information centre □ 12–13

Arion □ 14
Cedefop Refer Network □ 15
Cedefop Study Visit Programme □ 16
Certificate Supplement □ 17
Comenius □ 18
Cultural Agreements □ 19
Danish Folk High School Grant Scheme □ 20
Danish Youth Exchange Programme □ 21
Diploma Supplement □ 22
DK-Skills □ 23
DK/USA Cooperation Programme □ 24
ECTS □ 25
Erasmus □ 26
EU/US and EU/Canada Cooperation Programmes □ 27
EuroDesk □ 28
Europass Training □ 29
European Language Label □ 30
European Voluntary Service □ 31

European Year of Education through Sport □ 32
Grundtvig □ 33
Internationalisation Prize □ 34
Leonardo da Vinci □ 35
Leonardo da Vinci – Mobility Projects □ 36
Leonardo da Vinci – Pilot Projects □ 37
Lingua □ 38
Minerva □ 39
Netd@ys □ 40
The Nordplus Programmes □ 41
Nordplus □ 42
Nordplus Junior □ 43
Nordplus Neighbour □ 44
Nordplus Sprog (Language) □ 45
Nordplus Voksen (Adult learning) □ 46
PIU programme □ 47
Socrates □ 48
TA³ □ 49
Tempus □ 50
Youth □ 51
Youth for Europe □ 52
Youth Initiatives □ 53

Programmes according to educational sectors □ 54–55
Overview of programme funding and licensees □ 56–57

Information and service

The Danish education and training sector is a diligent user of the many education programmes that support the international dimension in education and training. Cirius carries out the management of Danish, Nordic and European programmes and informs the users of the possibilities for projects within the programmes. Before a project is initiated, Cirius informs of objectives, terms and conditions of the programme and provides guidance during the application phase. Once the approval of the project has been given, Cirius meets with the project promoters and makes an effort to establish a network between them. When the project has ended, Cirius assists in dissemination of the results and experiences from the project.

Cirius is the coordination agency for the three major educational programmes of the European Union and the Nordic programmes, but the centre is also responsible for a number of other programmes, schemes and initiatives that support contact and cooperation in education and training with other countries – also outside Europe.

Cirius has compiled comprehensive knowledge and experiences on international cooperation and mobility, and this is made available to the users in a directly applicable form. The website www.ciriusonline.dk is the most important information channel, where thorough information on programmes and international educational matters can be found.

Board of directors

8

Cirius is managed by a board of directors, which consists of a chair and 14 members representing education institutions, labour market organisations, liberal adult education and youth organisations, as well as pupil and student associations.

The board is per spring 2004

- **Anne E. Jensen**, MEP, chair
- **Lone Mikkelsen**, JCVU Århus, vice-chair
- **Lise Skanting**, Danish Employers' Confederation, vice-chair
- **Lars Andersen**, student association
- **Birger Axen**, Hobro Gymnasium & HF-kursus
- **Astrid Dahl**, The Danish Federation of Trade Unions
- **Mariane Dissing**, The Danish Employers' Association for the Financial Sector
- **Torben Jans**, The Danish Confederation of Employers' Associations in Agriculture
- **Hans Laugesen**, The Danish National Union of Upper Secondary School Teachers
- **Karen Margrethe Lauridsen**, Aarhus School of Business
- **Katherine Richardson**, Aarhus University
- **Erik Schmidt**, Salaried Employees and Civil Servants' Confederation
- **Inge Vinther**, FOF, national association for liberal adult education
- **Michael Westi**, The Danish Youth Council
- **NN**, unappointed representative for the pupil associations

Nils Kruse, Cirius, employee representative with no voting right.

Torben Kornbech Rasmussen, delegate from the Ministry of Education.

René Bugge Bertramsen, delegate from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Committees

9

There are five consultative sector committees under the board. They select projects under the programmes and play an advisory role in relation to the long-term strategic development and activities of Cirius.

The sector committees cover:

- Primary and upper secondary education
- Initial and adult vocational education and training
- Higher education
- Liberal adult education
- Youth

The Danish PIU programme for initial vocational training has a specific advisory committee.

Consultative assembly

The consultative assembly meets annually and consists of representatives from all sectors relevant to the activities of Cirius. The assembly advises Cirius in terms of future strategies and activities.

Management and presidency

10

Director General:

Benny Dylander

e-mail: bd@ciriusmail.dk

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e-mail: gd@ciriusmail.dk

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Missions and funding

11

The internationalisation of education and training is in practice implemented by the schools and education institutions that are also responsible for carrying out the international activities.

In order to promote this effort, Cirius provides information and advice on international cooperation and activities and financial support schemes. Clients and users only have to address one place to obtain comprehensive advice and information on international education and training.

Cirius is a modern governmental institution that is result-oriented and works on the basis of contracts. The centre has no funds or bloc grants at its free disposal. There are several licensees to the funding: First, an annual appropriation from the government's Finance Act accounting for 57 per cent of total expenditure. The appropriation is earmarked to the Danish co-financing of the EU educational programmes and to the collection of knowledge and information in the field. Second, the centre holds a contractual license with the European Commission accounting for 26 per cent of total expenditure. Other contracts cover the remaining 17 per cent, among these contracts with the Nordic Council and Council of Ministers.

The activities of Cirius thus comprise a lot of single tasks assigned by many different licensees. A common feature of all activities is, however, that they promote internationalisation of education and training.

It is our hope that the following pages provide an overview and an introduction to the activities and their plurality.

Knowledge and information centre

12

Cirius is the Danish knowledge and information centre on international education and training. It provides information to users and other interested parties on the possibilities for international cooperation, mobility and strategies on internationalisation.

Since the activities in Cirius comprise the entire education system and several programmes and grant schemes, Cirius possesses knowledge on education and training in width and depth. The centre is thereby well equipped to provide information and guidance to education institutions opting for international work. In addition, Cirius has a prosperous network with knowledge centres and related organisations in Denmark and abroad.

In connection with the activities related to programme and scheme administration, Cirius collects project experiences on how internationalisation works in practice.

The experiences are disseminated through printed publications, fact sheets, newsletters, and through electronic information and services. Meetings and conferences are held, and Cirius participates in educational fairs in Denmark and abroad.

To make this knowledge available news relevant to the users of the programmes and to anybody working with international matters in education and training are regularly published at Cirius' website: www.Ciriusonline.dk.

At Ciriusonline, you will find:

- News on the internationalisation of education and training in Denmark and abroad
- Calls for proposals and application deadlines to the programmes
- Presentation of grant schemes, application forms and guidance material
- Examples of projects and individual experiences
- Tools for partner search
- Publications on internationalisation and reports on project experiences
- Announcement of meetings, conferences, contact seminars and international initiatives
- Information in English on Danish education and training

It is also possible to subscribe for free to Cirius' electronic newsletter issued every fortnight.

A printed newsletter is issued in Danish every month to paying subscribers. The newsletter "Nyt om Uddannelse og Internationalisering" contains articles on matters in international education.

Analyses and reviews are published on a regular basis, and an annual progress report on the internationalisation of Danish education and training is prepared to the Minister of Education.

In order to meet the increasing need among young people for information and links to education, work or traineeships abroad, a specific website has been produced: www.udiverden.dk

13

Arion

14

Arion is a part of the Socrates programme and deals with study visits related to the education system. Foreigners may visit the Danish education system, and Danes foreign education systems.

Education specialists, directors and decision makers from primary and lower secondary education up to higher education and adult education may participate in the study visits.

The visits last five days, from Monday morning to Friday afternoon, and normally counts 10-12 participants from several European countries. The content of the study visits are described in an Arion catalogue listed according to theme.

Cirius and the Ministry of Education are responsible for the appointment of Danish participants. The annual application date is in May.

Cirius is further responsible for organising study visits to Denmark, and this is often carried out in cooperation with regional pedagogical resource centres or municipalities. The visits are thematic with focus on a particular educational sector or pedagogical learning method.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/arion - ij@ciriusmail.dk

Cedefop Refer Network

15

Cirius participates in a European network under Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. The network collates and disseminates documentation, information on new initiatives, reforms and research of vocational training in the EU countries. Cirius is responsible for listing Danish publications and reports in a European database, as well as providing articles to the Cedefop newsletter issued four times a year.

More information:

www.cedefop.eu.int - sep@ciriusmail.dk

Cedefop Study Visit Programme

16

Every year, several study visits for education specialists in vocational education and training are carried out. All EU member states are responsible for organising study visits to their own country, and the programme provides funding for the participants. On average, 25 Danish education specialists are allocated a grant to participate in study visits to other countries every year. Three annual visits to Denmark are prepared by Cirius in cooperation with vocational training centres and vocational colleges.

Cirius carries out the task of National Liaison Officer for Cedefop, and the Ministry of Education and the social partners appoint the Danish participants in the visits.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk - ij@ciriusmail.dk

Certificate Supplement

17

A Certificate Supplement is a supplement to a Danish certificate or journeyman's certificate for initial vocational training. It contains short and concise information on the vocational training programme in question, e.g. qualifications and skills achieved during the training programme, typical jobs and work functions to which the programme qualifies, the duration of the programme and the alternation between instruction at a college and practical training in a company. The supplements for all the vocational training programmes are available in Danish, English, French and German. The supplements may be used when applying for a job in another country, and in situations where experiences are exchanged and comparisons made between specific training programmes of different countries. All European member states are to prepare Certificate Supplements. Cirius has since 2002 been responsible for the description of the Danish vocational training programmes for the certificate supplements.

All the approx. 190 certificate supplements for Danish vocational training programmes are available from Cirius' website.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk - sep@ciriusmail.dk

Comenius

18

Comenius is about school education and promotes internationalisation of and cooperation between schools in 31 participant countries.

Funding is provided to different types of projects. Some deal with cooperation, some with mobility for teachers and pupils.

■ Comenius 1: School partnerships

- School Projects
- Language Projects
- School Development Projects

■ Comenius 2: Projects for the training of school education staff

- European cooperation projects for the training of school education staff
- Individual training grants for school education staff
- Language Assistants

■ Comenius 3: School education networks

There is one annual call for proposals for most of the activities under the Comenius programme, either 1 February or 1 November. Individual training grants have several calls for proposals every year. In order to start up a new project, grants are available for participation in a contact seminar or organisation of a preparatory visit to a project partner.

Comenius is a part of the Socrates programme. It has been named after the Czech Ján Amos Comenius (Johan Amos Komensky) (1592-1665). He was a theologian, philosopher and pedagogue, and gave peace and international cooperation pride of place. He believed that education was the means to achieve this.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk - comenius@ciriusmail.dk

Cultural Agreements

19

Cirius administers the bilateral and cultural agreements on scholarships for foreign nationals and on the exchange of experts and lecturers. Denmark has agreements with 22 European countries, as well as Egypt, Israel, Japan, China, Russia and Turkey.

Danish students and researchers in higher education may apply for a government scholarship for long-term studies or short language courses abroad. Foreign nationals may apply for a scholarship for studies in Denmark, and every year, a number of lecturers are invited to Denmark on a scholarship.

Within the framework of the cultural agreements, language courses for foreign students are organised.

The annual deadline for submitting applications is in autumn for activities the following academic year.

Researchers apply directly to Cirius, whereas students apply at their own higher education institution.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/kulturaftaler - vh@ciriusmail.dk

Danish Folk High School Grant Scheme

20

The Danish Folk High School Grant Scheme provides funding for young people from the new EU member states to stay at Danish folk high schools for a period of time. The grants are provided by the Danish state. Danish folk high schools apply for the grants to host students from the 10 new EU member states. The purpose is to tighten the bonds between young Danes and people from the target countries.

The stays must be of at least 12 weeks, and the target countries are Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Hungary. The grants are applied for by the Danish folk high school on behalf of the young person.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/hojskolepuljen -
cirius@ciriusmail.dk

Danish Youth Exchange Programme

21

Cirius administers the grant scheme provided by the Ministry of Education to young people under 18 who wish to go abroad for one year while continuing their upper secondary studies. The grant of DKK 10,000 (EUR 1333) is appropriated to young people going abroad within the framework of certain exchange organisations. The stay must last for an academic year, i.e. at least 10 months, the young person must follow full-time courses at a locally recognised school or college, and live with a host family.

There are no application deadlines. As soon as there is an agreement between the young person and an exchange organisation, an application may be sent to Cirius.

A list of recognised exchange organisations is available at: www.ciriusonline.dk/10000
More information: iwg@ciriusmail.dk

Diploma Supplement

22

Diploma Supplement is a supplement in English to diplomas for higher education. A Diploma Supplement contains a short and concise description in English of the educational programme in question, e.g. admission requirements to the programme and its duration and level.

The Diploma Supplement follows a common European standard developed in cooperation between the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and Unesco, and it is therefore known and acknowledged across Europe. The supplements serve to ease the mutual recognition of educational programmes, e.g. in connection to study periods or job search abroad.

Cirius provides guidance to higher education institutions on Diploma Supplements, and since September 2002, all institutions must supplement the Danish diploma with a Diploma Supplement in English.

Any student must address himself to his own higher education institution for more information on Diploma Supplements.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/ds - jk@ciriusmail.dk

DK-Skills

23

DK-Skills is a Danish organisation working for Danish participation in the World Skills Competition that is held every other year. Young craftsmen from most of the world compete in 40 different vocational trades.

The aim of DK-Skills is to promote the societal esteem and status of Danish vocational education and training by encouraging young people, their teachers, trainer and employers to achieve the highest possible qualification within their trade.

The assignments previously set at the competitions are at the disposal of the trade committees for each trade for the purpose of offering the trades international benchmarking.

The members of DK-Skills are the trade committees, and Cirius acts as the secretariat for the organisation.

More information:
www.dk-skills.dk - ph@ciriusmail.dk

DK/USA Cooperation Programme

24

This bilateral programme supports cooperation in vocational education and training between US community colleges and Danish business and technical colleges. The target sectors are vocational education and training and short cycle higher education.

The cooperation is based on an understanding between the Danish Minister of Education and the US Secretary of Education, and expires at the end of 2006.

Within the framework of the DK/USA cooperation programme, Denmark provides financial support to cooperation related to the development of new teaching methods and courses, benchmarking of educational standards, exchange of experiences in methods for assessment, and analyses of qualification needs. The cooperation may also include exchange of students, teachers and other staff at the college. Grants are also given to preparatory visits with the purpose of establishing work placements for students.

A Danish-American steering committee sets down the action areas for the programme.

Application for grants can be made anytime during the year. There are no application deadlines.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/dk-usa - lmb@ciriusmail.dk

ECTS

25

ECTS is short for European Credit Transfer System. The system is developed by the EU as a means of indicating student workload in time, course content of study periods and units making up the higher education programme in question. The ECTS system is a common European standard and may be used for credit transfer of study periods undertaken at different higher education institutions in Denmark or abroad.

The ECTS contains the following core elements:

- ECTS credits are a numerical value allocated to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. ECTS credits do not indicate professional level or degree of difficulty, merely workload,
- ECTS courses and course descriptions supply information on educational level, content, aims and objectives, etc. of individual courses,.
- ECTS credits may be used for the conversion of grades between countries
- The transcript of records is a diploma listing completed courses, their scope and ECTS credits, and achieved grades, if any. It may be used as an appendix to a national diploma and for credit transfer of completed courses.

Higher education institutions in Denmark must indicate ECTS credits on diplomas. Cirius provides assistance to the institutions in its capacity of being the national Erasmus agency.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/ects - jk@ciriusmail.dk or cmw@ciriusmail.dk

Erasmus

26

Erasmus is part of the Socrates programme and is aimed at higher education. Erasmus supports cooperation between universities and higher education institutions and supports individual students and teacher training at foreign universities. The activities must be carried out within the framework of an Erasmus University Charter issued by the European Commission.

The following activities are supported:

■ **European cooperation between universities and higher education institutions:**

Support is given to the preparation of students' and teachers' mobility, short study programmes, joint development and implementation of curriculum, and implementation of ECTS, the European Credit Transfer System.

■ **Students' and teachers' mobility:**

Higher education institutions annually apply to Cirius for funding for a number of grants available for the coming academic year. Students and teachers must apply for a grant at their own institution.

■ **Thematic networks:**

The main aim is to define and develop a European dimension within a given academic discipline or study area. All 31 countries participating in the Socrates programme must be involved.

Erasmus Intensive Language Courses are also organised for Erasmus students.

Erasmus of Rotterdam (1467-1536) lent his name to the programme. He was a student in several parts of Europe and was an important humanist and philologist.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/erasmus - erasmus@ciriusmail.dk

EU/US and EU/Canada Cooperation Programmes

27

The Cooperation Programmes between the EU and the US and Canada support cooperation in vocational education and training and higher education. Large development projects consisting of consortia from several EU member states and US/Canadian states are supported. The projects deal with e.g. the development of curricula and cooperation on mobility.

Similar programmes exist between the EU and other parts of the world, e.g. the Asia-Link Programmes with Asian countries, and the Alban Programme on cooperation with Latin America.

Funding from the programmes is applied for directly to the European Commission which is also in charge for the selection of projects. Deadlines for submission of proposals are announced by Cirius.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk - cirius@ciriusmail.dk

EuroDesk

28

Cirius participates in the EuroDesk network that consists of more than 400 information offices around Europe. The network collates and distributes information on national, Nordic and European programmes and grant schemes relevant to young people and students. Questions to the network can be put forward by letter, mail or phone.

In order to meet the increasing need among young people for information and links to education, work or traineeships abroad, a specific website has been produced: www.udiverden.dk (Going Abroad) where information from the EuroDesk network is made available to Danes. The site contains facts on rules and regulations, grant schemes and possibilities for going abroad as well as information on practical matters. Links to other relevant sites are also provided. As a EuroDesk member Cirius also provides data for the Danish section of the European Commission's web portal for young people that opened in May 2004.

More information:

www.udiverden.dk - www.eurodesk.org -
<http://europa.eu.int/youth> or eurodesk@ciriusmail.dk

Europass Training

29

The Europass Training is established at the initiative of the EU to document and render visible work placements or study periods which students have carried out in another country as part of an initial vocational training programme or a higher vocationally oriented education programme.

The Europass Training contains information on the parts of the programme carried out abroad, and the passport is a supplement to a national diploma. The Europass Training is a personal proof that can be used in a job search, in Denmark and abroad.

The Europass Training is designed for any form of vocationally oriented education containing a compulsory work placement. This implies educational programmes where study periods alternate with practical training in a company, e.g. apprenticeships and educational programmes to become e.g. nurse or educationalist.

The passport is pre-printed in different languages and is issued by the college, higher education institution or company in charge of the education or training programme. Registration for the passport is made to Cirius.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/europas - europas@ciriusmail.dk

European Language Label

30

The European Language Label is awarded to innovative language learning projects and initiatives within all educational sectors every year. It is a label for praiseworthy work at schools and educational institutions doing an extra effort in the field of language learning.

The label is an EU initiative and the label itself, The European Language Label, is a diploma issued by the EU and the Ministry of Education in community. No money follows with the label.

Every year, focus is on a specific theme in language learning, and sometimes specific sectors are encouraged to submit proposals and projects.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/sprogpris - ibw@ciriusmail.dk

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

31

The European Voluntary Service enables young people between 18 and 25 to spend 6-12 months abroad doing voluntary work. The fields of work comprise environmental work, art and culture, sports and leisure activities for children, young people and the elderly.

The EVS is also a chance for organisations and institutions to have a young person from another country help and assist in the daily work and have him contribute with ideas of how to do things.

The stays may be carried out in the 31 countries participating in the programme, and also Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Mediterranean countries, the former Soviet Republic, the Balkan countries and South and Central American countries.

The grant covers travel costs, insurance, pocket money and preparation to the stay. Board and lodging are provided by the host organisation.

There are five annual calls for proposals: 1 February, 1 April, 1 June, 1 September and 1 November.

The European Voluntary Service is part of the EU Youth Programme (Action 2).

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk - ungdom@ciriusmail.dk

European Year of Education through Sport 2004

32

Every year, a specific field of education is highlighted by the EU, and financial means are earmarked for activities and initiatives within the field.

2004 is the year for Education through Sport, and focus is put on the importance of sport on young people's personal, physical, and social development, as well as on the pedagogy and European dimension of sport in both formal and informal education.

The following activities are supported:

- Activities that integrate sports into a formal teaching situation,
- Projects dealing with voluntary training activities testing the effect of sport in informal learning,
- Projects involving youth exchanges,
- Projects identifying the importance of sports in the development of social skills, e.g. teamwork, solidarity, tolerance, and mutual understanding in a multi-cultural environment.

Cirius provides information and advice to users and interested parties in Denmark, and a steering committee has been set up with representatives from sports associations, the Danish Ministry of Culture and the Danish Ministry of Education.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/udd-idraet - kl@ciriusmail.dk

Grundtvig

33

Grundtvig supports projects that improve general adult learning. Focus is also on groups of people with a low educational attainment, e.g. adults who lack elementary skills or have not completed primary and lower secondary education, or who are financially or socially vulnerable for some reason or other. Adults with specific educational needs and "young adults" who did not succeed in primary, lower and upper secondary education are also included in the target group of Grundtvig

There are four actions in Grundtvig:

- Transnational cooperation projects (Grundtvig 1)
- Learning partnerships (Grundtvig 2)
- Mobility for training of educational staff (Grundtvig 3)
- Networks between adult learning projects and other actors in adult learning (Grundtvig 4)

The annual call for proposals is either 1 March or 1 November.

Grundtvig is a part of the EU Socrates programme. It is named after the Danish clergyman and writer N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), and builds on Grundtvig's philosophy on learning throughout life.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/grundtvig - grundtvig@ciriusmail.dk

Internationalisation Prize

34

FUHU, the Danish Society for the Advancement of Business Education, has instituted a Prize on Internationalisation. The prize is awarded every year to one or several people who have made an exceptional effort in promoting the international dimension in business education. The effort must encompass innovative and visible activities or initiatives that are examples of good practice for future work in the internationalisation of education.

The prize is of DKK 25,000 (EUR 3,333). If the nominated is a group of people, the prize may be raised to DKK 50,000 (EUR 6,667). The prize must be used for a study trip or study period abroad.

Cirius calls for nominees and recommends them, and the final selection is made by a committee with members appointed by FUHU and Cirius.

More information: cirius@ciriusmail.dk

Leonardo da Vinci

35

Leonardo da Vinci is the EU vocational training programme, encompassing both initial vocational training at all levels and continuing vocational training. The overall objectives of the programme are to strengthen the quality and innovation in and add an international dimension to vocational education and training. 31 European countries participate in the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

The target groups of the programme are institutions, organisations, public and private bodies involved in vocational training at all levels.

The programme consists of the following measures:

- Mobility, i.e. work placements and study periods abroad
- Transnational pilot projects

The programme is named after Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), the great Italian inventor, scientist and artist, also reputed for his practical inventions.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/leonardo -
leonardo@ciriusmail.dk

Leonardo da Vinci – Mobility Projects

36

The Leonardo da Vinci programme supports work placements and study periods abroad for the following target groups:

- People undergoing initial vocational training,
- University students in vocationally oriented higher education containing a compulsory placement period,
- Young workers and recent graduates,
- Vocational training programme planners and managers, particularly trainers, and occupational guidance specialists,
- Trainers and mentors in the area of language competencies.

The grant is a contribution towards mobility costs, i.e. travel, accommodation and subsistence costs, and must be applied for by a college, higher education institution, organisation or enterprise. Individuals cannot apply by themselves.

The work placements and study periods may be carried out in one of the 31 European countries participating in the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

The annual call for proposals is normally in February. Young workers and recent graduates may, however, apply regularly. In the event of non-allocated grants, an extra call for proposals is set, normally in autumn.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/leonardo -
leonardo@ciriusmail.dk

Leonardo da Vinci – Pilot Projects

37

The Leonardo da Vinci programme supports transnational, innovative pilot projects.

Four types of projects are supported:

- Pilot projects that seek to develop methods or tangible material within vocational training,
- Language projects that seek to develop language learning material and new pedagogical methods,
- Transnational network projects collating, recapitulating and disseminating knowledge at European level,
- Scientific analyses and information gathered at European level on vocational training systems (called Reference Material).

There is also funding for a limited number of pilot projects on specific themes of particular interest at EU level. The themes are announced prior to the call for proposals for "Thematic actions".

The pilot projects must consist of partners from at least three countries, of which one country must be a member of the EU.

The annual call for proposals is normally in October.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/leonardo -
leonardo@ciriusmail.dk

Lingua

38

Lingua is designed to ameliorate the quality of language teaching and learning through European cooperation on exchange and improve methods, pedagogies, curricula and teaching materials. These objectives are to be achieved in cooperation between institutions, enterprises and organisations from at least two countries.

Lingua is divided into two parts:

- Motivation projects and exchange of experiences, i.e. projects where ideas and experiences are exchanged and networks established between the resource centres,
- Development of curricula and learning tools to teaching of foreign (non-professional) languages.

The annual call for proposals for both parts is 1 November.

Lingua is mainly aimed at the existing 11 European languages, and the languages from the new member states are gradually incorporated into the programme. A specific focus is on projects dealing with the less widely used and less taught languages (called LWULT languages).

Lingua is an action under the Socrates programme, and is the Latin word for language.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/lingua - ibw@ciriusmail.dk

Minerva

39

Minerva seeks to promote European cooperation in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), including multimedia, in education.

The main objectives are to:

- Promote understanding among teachers, learners, decision makers and the public at large of the implications of the use of ICT in education,
- Ensure that pedagogical considerations are given proper weight in the development of ICT and multimedia-based educational products and services,
- Promote access to improved methods and educational resources as well as to results and best practices in this field.

The annual call for proposals is 1 November.

Mineva is an action under the Socrates programme, and Minerva is named after the Roman goddess of handicraft, drama and teaching.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/minerva - nk@ciriusmail.dk

Netd@ys

40

Netd@ys is an initiative to promote the use of new technologies in education, youth and culture. The target group is young people between 15 and 25, and the theme changes every year. The Netd@ys initiative runs for a week, normally in November.

During the week, schools and youth organisations are encouraged to participate in the activities organised by the European Commission or to carry out activities related to the theme of the week. Netd@ys is an EU initiative.

More information:

www.netdays.dk - lha@ciriusmail.dk

The Nordplus Programmes

41

The Nordic Council and Council of Ministers have established programmes that support mobility and cooperation in education and training at Nordic level. The programmes contribute to strengthening the sense of community and Nordic identity based on the countries' historic, cultural and democratic interdependence.

The motto for the Nordic programmes is "Nordic benefit", i.e. that the Nordic cooperation should give the highest possible benefit. This implies e.g. that any project contractor should consider whether a national activity could be carried out in a Nordic framework to the advantage of improving Nordic competencies and competitiveness as such.

The programmes have a well-defined target group, and all programmes must strengthen mobility and cooperation in education and training in the five Nordic countries and the autonomous areas of Greenland, the Faeroe Islands and the Aland Islands.

Read more about the Nordic programmes:

- Nordplus, page 42
- Nordplus Junior, page 43
- Nordplus Neighbour, page 44
- Nordplus Sprog (Language), page 45
- Nordplus Voksen (Adult learning), page 46

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/nordplus - hna@ciriusmail.dk

Nordplus

42

The Nordplus programme supports cooperation in higher education among the Nordic countries. Funding is provided for subject-related cooperation and the building and operation of networks between higher education institutions for the purpose of developing learning material and study programmes.

Grants are also provided to students on study periods or work placements in another Nordic country. Students who wish to study at a higher education institution which is not a member of the Nordplus network, may also receive a grant. The stays may last 1, 3, 6 or 12 months.

Teachers may receive grants for teaching at another higher education institution from the network. The Nordplus programme also supports short intensive courses for participants from different countries.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/nordplus - mhs@ciriusmail.dk

Nordplus Junior

43

The Nordplus Junior programme is aimed at pupils and teachers in primary, lower and upper secondary education, including vocational education and training.

Funding is provided for thematic work between school classes and for exchanges between two or more schools in the Nordic countries. Teachers, who want to teach at a school in another country for a period of time, are also supported financially.

The individual pupils may apply for a grant to cover travel costs if they go on a work placement or participate in general upper secondary education in another Nordic country.

More information:
www.ciriusonline.dk/nordplus - mw@ciriusmail.dk

Nordplus Neighbour

44

The overall aim of the programme is to develop networks and cooperation between education institutions at all levels from the Nordic and Baltic countries and Northwest Russia. The cooperation relates to the entire educational sector from primary and lower secondary education to higher education and adult education. The programme also encompasses informal learning activities from voluntary work.

Funding is provided to the establishment and operation of networks, e.g. costs related to travel, board and lodging, rental of premises, equipment, etc.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/nordplus - vh@ciriusmail.dk

Nordplus Sprog (Language)

45

The aim of the programme is to promote the mutual understanding of languages between the Nordic countries, to promote Nordic language policies based on democracy, as well as to strengthen the international position of the Nordic countries.

It is also an objective to promote the knowledge and mutual understanding of Danish, Swedish and Norwegian, and to increase the knowledge of Finnish, Faeroese, Greenlandic, Icelandic, and Samian in the Nordic countries.

The activities funded by the programme are courses, conferences, research and analyses work, publications, teaching material and the establishment of networks with focus on language.

Institutions, organisations, networks and individual persons may apply for grants.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/nordplus - ibw@ciriusmail.dk

Nordplus Voksen (Adult learning)

46

The aim of the programme is to contribute to the improvement of adult learning through the development of new learning environments and methods, and thereby enhance the establishment of networks and cooperation between the different actors from the field in the various Nordic countries. This is achieved through financial support to different types of projects on cooperation and to mobility activities.

The cooperation projects may deal with the establishment of thematic networks and the development of new ideas, methods or material, as well as to the identification of best practice and the dissemination of tangible material.

Mobility grants should be seen as a contribution to travel and subsistence costs in connection with the exchange of experiences, preparatory meetings in connection with projects, and the establishment of networks.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/nordplus - hna@ciriusmail.dk

PIU Programme

47

The PIU programme is a Danish mobility programme for students in initial vocational education and training, agricultural training, and social and health care training. PIU is short for work placement abroad (Praktik I Udlandet), and funding is provided to students on work placements abroad as an integrated part of a Danish training programme. The student may either be posted by his Danish employer or go on a work placement directly from school and sign a training contract with a foreign employer.

The work placements may be carried out in any EU country as well as in Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Approx. 1,000 students avail themselves of this opportunity every year.

The PIU coordinators at the vocational colleges and social and health care colleges provide advice and practical assistance to students going abroad. The Employers' Reimbursement Scheme (called AER) is in charge of the financial support.

Cirius provides information to vocational colleges, students and employers on the PIU programme, and coordinates and develops the activities of the programme.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/piu - piu@ciriusmail.dk

Sokrates

48

Socrates is the EU action programme in the field of general education. The aim of the programme is to promote European cooperation at all educational levels and thereby to strengthen the European dimension and improve the quality in education. Socrates takes account of all types of learning and levels, from pre-school to higher education.

Read more about the specific actions of the programme:

- Arion, page 14
- Comenius, page 18
- Erasmus, page 26
- Grundtvig, page 33
- Lingua, page 38
- Minerva, page 39

The programme has been named after the Greek philosopher, Socrates (469-399 B.C). He is considered the founding father of moral philosophy although he did not leave any written documentation behind him.

TA³

49

Cirius is the European secretariat for TA³, the Transatlantic Technology and Training Alliance. The TA³ is an association of US community colleges and European vocational colleges.

The colleges cooperate and exchange experiences across the Atlantic Ocean on projects and initiatives in education and training that promote local business development. The cooperation is also used for student and teacher exchanges.

More than 20 US community colleges and 12 European colleges participate in the network. Denmark is represented by Den Jyske Håndværkerskole, EUC-Syd and EUC-Vest.

More information: lmb@ciriusmail.dk

Tempus

50

Tempus is the higher education cooperation scheme between EU member states and partner countries, i.e. South East Europe, the former Soviet Republic, Mongolia and the southern Mediterranean countries.

Tempus is a part of the general EU programmes for economic and social reconstruction of the countries in South East Europe (the Cards programme) and the southern Mediterranean countries (the Meda programme), and for economic reforms and a strengthening of the new independent states from the former Soviet Republic and Mongolia (the Tacis programme).

Financial support is given to projects dealing with university administration, curricula development, institutional structure and student mobility. Network projects and individual mobility activities are also supported.

The Tempus cooperation countries are:

- South East Europe: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro,
- The new independent states from the former Soviet Republic (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) and Mongolia,
- Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/tempus - vh@ciriusmail.dk

Youth

51

The EU Youth Programme supports activities outside the formal education system. The aim of the programme is to promote mobility, participation, intercultural understanding and solidarity among young people inside and outside the borders of the EU.

The target group is mainly young people but youth leaders, educationalists and decision makers, as well as any other person being involved in the youth sector or in an informal learning environment, are also included.

Cooperation with countries outside the EU includes the new EU member states, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Mediterranean countries, the former Soviet Republic, the Balkan countries and the countries in South and Central America.

The Youth programme has the following actions:

- Youth for Europe, page 52
- European Voluntary Service, page 31
- Youth Initiatives, page 53

The action Support Measures is specifically aimed at ensuring that experiences from above actions are passed on to anybody involved in youth matters of relevance. Support is given to contact seminars, preparatory visits, courses and exchange of experiences for new and experienced users of the Youth programme.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/ungdom - ungdom@ciriusmail.dk

Youth for Europe

52

Grants are given to the exchange of groups of young people between 15 and 25 of age. The purpose is to bring together young people to work with a theme of common interest, and at the same time learn about each others' countries and cultures. They experience differences and similarities, challenge prejudices, and mature and learn about themselves and others.

Youth exchanges may also take place with countries outside the EU, i.e. Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Mediterranean countries, the former Soviet Republic, the Balkan countries and the countries in South and Central America.

There are five calls for proposals every year: 1 February, 1 April, 1 June, 1 September and 1 November.

Youth for Europe is Action 1 of the EU Youth programme.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/ungdom - ungdom@ciriusmail.dk

Youth Initiatives

53

Grants are given to projects created and run by a group of young people, i.e. where the idea, preparation and implementation mainly lie with young people.

There are two types of initiatives:

- Group initiatives – must count at least four participants between the age of 15 and 25,
- Follow-up projects – aimed at former participants in the European Voluntary Service.

The group initiatives may revolve around many different ideas, e.g. the establishment of a youth centre, the publishing of a local youth paper, or the integration of young newcomers.

The follow-up projects may support activities such as starting on a profession, setting up a shop, or single activities, e.g. setting up a street theatre or follow courses in personal development.

There are five annual calls for proposals: 1 February, 1 April, 1 June, 1 September and 1 November.

Youth Initiatives is Action 3 of the EU Youth programme.

More information:

www.ciriusonline.dk/ungdom - ungdom@ciriusmail.dk

Programmes distributed according to educational sectors

54

	School education	Vocational training	Higher education	Adult learning	Youth
Arion	■	■	■	■	
Cedefop Refer Network		■			
Cedefop Study Visits		■			
Certificate Supplement		■			
Comenius	■	■	■		
Cultural Agreements			■		
Danish Folk High School Grant Scheme				■	
Danish Youth Exchange Programme	■				■
Diploma Supplement			■		
DK-Skills		■			
DK/USA Cooperation Programme		■	■		
ECTS			■		
Erasmus			■		
EU/US and EU/Canada		■	■		
EuroDesk and Going Abroad	■	■	■	■	■
Europass Training		■	■		
European Language Label	■	■	■	■	
EVS					■
EYES - Education through Sport 2004	■				■

55

	School education	Vocational training	Higher education	Adult learning	Youth
Grundtvig		■	■	■	
Internationalisation Prize		■	■		
Leonardo da Vinci Mobility Projects		■	■		
Leonardo da Vinci Pilot Projects		■	■		
Lingua	■	■	■	■	
Minerva	■	■	■	■	
Netd@ys	■				■
Nordplus			■		
Nordplus Junior	■	■			
Nordplus Nabo	■	■	■	■	
Nordplus Sprog	■	■	■	■	
Nordplus Voksen		■	■	■	
PIU Programme		■			
Socrates	■	■	■	■	
TA ³		■			
Tempus			■		
Youth					■
Youth for Europe					■
Youth Initiatives					■

Overview of programme funding and licensees

56

	Danish government	European Union	Nordic Council of Ministers	Other	No Financial support
Arion	■				
Cedefop Refer Network					■
Cedefop Study Visits	■				
Certificate Supplement					■
Comenius		■			
Cultural Agreements	■				
Danish Folk High School Grant Scheme	■				
Danish Youth Exchange Programme	■				
Diploma Supplement					■
DK-Skills					■
DK/USA Cooperation Programme	■				
ECTS		■			
Erasmus		■			
EU/US and EU/Canada		■			
EuroDesk and Going Abroad					■
Europass Training					■
European Language Label					■
EVS	■				
EYES - Education through Sport 2004	■				

57

	Danish government	European Union	Nordic Council of Ministers	Other	No Financial support
Grundtvig	■				
Internationalisation Prize				■	
Leonardo da Vinci - Mobility Projects		■			
Leonardo da Vinci - Pilot Projects		■			
Lingua		■			
Minerva		■			
Netd@ys					■
Nordplus			■		
Nordplus Junior			■		
Nordplus Nabo			■		
Nordplus Sprog			■		
Nordplus Voksen			■		
PIU Programme				■	
Socrates		■			
TA ³					■
Tempus		■			
Youth		■			
Youth for Europe		■			
Youth Initiatives		■			