



November 2008

**WP3/WP4**  
Joint Working Paper

**Recommendations for Policy  
Makers**

**Cert-TTT-M** means Certified Transnational Technology Transfer Manager and is a project within the FP6 programme of the EU. CERT-TTT-M is a bottom-up initiative by 11 European partners.

CERT-TTT-M aims at building up a framework to qualify TT professionals on a transnational level and with mutual recognition in Europe.

CERT-TTT-M is based on ideas and findings of European IPR Experts giving advice to the European Commission by means of the Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC).

CERT-TTT-M addresses those critical obstacles that will impede progress towards a common European Research Area, specifically in relation to a common Technology Transfer Area:

- A lack of TT skilled people
- No registered TT profession
- No TT education / training programme recognised across Europe

The goal to achieve is that more and more proficient people enter this profession.

Cert-TTT-M achieves this by:

- (a) Developing a common framework of skills needed to be proficient – and ensuring that courses offering such training are available from multiple providers. *Seven core-skills of the profession based on three levels of training/expertise (basic, advanced and expert) have been identified and detailed. Such a result is based on a survey on training needs of professionals and an analysis of training courses available at European level*
- (b) Providing pan-European recognition of the training (and subsequently the profession), thereby giving confidence that there is a market for the skills acquired. *The setting up of a European Professional Body, developed by a bottom-up approach, as a mechanism that can in future support the quality and the recognition of European professionals in TT field has been provided. Even if the establishment of this body falls outside the scope of the CERT-TTT-M project its relevance has been underlined and a general outline and main tasks have been identified.*

## Recommendations

Based on project results and considerations, the CERT-TTT-M Consortium and experts of the Advisory Panel provide the following recommendation.

### Recommendation 1

Policy makers are recommended to promote policies for qualification of TT professionals and to promote collaboration between relevant stakeholders for

recognition of that qualification throughout individual countries and throughout Europe. Policy makers should recognise the benefits arising from the recognition of qualification for the TT profession in Europe.

## **Recommendation 2**

Policy makers should take notice of the CERT-TTT-M framework and are recommended to support its wide dissemination for use by training providers where funds are provided from public funds. (Framework to be downloaded from: [www.ttt-manager.eu](http://www.ttt-manager.eu))

## **Recommendation 3**

Policy makers are recommended to support a quick implementation of the pilot phase of the CERT-TTT-M framework by a first group of training providers which will represent the starting point of a quality future path towards recognition. (Information package for training providers: [www.ttt-manager.eu](http://www.ttt-manager.eu))

## **Recommendation 4**

Policy makers are recommended to support the establishment of a future 'Professional Body' as an independent and representative authority in the professional field which can recognise and/or in due course accredit the training programs for TT across the European Union. With the Professional Body the recognition path of the TT professional can be further developed.

# Synthesis of project results

The CERT-TTT-M project aims at professionalizing Technology Transfer on a European level, by increasing the availability of Technology Transfer skilled professionals in the European Research Area (ERA). To realize this goal the project focuses on the quality and relevance of education opportunities for the Technology Transfer Profession, by proposing general outlines for a European education framework for Technology Transfer Professionals (TTPs).

Based on the main results of the project, we will commend our recommendations to policy makers – since they have a primary role and are ideally placed to support and promote policies for quality improvement and the valorisation and recognition of professional skills.

## 1. Education framework for TT professionals

The core result of the CERT-TTT-M project is the definition of the education framework for European professionals in technology transfer field based on three levels of training/expertise: basic, advanced and expert.

It provides details about different skills, descriptions of what the skills mean, learning outcomes, education modules, methodologies, facilities, teaching staff, assessment methods and recommended duration of training programmes.

The framework aims to support training providers with relevant information in designing and delivering courses about technology transfer of high quality and sufficient relevance to enhance the numbers in and the development of the profession.

This framework is a first step towards enhancing the TT profession in Europe and creating an appropriate regulated quality and training framework.

## 2. Quality and standards for education

The development of quality standards and criteria in training are important conditions to create recognition and accreditation in the development of the Technology Transfer profession. Quality standards can enhance the learning experience for individuals and ensuring the reliability of training providers by seeking to guarantee quality on the content and the organisational aspects and procedures with regard to training activities. This in turn allows individuals and organisations seeking training to make an informed choice.

Existing quality standards systems and criteria within education and training in Europe have been analysed extensively during the project and provided useful reference points for quality measures for the CERT-TTT-M framework. It takes into account quality aspects like definition of contents, levels of competence, background of teaching staff, methodologies and resources.

Quality standards and criteria in education, even if they don't automatically ensure recognition of qualifications/titles, provide a common basis of understandings and

transparency which can concretely facilitate recognition process and mobility - especially if used in combination with participant appraisal and other forms of quality assurance.

### **3. How to reach recognition for TT Professionals**

The framework provides a useful basis for the Technology Transfer profession when it comes to developing their skills. It also provides a basis for recognition and professionalisation of the TT profession. The analysis of European regulations and concrete experiences illustrates different approaches to such professional recognition: a top-down or a bottom-up approach.

The bottom-up approach, through a self regulation process, seems to be the best way to provide recognition for TT professionals within a reasonable time schedule and level of feasibility.

In a bottom-up approach stakeholders themselves set the standards for the profession, qualify professionals and certify/accredit available education programs through quality indicators.

Such a flexible approach gives room to the evolution of the TT profession. The self regulation approach implies a professional association, as a relevant authority in the field, to valorise the curriculum and to assure quality and accreditation standards and processes.

### **4. Future path for TT Professionals certification**

The CERT-TTT-M project proposes the setting up of a Professional Body as a mechanism that can in future support the quality and the recognition of European professionals in TT field. Even if the establishment of this body falls outside the scope of the CERT-TTT-M project its relevance has been underlined and a general outline and main tasks have been identified.

Such a Professional Body should be able to set content and competence standards, quality standards, accreditation criteria and procedures, professional levels and assessment modalities (quality criteria to assess professional competences) which can lead to professional titles and the establishment of a professional register.

To be able to carry out these tasks it is crucial that the Professional Body does have sufficient support, recognition and authority to be recognized by its peers in the TT field. It will also be important to create and develop an open dialogue and strong collaboration with the most important public national and European institutions.

## **The CERT-TTT-M Consortium is:**

Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (Co-ordinator) – Austria

ASTER S. Cons. P.a. – Science Technology and Business - Italy

Department for Productive Activities, Economic Development and Telematics Plan of Emilia-Romagna Region - Italy

Institute Européen Entreprise et Propriété Intellectuelle - France

Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders - Belgium

Management Center Innsbruck - Austria

Ministère délégué à l'Enseignement supérieur et à la Recherche - France

Ministerie van Economische Zaken – The Netherlands

Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University – The Netherlands

State Agency Latvian Investment and Development Agency - Latvia

Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems - Sweden

## **The Advisory Panel is composed by:**

Europäische Patent Akademie - Germany

Highbury Ltd. - United Kingdom

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