
MERIT

Minimum European Requirements
for driving Instructor Training

Driving instructor standards: from a long-term vision to minimum requirements

The EU MERIT project recently held a workshop to discuss a long-term vision for driving instructor training. The paper, on the MERIT website at www.gutefahrt.at/merit, was based on the GDE matrix (Goals for Driver Education). The basic assumption is as follows: if the ideal driver training should focus on all levels of the matrix, an instructor must, as a matter of course, be trained on all these levels and he/she should know how to transmit the knowledge and skills involved.

The workshop allowed for an exchange of views on the working document (knowledge areas and teaching methods for instructors), and for a number of related issues to be addressed. For instance:

- Driving instructors will generally teach learner drivers to pass the test. If an instructor is fully trained according to the GDE matrix, but driver training itself or the driving test are not changed accordingly, there is a risk these new-found instructor standards will go to waste.
- Should we expect driving instructors to be able to address the higher levels of driver behaviour (young driver psychology, lifestyle issues and choices, typical novice driver situations)?
- Are these higher level issues not better addressed in second-phase (post-licence) training?
- If driving instructors need to receive more comprehensive and demanding training, shouldn't lay instructors (such as parents) be expected to follow some form of training too?

The next step of the project is to scale down the long-term vision into a series of minimum requirements for driving instructors. It is these minimum requirements that the European Commission will use to draft a proposal for an EU directive on driving instructor standards. Stakeholders will have a further opportunity to contribute to the project's work at MERIT workshop II in Brussels on March 21.

75 participants attended MERIT workshop I, including 14 CIECA member organisations. The MERIT workshop I presentations are available on request at the CIECA project office.