

# MERIT

Minimum European Requirements  
for driving Instructor Training

## MERIT project well underway

The EU MERIT Project, on minimum requirements for driving instructors, will shortly be entering its consultation phase. MERIT, which is managed by Institut Gute Fahrt in Austria (for whom the CIECA Project Office assumes the secretariat function), has already conducted a pan-European survey of standards in the field of driving instructors. Its consultation paper on future educational objectives for instructors will be online shortly. MERIT's recommendations, due in June 2005, will form the basis of a proposal for an EU Directive on requirements for driving instructors.

The questionnaire survey on current standards for instructors exposed major differences in norms across Europe. These differences will clearly need to be taken into account when MERIT issues its recommendations on future standards. To do this, MERIT intends to draft two sets of recommendations: 1) optimal standards for driving instructors, based on best practice and state-of-the-art scientific research, and 2) minimum requirements, which are more easily applied in practice in the short- to medium term. The latter will be used by the European Commission when drafting a new legislative proposal for a Directive.

The consultation paper on future educational objectives will be agreed upon at the next MERIT project meeting in late October. The paper will be online in English, French and German by early December. MERIT formally begins its consultation with stakeholders in January (Brussels workshop, January 21), followed by a further session in March (Brussels workshop II, March 21).

The draft report on the pan-European survey is available on request from the CIECA project office ([nick.sanders@cbr.nl](mailto:nick.sanders@cbr.nl)). For CIECA members who cannot wait until December for the consultation paper, an English version can be sent to you, again upon request, in November (email address, as above).