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**Methodological approach,**

**Framework of certification for international project work, v1**

## Outline of framework

This draft framework is based on

* **4 job roles**
* **2 competence levels**
* **The tripartite competence set from the PMC Triangle**

The combined frame is mainly thematic/skill oriented, but it also includes a project/process-oriented approach by including a process division of the job role as project manager in project designer & project coordinator. It gives 4 job roles.

Typical curricula in the formal educational system, like in the language field applies 3 main levels (basic, intermediate, proficient), but I do not think we need to use the basic level in the certification system, because with just a basic level you cannot handle neither to be a good or useful partner, project designer, project coordinator or mentor. Shouldn’t we expect that people, who wish to be certified, already have at least the basic level in place?

With 4 job roles and 2 competence levels, the certification frame will include a matrix of 4 roles x 2 levels, like 8 key certifications.

The PMC Triangle, we developed in the 1st TIP project, included three legs: Technical competences, Leadership competences, and Strategic & business competences. Each leg included 10 competences (units), so the model included in all 3 x 10, like 30 units. But the numbers could be reduced by merging some of the units, so we can get a simpler certification unit model, with for example 3 legs x 6 units, like 18 units.

I mention this, because during the last partner meeting in Vienna, 6 & 7 September 2021, we also discussed Micro-certification of each unit, and the more units the more comprehensive and complicated the Micro-certification will be.

## Job roles

At the last partner meeting in Vienna, 3 main job-roles were outlined; but here I have tried to divide the second job role as Project manager in two different roles in the project process: 2a: Project designer/applicant, and 2b: Project coordinator. Hereby we have 4 main job roles to certify:

**1: Project partner / co-applicant (PM for national coordination of European project)**

* 4 out of 5 organisations active in European projects do it as partners, and you need specific competences partly to promote your organisation to be selected, and partly to function as a good partner during the project.
* You need one the one hand to have competences to coordinate the national activities as national pilot work, national pilot courses, national multiplier events, etc. in the European project, and on the other hand to cooperate in the European project team and provide European activities, typically with English as the working language.

**2a: Project designer / applicant /fundraiser (PM for preparing project applications)**

* The success rate of EU applications may be approx. 15 – 25 pct depending on the programme, so the first main threshold for being engaged in European projects is to provide successful applications in a very competitive environment.

**2b: Project coordinator /manager (PM for coordination of a whole European project)**

* The tasks as project designer and thereafter possible project coordinator may not be provided by the same person.
* In bigger organisations there can be a division of work, where some mainly design applications and others are project coordinators. Likewise in a partnership circle one organisation can be applicant and legal and financial manager, while another is the ongoing coordinator.

**3: Project Mentor (Trainer/mentor/supervisor for EU PMs)**

* As mentor you need experiences and expertise both as project partner, project designer, and project coordinator

## Competence levels

Typical curricula in the formal educational system, like the language field apply 3 main levels including 2 sub-levels, like for example:

## ****English language levels description: see**** <https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/>

* [English Basic User (A1, A2)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#BasicEnglish)
  + [A1 (Beginner)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#BeginnerEnglish)
  + [A2 (Elementary English)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#ElementaryEnglish)
* [English Independent User (B1, B2)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#IndependentEnglish)
  + [B1 (Intermediate English)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#IntermediateEnglish)
  + [B2 (Upper-Intermediate English)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#Upper-IntermediateEnglish)
* [Proficient English User (C1, C2)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#ProficientEnglish)
  + [C1 (Advanced English)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#AdvancedEnglish)
  + [C2 (Proficiency English)](https://tracktest.eu/english-levels-cefr/#Proficiency)

Or this example the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL), see <https://www.britishcouncil.es/en/english/levels>

The CEFRL consists of 6 common levels of reference for all languages: three blocks:

* A or basic user, B or independent user, C or proficient user, which all include two sublevels.

The three main levels can have different names, like

* Basic (beginner / elementary)
* Competent (Independent / intermediate);
* Proficient (advanced / expert)

I propose the two official certification levels could be called: **1. Competent; 2. Proficient**.

But when you look at the units that must be approved for each job role certification, then we can have an internal competence level that is more elaborated. For example, even though a partner also must have skills in financial management, they don’t need to be at the same level as the project coordinator to get a certification as being *competent.*

Therefore, I use the following 4 competence levels for the units:

1. basic

2. Intermediate

3. 1advanced & 3.2 expert

NB: I am not that is a good idea. It makes the system more precise, but surely also more complicated.

## The tripartite competence set

The PMC Triangle, we developed in the 1st TIP project, included three legs: Technical competences, Leadership competences, and Strategic & business competences. Each leg included 10 competences (units), so the model included in all 3 x 10, like 30 units.

In the attached excel file, the numbers are to 6 in each leg by merging some of the units, so we can get a simpler certification unit model, with 3 legs x 6 units, like 18 units. Hereby, the Micro-certification of each unit in the certification frame will be less comprehensive and complicated as in a bigger frame with 30 units.

./. Certification frame, JR - levels - units, v1-Interfolk is attached.