

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO: October, 2010

EUCEN DATABASE ON PLAR TO BE REPLICATED FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

The Canadian Institute for Recognizing Learning (CIRL) has successfully negotiated the transfer the OBSERVAL database architecture of the European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN) for use by the Prior Learning International Research Centre (PLIRC).

At a conference in Brussels in October, 2010, the CEO of CIRL was invited to speak on the potential of international cooperation in research on PLAR. Ensuing discussions resulted in an agreement that the OBERVAL database and search tool recently established by EUCEN to collect European policies would be provided to PLIRC to develop a second database which will hold PLAR research, policies and literature from all seven countries currently represented on PLIRC (Australia, Canada, England, France, Scotland, Sweden, and United States). The two databases will remain compatible making it possible to eventually combine them into a single source of research and policy on PLAR in over 30 countries.

This initiative which is a partnership between Thompson Rivers University, CIRL and Empire State College, New York, will help CIRL to further develop its positive relationships with PLAR-related research organizations around the world and to establish new ones. This will create new opportunities for collaboration which serve the CIRL mandate of promoting recognition of adults' knowledge and skills. At the same time, CIRL will learn about PLAR in countries it has not yet researched and increase its experience in scholarly research in this field.

Work on the development of the new database commences in January, 2011.