

FROM CAMPUS TO CAREERS: NAVIGATING THE JOB MARKET WITH THE SUPPORT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

- INSIGHTS INTO THE CIRCLE U. SEED FUNDING EXPERIENCE



MY EXPERIENCE WITH CIRCLE U. SEED FUNDING

Experience as

- a project member

Co-creating Cultural Competency Education — Transcending multilingualism and multiculturalism (2024)

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/transcending-multilingualism-and-multiculturalism-project>

- a project lead

From Campus to Careers: Navigating the Job Market with the support of Foreign Language Skills (2025)

<https://projects.au.dk/c2c>



PREPARING THE APPLICATION



- Identify a shared challenge aligned with Circle U.'s priorities
- Reach out to potential partners early to co-develop the idea
- Focus on clarity and feasibility in the proposal – short, but strategic
- Benefit from previous templates and guidance from the Circle U. team

Tip: Start early and keep the application simple but impactful

& Focus on shared and strategic priorities at your department/institute/faculty level - a joint project



INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF LABOUR MARKET NEEDS AND TRENDS

- modern languages
- curriculum development
- intercultural education
- linguistics
- communication studies
- career planning
- labour market studies

Languages as a core or complementary/additional academic competence

- not only the academic aspects of language learning but also its application to other professional fields
- relevant and open for students not only from language programmes but also from other disciplines
- The project highlights how language competencies translate into employability skills such as communication, cultural awareness, and the ability and necessity to adapt to change



AIMS AND AMBITIONS



Co-create an online Employability for Languages Module



Co-create an innovative Employability Skills Mapping Tool



Build an employability co-creation consortium & plan for future educational/research development



ASSEMBLING AND ORGANISING THE PROJECT TEAM

-
- Built a (small) committed team across partner universities
 - Ensure a mix of academic and administrative roles for smooth coordination
 - Use online tools (e.g., shared drives, Teams/Zoom) for planning and communication
 - Define clear roles and responsibilities from the start

Tip: Personal connections and mutual interests are key to team cohesion.

- **King's College London, Universitetet i Oslo, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Université catholique de Louvain & Aarhus Universitet (lead)**
- **External partners:** Studievalg Danmark

LOCAL COLLABORATION NETWORKS



- Career Services
- Advisory Board Panels & Employers
- Students
- International Centers
- Center for Educational Development (CED) – Aarhus University



RESPONSABILITIES



AU's

- Coordinates the project and manages the budget
- Produces content together with partners for the Employability Skills Mapping Tool as agreed in co-creation meetings
- Provide design and support to develop online module on AU's platform with assistance from the AU Center for Educational Development.
- Organizes the on-site co-creation workshop

Partner Institutions

- Identify and coordinate their own students and Advisory Board Panels' members
- Participate in online meetings and attend the in-person workshop
- Produce content for the ELM and ESMT and coordinate communication within own institutions

Advisory Board Panels:

- Share job market insights
- Attend workshop and online project meetings as relevant
- Contribute to content development where relevant



IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT

- Timeline, Activities, Outputs
- Regular check-ins help keep momentum and adjust as needed – we have a fixed meeting every second Friday at the same time + individual meetings if needed

Tip: Keep it flexible – seed funding is ideal for testing and learning.



ACTIVITIES & TIMELINE



- Compare language curricula across Circle U. partners and identify skills
- Co-creation of an innovative **Employability Skills Mapping Tool** for students and staff on languages as a core and dual competency
- Co-creation of an online module **Employability for Languages** and follow-up adaption
- [A two-day in-person co-creation workshop in Aarhus. Module format and pre-view](#)
- Content review and testing phase: Student and employer review and feedback phase
- Content launch & Follow-up
- Initiating a MOU for strategic collaboration in monitoring **Employability for Languages, Education and Research**



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

- **Coordination across institutions:** Different calendars and priorities.
 - *Solution:* Early planning and regular updates.
- **Administrative delays:** Especially with contracts or reimbursements.
 - *Solution:* Close contact with institutional support offices.
- **Engagement:** Keeping all partners equally involved.
 - *Solution:* Shared ownership and visibility of contributions.
- **Working with multicultural and plurilingual team:** Navigating diverse communication styles and cultural expectations
 - *Solution:* Be open for different perspectives and foster intercultural communicative competence through openness, active listening, and mutual respect.



Tip: Expect delays – build in buffer time and communicate often.



FINAL REFLECTIONS



- Circle U. seed funding is a great opportunity to **test ideas, build networks, and lay the groundwork for larger projects**
- It fosters **cross-institutional collaboration** and **interdisciplinary dialogue**
- We are now exploring follow-up funding and we are developing a plan for future educational development
- A sustainable consortium, involving academics, students, career staff and employers for C2C co-creation will be established. More partners will be identified
- A close collaboration with CU.mil Lab, Teaching Innovation Lab and Open Campus will be/is established
- A conference presentation will be submitted to an international conference to showcase the innovative approach this project took



THANK YOU!

—
Ana Kanareva-Dimitrovska
Special Advisor, PhD
Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University
aekakd@cc.au.dk





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