

## XCRI | eXchanging Course-Related Information

“XCRI Course Advertising Profile is an open specification for producing and aggregating collections of courses offered by providers”  
<http://www.xcri.org>

Dr Mark Stubbs  
Scott Wilson  
Ben Ryan



- UK agenda of ‘informed choice’ about learning opportunities.
- Standards exist for exchanging information about people, groups and membership but
- no standard way to exchange information about courses.
- Institutions developing ways to populate their prospectus from definitive data but
- resorting to primitive data entry to populate aggregator sites, regional portals, area prospectuses... etc.
- Genuine interest from the community in a standard for exchanging course info that facilitates joined-up thinking.

- 2005 Need for course standard recognised by UK FE/HE integrators  
“XCRI: Course Information Reference Model” funded by JISC  
Existing standards reviewed (CDM, EMIL, eduCourse, ...)  
Requirements gathered from UK practice (site visits + 161 websites)  
XCRI R1.0 developed based on research & community consultation
- 2006 XCRI R1.0 trialled in 2xFECs, 3xHEIs & 2xRegional Aggregators  
Searchable curriculum repository demonstrated (XPath URLs)  
**XCRI Course Advertising Profile** released oriented to quick-wins
- 2007 JISC-funded trials of XCRI-CAP 1.0 with 6xHEIs & UCAS  
Demonstration aggregator released at xcri.org  
UK Government Department interest...  
XCRI-CAP “preferred standard” for UK-wide 14-19 prospectus  
XCRI begins CEN process with CDM, EMIL, CDM-FR, PAS1068...

- There is a considerable interest in many countries in Europe in creating specifications for the exchange of information about courses and other learning and training opportunities.
- There is a clear scope for greater harmonization of these efforts within a European context.
- All existing national initiatives will benefit from contributing towards harmonization at a European level.
- There are sufficient clear commonalities across existing national initiatives for future European standards to be developed.
- Harmonization should balance the benefits of common standardization with the necessity for meeting local contextual needs and infrastructure.
- Harmonization efforts should focus on small, simple models based upon existing commonalities that can be expanded upon at national or regional level, rather than all-inclusive monolithic standards.
- CEN WS-LT signatories: XCRI, CDM, CDM-FR, EMIL, PAS1068, Italy & Greece

