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Statement

The European Computer Driving Licence - ECDL has become an incredibly successful product at Austrian schools since it was launched five years ago. The dynamic increase in the number of ECDL exams illustrates this development: While in 1999 a total of 3,800 individual module exams were taken by teachers and pupils, the number had risen to 34,703 by 2001, by 2002 to about 51,400 and by the end of 2003 an incredible 211,000 individual module exams were counted.

The prevalent enthusiasm in the launching phase in 1997/98 and the great engagement of teachers as well as the positive co-operation between the Austrian Computer Society OCG, the Ministry for Education and the Association 'ECDL at schools' made the development of an educational programme possible which equally appeals to teachers, pupils and parents.

22% of all ECDL exams are held at compulsory schools today, and this number is only exceeded by the colleges for human vocations (business, tourism, art and fashion, social and medical services) and their enthusiasm for the ECDL. But also in the area of continuing education for adults the ECDL has been a success story: Of the total 82,000 European Computer Driving Licences that were issued by the end of 2003, as many as 47,000 were earned by adults.

Thus, without intending this effect, the ECDL has become a good example for the realisation of specialized 'educational standards': The ECDL fixes a basic pattern of IT knowledge and IT skills, defines the 'basic skills' and states a clearly defined qualification, leaving enough room at the same time to employ individual pedagogic and didactic concepts.

To all those who are active in the ECDL's success story I extend my best wishes, may the positive development continue and may you successfully meet the challenges of the ECDL-Advanced. Without the exceptional engagement, the eagerness for innovation and the capacity for enthusiasm of teachers and students alike, Austria would not be in Europe's top group of 'eFit'. Thank you to all who made this success possible!

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