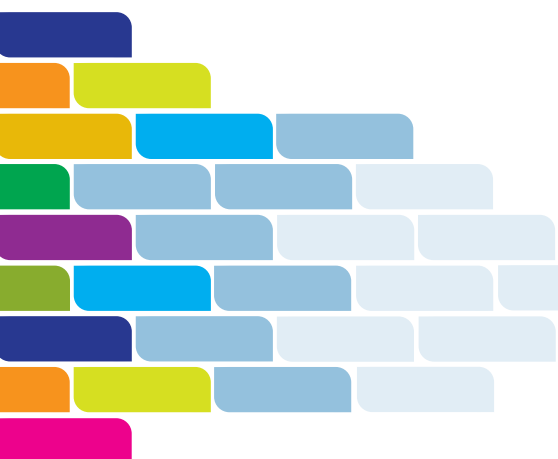
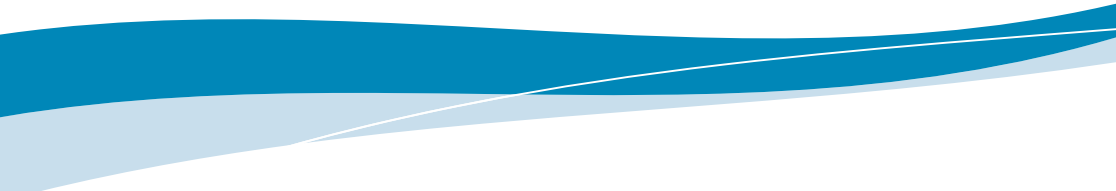




Education and Culture DG



The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) is the new European instrument to promote mutual trust and mobility in vocational education and training. Developed by Member States in cooperation with the European Commission, ECVET has now been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 18 June 2009.

The adoption and implementation of ECVET in the participating countries is voluntary.

In the upcoming years, Participating Countries and the Commission will support a Europe-wide testing of this instrument with all stakeholders being invited to participate.

ECVET



European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training



ECVET: AN INSTRUMENT FOR MOBILITY AND RECOGNITION

ECVET's purpose is to enable recognition of learners' achievements during periods of mobility by creating a structure, bringing a common language, and stimulating exchanges and mutual trust among VET providers and competent institutions across Europe. In the context of international mobility but also mobility within countries, ECVET aims to support recognition of learning outcomes without extending learners' education and training pathways.

ECVET for valorising mobility

ECVET contributes to making recognised mobility an integrated part of individuals' learning pathways. It makes it easier for employers to understand qualifications achieved abroad. It also improves the credibility of international education and training experience by identifying and documenting what the learner has achieved.

ECVET for lifelong learning

ECVET supports flexibility of programmes and pathways to achieve qualifications, enhancing the opportunities for lifelong learning. It makes it easier to recognise the learning achievements that young people or adults have gained in other contexts - be it countries, institutions or systems (for example initial or continuous training) but also formal, non-formal, or informal ways of learning.

ECVET for attractiveness of VET

By giving learners the possibility to undertake parts of their training abroad, VET providers can enrich the training provision, raise the attractiveness of training programmes and enhance their pan-European reputation. The improved possibilities for lifelong learning created by ECVET facilitate cooperation between VET providers and companies. This means that ECVET can strengthen the link between education and training and the labour market.

ECVET IN BRIEF

ECVET is based on concepts and processes which are used in a systematic way to establish a common and user-friendly language for transparency, transfer and recognition of learning outcomes. Some of these concepts and processes are already embedded in many qualifications systems across Europe.

ECVET is based on:

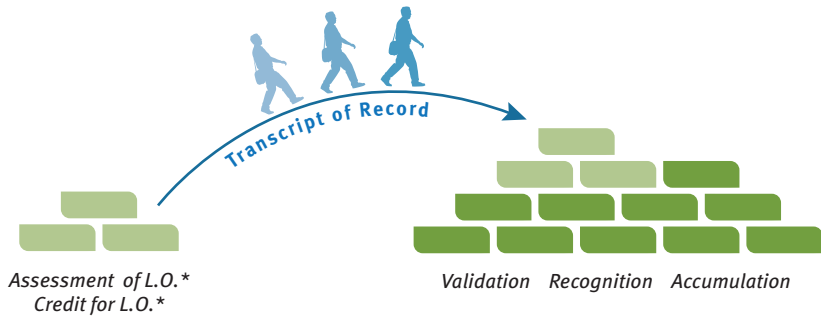
- **Learning outcomes**, which are statements of knowledge, skills and competence that can be achieved in a variety of learning contexts.
- **Units** of learning outcomes that are components of qualifications. Units can be assessed, validated and recognised.
- **ECVET points**, which provide additional information about units and qualifications in a numerical form.
- **Credit** that is given for assessed and documented learning outcomes of a learner. Credit can be transferred to other contexts and accumulated to achieve a qualification on the basis of the qualifications standards and regulations existing in the participating countries.
- **Mutual trust and partnership** among participating organisations. These are expressed in **Memoranda of Understanding and Learning Agreements**.

The ECVET technical specifications are presented in the Annexes to the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 (OJ C 155, 8.7.2009, p. 11)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Learning context / country A

Learning context / country B



*L.O. = Learning Outcomes

ECVET AND OTHER EUROPEAN INSTRUMENTS

European cooperation in education and training has amongst its objectives the development of common instruments to support lifelong learning and mobility. These instruments were developed and should be implemented in synergy and mutually-reinforcing way. The testing and implementation of ECVET has important complementarities with the following European instruments:

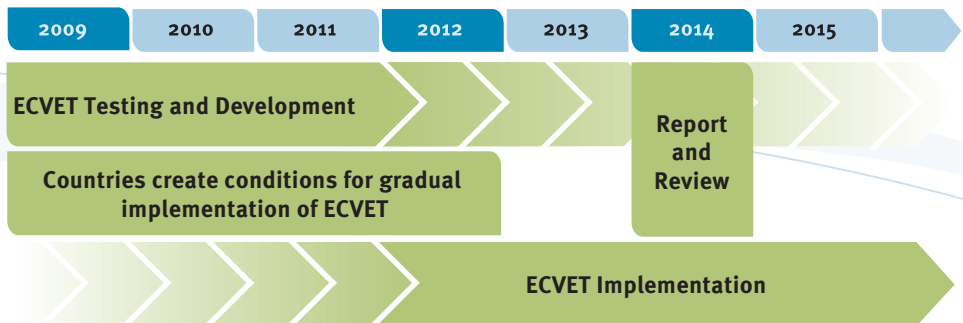
- The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and ECVET share the same approach to learning outcomes. EQF levels also provide a reference for ECVET.
- The Europass documents, namely the Europass Certificate Supplement and Europass Mobility, will integrate ECVET concepts to describe the qualifications and the achieved credit of each single learner.
- The European Quality Assurance Reference Framework will underpin the implementation of ECVET.
- European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for higher education and ECVET will be complementary.
- The European principles for validation of non-formal and informal learning will benefit from the introduction of ECVET as it will facilitate the validation of non-formal and informal learning in view of achieving qualifications.

ECVET TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The adoption of the Recommendation by the European Parliament and the Council in 2009 creates the conditions for the implementation of ECVET. By 2012 ECVET will be tested and piloted in different contexts and systems: European, national and sectoral. In 2012 Member States are expected to have created the necessary conditions and measures for the gradual implementation of ECVET. In 2014 the European Parliament and the Council will review and evaluate the first stage of ECVET implementation and, if required, they will readjust the text of the Recommendation.

The quality of ECVET testing initiatives is crucial. All stakeholders, such as awarding bodies, providers, social partners, companies, are encouraged to engage in ECVET testing through projects and networks, in particular under the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Progressive implementation of ECVET



In cooperation with Member States, the European Commission will monitor and coordinate the testing and implementation process. The Commission will identify transferable practices, develop supporting tools - such as users' guides- and create a European ECVET network of users.

More information on ECVET, and the text of the Recommendation, is available on:
http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc50_en.htm

To find out more about the ongoing ECVET projects please visits:
www.ecvet-projects.eu