

How can we meet this challenge?



The ECVET system provides answers to some obvious questions.

- How do you avoid having to study something a second time or prove your mastery of the skill in question?

With ECVET !

- Is it possible to valorise learning outcomes, as part of a professional development path, which you achieved somewhere else, whatever the context, whether in Belgium or elsewhere in Europe?

Yes, with ECVET !

- How do you progressively accumulate your skills throughout your educational and professional career?

With ECVET !

- In short, is it possible to obtain *credit* for your learning outcomes?

Yes, with ECVET !

Obtaining recognition for your learning outcomes, for example as the result of a training course, professional experience or traineeship realised in a different European country or even without crossing the border and staying in Belgium, continues to be problematic. This recognition often becomes an administrative headache that discourages citizens and deters people from improving their skills. Recognition for learning outcomes would allow exemptions to be obtained and would shorten training paths, thus providing faster access to the labour market.

mot coupé

Contact point in Belgium:

www.aef-europe.be > ECVET section

ECVET BELGIAN TEAM / 111, Chaussée de Charleroi / 1060 Bruxelles / ecvet@aef-europe.be



ECVET

Credit for your learning outcomes





As we progress in life, we become more proficient. We never stop learning and build on our achievements. This process of accumulation begins in school. It continues as we advance through the professional activities, as a result of training courses and traineeships, as well as in everyday life. There are many possible personal learning paths. In some cases these skills are certified by diplomas or certificates issued by an official authority.

At a time when Europe in crisis must maintain its competitiveness on the global stage, confronted with intensifying competition, it is becoming increasingly urgent for us to mobilise adequate skills and qualifications.

ECVET: What is it?

*Designed to promote mobility and learning in vocational education and training, ECVET is a tool that aims to facilitate the **transfer, recognition and accumulation of learning outcomes** when an individual moves from one learning context to another.*

SIMPLE PRINCIPLES

■ A common language

ECVET proposes a framework that allows all educational, training and validating organisations and actors to speak the same language: that of **learning outcomes**. This common denominator facilitates the clarification of the immense diversity of vocational education and training pathways and that of multiple qualification systems that exist in Europe. Learning outcomes can now be easily read and recognised beyond national borders.

■ A focus on learning outcomes

With ECVET, regardless of where or how the knowledge was acquired, what counts is what the learner knows, understands and is capable of achieving.

All the knowledge and skills you have acquired become valuable assets.

ECVET states that all those responsible for training courses, educational programmes and validation processes that

welcome a learner must: 'focus on the output, on the individual's learning outcomes, to allow him/her to valorise and accumulate them.'

A bricklayer, for example, must be capable of constructing a brick wall respecting horizontality and verticality. Whether he/she acquired the skill during thirty vocational training hours at school, a week's traineeship with an employer or from working with an uncle at a building site, whichever way the training was completed, what counts is the result. It is a wall: it is constructed from bricks, it is vertical and it is level.

■ From A to B, via C

From the moment that one focuses on learning outcomes, an individual that has completed a training course or acquired experience abroad is able to use it to obtain a job, continue his or her training path or enrol in a new vocational programme. Reassured by the guarantee that the counter will not be reset to zero, everyone will be able to construct and steer his/her own learning path throughout his/her life.

■ Qualifications organised into units

In order for the learning outcomes to be **transferred, recognised and accumulated**, they need to be concrete: they need to be comprehensible. For this purpose the ECVET system proposes that vocational qualifications be organised into units. Each unit includes a coherent set of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) obtained at school, in a training centre or a business, or during a stay abroad. The learning outcomes, grouped in the coherent units, are subject to the transfer and accumulation process when the learner moves from one system or country to another.

■ Learning outcomes can be transferred in confidence

Focussing on learning outcomes as a common language between educational, training and validating organisations related to competences in Europe is one thing. However it is far from being enough. In order for them to be **credited**, the learning outcomes must be assessed and validated in terms of learning, and a partnership agreement must be concluded to establish **trust** between organisations that cooperate to establish learning outcomes. It guarantees the latter's mutual recognition.

■ It works everywhere!

As in many European countries, ECVET is being implemented in French-speaking Belgium. Our validation, vocational education and training operators are developing a common language. They are organising their certification in units and adopting principles to establish mutual trust. In practice the ECVET system allows all learning path boundaries to be crossed whether they are national or transnational.

