ECVET implementation in Europe

Positive ground, difficult questions?

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Brussels, February 2012

ECVET is in development in all Member States

- Positive attitude to ECVET
- Many different activities
  - ECVET concerns initial and continuous VET
  - ECVET concerns many different sectors
  - ECVET concerns mobility and lifelong learning
- ECVET management structure
  - Leading ministry
  - National working groups on European priorities
- 17 ECVET coordination points or contact persons

Cedefop (2012), ECVET development in Europe (2011)
ECVET activities in Europe

8 lines of actions identified:
1) Broad range initiative;
2) Impact analysis;
3) Updating regulations;
4) Adapting qualifications system;
5) Wait and see;
6) Combine with NQF;
7) ECVET European projects;
8) Informing stakeholders.


Indication on intensity of ECVET activities

- 7 approaches: FI
- 6 approaches: CZ, BE (wl), IE, MT, SK
- 5 approaches: AT, Scotland, TR
- 4 approaches: BG, CY, England, FR, GR, HU, N.Ireland, RU, SL
- 3 approaches: DE, EE, IT, LT, LV, SE, SP, Wales
- 2 approaches: DK, IC, NO, PL
- 1 approach: BE (ll), LIE, LU, NL, PT
Challenge Nr 1> to ECVET: Convincing arguments?

- Critical mass of arguments and proven added value
- Difficulties to transfer solutions from projects to policy-making/mainstreaming
- Need for a cultural shift / greater trust in validation

Contributions of projects
- Awareness-raising on strategy developments
- Self-experiencing/involvement of stakeholders and network building
- Reflections on methodologies
- Understanding of ECVET in comparative perspective

Trade-off between objectives of implementation and costs
- Where to find the solution?

Objectives for implementing ECVET (2011 Monitoring, N=65)

- European identity: 3%
- Integration in working and social life: 3%
- Lifelong learning: 5%
- Transparency of qualifications: 3%
- Improve European VET cooperation: 2%
- Flexibility: 2%
- Quality and standards: 14%
- Recognition, validation: 18%
- Permeability: 18%
- European mobility: 32%
ECVET as an incremental process

- **As early as 2004 (until at least 2013) national VET initiatives**
  - Revision of vocational/qualifications standards
  - Pilot projects for testing of credit system
  - Development of the learning outcomes approach in education and training
  - Development of modularisation/unitisation of curricula/qualifications

- **Legal and regulatory arrangements**
  - Prior to ECVET recommendation, ECVET supportive in most cases (20/30 interviews) ➔ 'wait for relevant recent change to shape into reality!'
  - 5 systems preparing amendments to better support ECVET

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**Challenge Nr 2 to ECVET:**
Competing activities? Impact of parallel developments?

- Accommodating existing credit arrangements/systems with ECVET
- Confusion
  - ECVET as European system for transfer
  - ECVET as national credit system (European/national policy)
- Development of national qualifications framework
- Development of validation
Credit arrangements and validation: favourable conditions

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Information on validation based upon Update to the European Inventory on Validation of Non-formal and informal learning

Challenge Nr 3> to ECVET:
Where to start when implementing?
Institutional and political conditions

1. Clear identification of the added value of ECVET;
2. Clear rationales for ECVET development;
3. Commitment by policy and decision makers;
4. Clarification of remits and responsibilities;
5. Development of legislative or regulatory frame;
6. Allocation of resources;
7. Interest/support by VET stakeholders;
8. Capacity building;
9. Targeted communication and information on ECVET
**Challenge to ECVET: Further necessary conditions**

**Context:** cross-border cooperation  
Reaching agreements on the characteristics of the learning mobility  
Development of European templates  
Development of mutual trust and quality assurance

**Engineering of qualifications and qualifications awarding**  
Existing national qualifications framework or register;  
Learning outcomes approach  
Design of units of learning outcomes  
Assessment provisions adapted to learning mobility and learning outcomes approach / unit-based qualifications;  
Crediting of learning outcomes;  
Recognition and validation of learning outcomes;  
Transfer and accumulation of learning outcomes

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**Most relevant Cedefop publications**


**Synergies between the European tools**

• Shaping lifelong learning: making the most of European tools and principles  

• Linking credit systems and qualifications frameworks (ECVET, ECTS, EQF, EHEA-QF)  

**The development of ECVET in Europe**


• Forthcoming publications:  
Necessary conditions for ECVET implementation; The added value of ECVET


• Cedefop virtual community on credit transfer and qualifications frameworks
The next event to discuss on ECVET

Co-organised by
the European Commission,
Cedefop and ECVET team

Contact persons:
Didier Gelibert (ECVET team)
Isabelle Le Mouillour (Cedefop)

Annual ECVET forum
Taking the next step:
Building the ECVET community of practice
Brussels
31/13 2012

Thank you for your attention

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