

ECVET CONNEXION

ECVET : Towards a European System of recognition of prior learning...

ECVET is a European accumulation, capitalisation and transfer system elaborated for vocational education and training in Europe.

The system attests to and registers the learning outcomes of people on a learning pathway leading to a qualification, a certificate or a vocational diploma.

It allows for validation and recognition of learning outcomes gained abroad whether in the formal education or vocational training system or in non-formal contexts. Focused on the individual, it is based on the validation and accumulation of learning outcomes, defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competences required for a qualification.

ECVET has been created to work on a national level and to enable the accumulation and transfer of units.

...to encourage mobility and increase employability in Europe

ECVET is one of the concrete initiatives decided in the Copenhagen process for the promotion and reinforced cooperation in vocational education and training.

It is one of the tools and instruments directly aimed at the citizen and developed alongside the European Qualifications Framework.

This initiative is in line with European Union policy aiming to promote mobility and employability in member states.

The ECVET CONNEXION project aims to study the feasibility of a European accumulation and recognition of credit system for vocational training.

This study is one in a series of three initiated by the European Parliament and being carried out by the European Commission in 2006 :

- 1 – A study on the main obstacles to mobility to clearly identify them and propose solutions (ECVET Move-it project)
- 2 – A study on the implementation of an ECVET system on validation of learning outcomes, certification, accumulation and transfer of units (ECVET Reflector project) > www.ecvet.net)
- 3 – Study on operational feasibility of ECVET system for apprentices and learners in initial vocational training (ECVET CONNEXION Project > www.ecvetconnexion.com).

The ECVET CONNEXION project is the «test» part of the European Initiative

The study deals with the nature, organisation and conditions of awarding qualifications in vocational training as well as mutual recognition processes.

It takes into account the training offer and includes representatives from all the stakeholders concerned. (individuals, training organisations, companies, professional sectors, social partners, Ministries, other institutions and awarding bodies..)

The expected results are :

- A dynamic description of the European context in the perspective of the implementation of an ECVET system, based on a document database provided by the CR2i (French National Education Ministry) and enriched by the experts covering the 32 countries involved in the study as well as the results of a questionnaire designed by the project team and based on a methodology framework developed by the CREDIJ

- Recommendations on obstacles to overcome with propositions of possible scenarios or models

- possible solutions from existing systems or based on prototypes which come from the test phase of the study

The ECVET CONNEXION project is led by a consortium piloted by ANFA, (Automobile Service Sector in France) alongside the French Education Ministry (International Relations Department). This consortium is made up of 26 European partners, coordinated by regional pilots (in the first part and then by sectorial groups):

Phase 1 (National Studies)

The structure allows us to bring together partner and experts in order to cover all the 32 countries studied who have signed the Copenhagen declaration on the transparency and recognition of competences and qualifications in Europe. The French partners are:

- the CIEP-CR2i for the French Education Ministry
- la CNCP (Commission nationale de certification professionnelle)
- le CREDJ (Centre régional pour le développement, la formation et l'insertion des jeunes)
- la FFP (Fédération française de la plasturgie).

Phase 2 (action/research: tests)

Study Methodology:

It aims both to identify the obstacles to implementing ECVET as things stand and in terms of the training supply and to envisage possible solutions to overcome these difficulties.

The study is organised around three axes:

- A desk research carried out by experts of vocational education and training in the 32 countries concerned on existing training and possible evolution
- A questionnaire for appropriate and representative stakeholders (training design, training provision, awarding bodies), dealing with processes of training design, training delivery and recognition of learning outcomes.
- A research action designed to test with all concerned stakeholders to test possible recommendations and scenarios for implementation of ECVET. These tests are designed to confirm, improve or adjust the different recommendations.

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