

# Promotion of ECVET in learner mobility

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 CROATIA

## Timeline



ID number 28789

## Background

The National team of ECVET experts, established in 2011, focuses on further promotion and development of ECVET in Croatia through workshops and individual consultations aimed at both existing and potential Erasmus+ beneficiaries, including VET teachers, school directors and EU project coordinators. This activity is in line with the priority on VET internationalisation of the VET system development programme 2016-20, which defines measures for the promotion of ECVET (goal 4.1. strengthened international relevance of VET; measure 4.1. development and improvement of opportunities for greater mobility of learners and teachers).

## Objectives

The promotion of ECVET focuses on expanding its uptake by VET providers in Croatia and thus supports learner mobility, recognition of learning outcomes and quality of mobility arrangements.

## Description

A national ECVET portal was developed in 2016. A growing number of Croatian institutions are recognising the benefits of ECVET. Amendments to the VET Act from 2018 stipulated that VET students can acquire learning outcomes during periods of international mobility. This is intended to support VET schools in setting up longer periods of VET student mobility. Six workshops were organised in 2018 for around 230 teachers and school directors. The participants were introduced to different aspects of ECVET and instructed how to implement ECVET successfully in mobility projects. The recognition of learning outcomes acquired by VET students during international mobility periods is at the discretion of VET schools. The choice of recognition mechanisms is granted on a case-by-case basis depending on the partnership arrangements and agreements between the sending and the receiving institutions in line with specific learning agreements. Schools use different approaches when recognising learning outcomes acquired abroad. In general, VET students go abroad for short-term mobility, which involves work-based learning. Accordingly, the entire process

of recognition at school level is determined in consideration of the scope of activities undertaken during mobility and the results achieved. On that basis, the National team of ECVET experts and the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMPEU) designed and organised a new workshop on learning outcomes in 2018 to raise the capacities of VET schools for defining, writing and applying learning outcomes. Practical issues are consistently addressed, such as establishing partnerships with international peers, drafting memoranda of understanding and learning agreements, and advancing the quality of mobility projects. As a result, 39 out of 62 beneficiaries opted for ECVET in mobility projects in 2018, compared to 15 out of 37 in 2017. A growing number of schools continuously shows interest in its use in the future: according to the evaluation feedback from one of the workshops, 97.2% of participants stated that they plan to use ECVET in their mobility projects. Additionally, the National team of ECVET experts and the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes carried out a contest for the best national project implementing ECVET and publicly presented the award at an event organised for potential Erasmus+ project applicants, attended by around 80 participants.

### **2016 Implementation**

### **2017 Implementation**

### **2018 Implementation**

### **2019 Implementation**

In 2019, the Croatian ECVET national team continued to promote ECVET among stakeholders and improve the quality of ECVET implementation in mobility projects. Team meetings (four) ensured regular exchange of information on the latest developments in ECVET. Around 230 participants attended six tailored workshops with instructions on successful implementation of ECVET, and included a specialised session on defining, writing and applying learning outcomes, which is central to ECVET implementation. Also, the second edition of the contest for the best national project implementing ECVET rewarded three beneficiaries for their successful implementation of ECVET. The official website was regularly updated with news and information. The use of ECVET is continuously expanding in Croatia with a rising proportion of beneficiaries using it: from 63% in 2018 (39 beneficiaries out of 62) to 73% in 2019 (40 beneficiaries out of 55). Recognition of mobility periods mostly involves the recognition of mandatory practical training. Occasionally, units of learning outcomes are also recognised in the form of marks in specific subjects, if foreseen by learning agreements signed between the sending and the receiving institutions.

### **2020 Implementation**

Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, the Croatian National team of ECVET experts successfully implemented the activities aimed at promoting ECVET in 2020, mostly virtually. Three workshops were held for potential applicants, as well as two workshops at kick-off meetings and one entirely dedicated to learning outcomes. The workshops were attended by around 235 participants. They aimed to encourage the use of ECVET among beneficiaries, especially newcomers, as well as to improve the quality of ECVET implementation in mobility projects.

Three finalists of the third edition of the Best national project implementing ECVET contest were rewarded for their successful implementation of the outcome-oriented approach. 47 out of 62 beneficiaries in contracted projects opted for use of ECVET in 2020 (76%), compared to 73% in 2019 and 63% in 2018. Mobility periods and learning outcomes were generally recognised for learners, either as part of the obligatory practical training, or as marks in specific subjects.

### **2021 Implementation**

The national agency supported the setting up of a national VET team for the new 2021-27 programme period. In 2021, the team continued implementing activities aimed at reinforcing the key principles related to flexibility of VET, as well as promoting other principles laid down in relevant policy documents. For this purpose, the team

organised five workshops. Two of them – kick-off meeting for mobility projects and promotional webinar for the Erasmus+ 2022 call – were integrated into regular activities implemented by the national agency's Department for VET; three were held as separate events. The workshops covered topics such as learning outcomes, recognition in VET, tools on learning mobility and quality assurance in international mobilities. They were attended by over 300 participants, mainly VET teachers and project coordinators, either implementing or interested in implementation of Erasmus+ projects in VET. The VET Team continued to offer individual counselling to project implementers funded under the previous programme, and also to those who are interested in or implementing projects under the new programme. As stipulated by the Croatian Law on Vocational Education, learner mobility periods spent abroad were recognised by the sending institutions, either as part of the obligatory practical training or as marks in specific subjects. In addition to content created for the NA new website, the website used in the previous programme period was regularly updated with news, inspirational videos, and examples of good practice.

### **2022 Discontinued**

In 2020 the activities of the national team shifted their focus of work to supporting schools in terms of mobility and quality assurance. There were no activities in 2022.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMPEU)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### **Education professionals**

Teachers

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Acquiring key competences

### **Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications**

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

### **European and international dimensions of VET**

Mobility of learners and staff

## **Subsystem**

IVET

## Further reading

[ECVET national website used in the previous programme period](#)

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[National agency's new website](#)

## Related policy developments

**2023 Completed**

### VET system development programme 2016-20

The VET system development programme 2016-20 provides the strategic framework for VET development and reform. The programme was adopted by the Croatian Government in September 2016 and a related action plan was adopted two months later by the ministry responsible for education.

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#### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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