

ECVET developments

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 NETHERLANDS

Timeline



ID number 28449

Background

A national team of European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) experts is in place.

Objectives

The main objectives are to:

- (a) support adult transition to a new job;
- (b) support reintegration into the labour market;
- (c) update skills and competences in an efficient and cost-effective way.

Description

A national coordination point for ECVET (NCP ECVET) was set up and became part of the Dutch partnership for lifelong learning on 1 January 2015. The Dutch NCP ECVET promotes the awareness and availability of ECVET principles by providing information and supporting implementation.

ECVET has been piloted in mobility projects where learning outcomes acquired abroad are transferred between the participating countries. In 2015, 10 pilot projects were run with the aim of supporting adult transition to a new job, reintegration into the labour market and updating skills and competences in an efficient and cost-effective way. The projects were implemented in health care, social services, pedicure, and the army. These pilot projects have been finalised and were disseminated via a handbook. Two new projects in disability care at secondary and higher professional VET levels started in 2016/17 and aim at the recognition of certification units in the Dutch health care and welfare sector. The pilots demonstrated that it is possible for people with work experience, or work-related training, to obtain a level 3 or 4 qualification within a year.

It is up to schools and employers' organisations whether or not to use ECVET tools as other tools that support flexible learning are provided within the legal framework.

2015 Pilot

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

ECVET is being implemented by the appointed national contact point. Good practice exists in several sectors (technology, health care, agriculture) and has been published in the brochure ECVET in the Netherlands (*ECVET in Nederland: Een selectie van toepassing*). ECVET is used to:

- (a) enable the use of the learning outcomes gained during internships abroad for the acquisition of a qualification issued in the Netherlands;
- (b) create training modules for adult learners that match both employers' and employees' learning needs.

2020 Implementation

The tools remain operational. The credit system itself was not used much in VET in Netherlands, as in other member states. In line with the decision at European level, the system for credit points has stopped. However, the ECVET principles and tools continue to be used to develop flexible learning paths that contribute to flexible learning for adults.

2021 Implementation

In December 2021, the national coordination point for ECVET announced that its activities will be discontinued as of April 2022. This decision was based on the Council Recommendation on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience (July 2020) that replaces the ECVET recommendation.

However, the main ECVET principles, including the use and recognition of units of learning for flexible vocational education, are included in the new Council Recommendation. Learning outcomes, for example, are now an important part of EQAVET, the European quality framework for vocational education. The ECVET tools that support international mobility, such as the Memorandum of understanding and the Learning agreement, will be further developed in the Erasmus+ programme.

2022 Discontinued

As stated earlier, as of April 2022 the activities of ECVET are discontinued.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Target group

Learners

Unemployed and jobseekers

Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

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

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Proposal for a Council recommendation on vocational education and training \(VET\) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience \(Brussels, 1 July 2020\), European Commission.](#)

[Updated article on the relevance of ECVET in the Netherlands, January 2021](#)

[News item Neth-er, 10 September 2021: The end of ECVET: how to continue?](#)

European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, The European credit system for vocational education and training, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/298513>

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28449>