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Training schools are key to the success of credit transfer system

Participants at a workshop on European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) warn of persisting 'cultural gap' between policy makers and practitioners.

The successful implementation of ECVET requires a series of steps:

- a clear **policy decision** from governments, many of which still have a 'wait and see' approach;
- a **communication** campaign to explain the added value of ECVET for education;
- close **involvement** of the people who will implement the system, i.e. teachers and training providers.

These were the conclusions of the expert workshop Cedefop held on 30-31 May in Thessaloniki. The workshop was the first to place practitioners at the centre of ECVET implementation issues. As Cedefop's Isabelle Le Mouillour pointed out in her summing up, **in implementing ECVET, trainers' interests are learners' interests.**

Practitioners across Europe are already involved in implementing the system:

- Finnish schools are now coordinating qualifications in fields such as health care and audiovisual communication with partners in several other countries
- The European aerospace industry - which despite being transnational did not have apprenticeships *between* the countries involved - is now working on defining learning outcomes in order to allow for such apprenticeships
- Impaect, a Dutch project in the childcare sector, is taking the lead in educating future kindergarten staff using credit transfers between Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey/Cyprus.

ECVET, one of the [common European instruments](#) designed to make it easier for workers and learners to move between countries and sectors, allows people to have their learning experiences (course, apprenticeship) in another European country to count toward their home country's vocational qualification.

For this to work, education authorities, social partners and training providers must all work in tandem. But so far, the voices of training providers and

practitioners - the people who must manage this system on the ground – had not been adequately taken into account. In some cases, they even lacked information about the system they were expected to put into practice.

Cedefop's workshop was designed to address this gap by bringing together practitioners, providers and policy makers from various countries. Participants thus had an opportunity to present the challenges and issues they face in implementing the system.

Participants extolled the usefulness of a [Cedefop publication on ECVET](#) as a good source of how to deal with some of the issues involved.

Expert workshop: *Mainstreaming ECVET to practitioners*:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/events/17992.aspx>

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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training. www.cedefop.europa.eu