



European Centre for the  
Development of Vocational Training

### ***Workshop 1: ECVET and mobility***

***Chaired by Loukas Zahilas***

#### ***Objectives of the Workshop***

ECVET is a tool to foster not mobility but “mobilities”: The main idea is of course to enhance cross-border mobility but it is very interesting to include also transfer of qualifications inside national systems and especially between VET and higher education. This is a very fragile area and it seems that this will become a challenge for our future steps. But even looking at the traditional type of mobility we should take into consideration school to school, school to work, job to job and sector to sector mobility

According to the consultation document, ECVET is an instrument for enhanced mobility. In the general context of developing a lifelong learning society in Europe, the mobility of learners is identified in the Copenhagen process as a development priority. For more than a decade, the European Union has promoted the transnational mobility of people in vocational training thanks to the "mobility" measures of the Community action programme Leonardo da Vinci. Under this programme, the every year EU finances mobility projects for approximately 60.000 people, of which around 50% are young people in initial vocational training, including apprentices.

In spite of these efforts, the scale of mobility leading to a professional qualification is still small in comparison to that organised for higher education under the Erasmus programme. The mobility of young people in initial vocational training usually corresponds to the minimum period of three weeks. It is considered to be more of an "interlude" than an integral part of the training pathway. This state of affairs can be explained by the obstacles to mobility in vocational education and training: these obstacles are regulatory and administrative, economic and financial, cultural and linguistic, etc.

One of the main obstacles to attracting more interest in mobility within the framework of initial and continuing vocational training is the difficulty in identifying and validating learning outcomes acquired during a stay in another country. ECVET proposes: an approach whereby learning outcomes acquired abroad can be taken into consideration for the purposes of issuing a qualification in a learner's country of origin; a tool for providers, practitioners and competent bodies, enabling them to compare more easily the learning outcomes acquired in different countries, and to validate and recognise them.

Given the above general framework I consider relevant to the expected outcomes of our workshops to focus more on the impact of practical measures and actions in order to promote mobility not only within a transnational context but also within the national systems and various sectors of the labour market. Additionally we should try to work on the questions raised in the same document.

- To what extent and how will ECVET be able to contribute to the development of transnational and even national partnerships?
- To what extent and how will ECVET be able to help improve the quality of Community programmes on mobility and participation in these programmes?
- To what extent and how do you think that ECVET and Europass could complement each other to enhance mobility?
- How can the links between ECVET and other European initiatives, in particular EQF and Europass be developed?
- Which is the specific contribution of ECVET to the general development of EU and national initiatives (EQF, Europass, validation of non-formal and informal learning, etc.)?