



European Centre for the  
Development of Vocational Training

***WORKSHOP 2: ECVET in the perspective of lifelong learning within the European social dialogue***

***Chaired by Karsten Krüger***

***Objectives of the Workshop***

Among the priorities set in Copenhagen and in Maastricht in 2002 and 2004 - jointly by the EU Member States, the candidate and EEA countries, the European social partners and the Commission - were to develop the European Credit system for VET. The commitment and support of the Social Partners has been an important factor that ECVET has come this far. The ECVET is one of the cornerstones of the political strategy to develop the lifelong learning society in Europe and more specifically of common European frameworks and tools. This process towards common frameworks paves the way towards a European labour market, and a European VET area complementary to the European area for higher education.

As the Helsinki Communiqué from December 2006 highlights again, *“the success of the Copenhagen process relies on the active involvement of all stakeholders in the field of VET, including in particular the social partners at European and national level, sectoral organisations and VET providers.”* The Commission has launched the consultation process because of the need to turn the proposal into an understandable, accessible and user-friendly instrument *“inviting all the players and experts to give their opinion what the objectives, principles and technical characteristics of the ECVET system could or should be”*. One additional activity to the consultation process is this Conference. The Workshop 2 is dedicated to the question what is the role of the ECVET in the perspective of lifelong learning within the European social dialogue.

In its Working Document about the ECVET from October 2006 the Commission has highlighted the importance of the mutual trust. *“However, the persisting lack of mutual trust and cooperation between the competent bodies, and other actors involved in training and qualification systems impedes and even prevents the development of initiatives to resolve the various problems posed by the transfer and validation of learning outcomes”* The development and the acceptance of the ECVET depend on the trust building between the actors involved.

Within this context, the objective of this Workshop 2 is to cover the opinion of the social partners and the stakeholders in general and to formulate proposals from the participants on how to address the following three aspects and which concrete actions could/should be implemented by the stakeholders in these thematic fields:

1. The trust building processes as essential to achieve acceptance of ECVET;
2. The role of ECVET in the national and EU strategies to promote lifelong learning; and,
3. The role of the social dialogue to implement the ECVET.