

Taking the next step: Building the ECVET community of practice

Brussels

31 May
&
01 June
2012

The 3rd annual ECVET forum⁽¹⁾ is the major 2012 event dedicated to the development of ECVET in Europe. Around 220 VET policy-makers, VET providers, social partners, representatives of sector or branch organisations and researchers meet on 31 May and 01 June 2012 in Brussels.

The forum is the annual meeting of the European ECVET network and ECVET interested parties.

The 2012 forum focuses on how to transform the current ECVET initiatives, projects and networking activities into a reliable, resourceful and sustainable cooperation towards 2014; letting the ECVET community of practice take shape.

The implementation of the European Credit system

for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET)

is progressing across Europe; Member States are setting up the necessary conditions for ECVET implementation. Good practices, solutions, proposals and debates emerging from examples of projects, strategies in progress throughout Europe and of networks in development will help participants to set up their own approaches and policies.

The 2012 ECVET forum is co-organised by the European Commission and Cedefop with the support of ECVET team.

The forum is open to any interested member of the European ECVET network and interested parties.

For registration: <http://www.ecvet-team.eu/en/content/3rd-annual-forum-31st-may-1st-june-2012>

⁽¹⁾ The documentation of the previous ECVET annual forums is available at <http://www.ecvet-team.eu/en/content/annual-forums>

08:00 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 10:00 **Welcome & Introduction**

- Mr. Antonio SILVA MENDES – Director B (European Commission EACEA)
- Mr. Christian F. LETTMAYR – Acting Director (Cedefop)
- Mr. Stéphane RIVIÈRE – President (A.N.F.A., France)

SESSION 1 - CHALLENGES FOR THE ECVET COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

10:00 - 10:45 **Plenary**

- CEDEFOP monitoring results - Mrs. Isabelle LE MOUILLOUR (Cedefop)
- ECVET Network News – Mr. Didier GELIBERT (ECVET TEAM)

10:45 - 11:15 **Break**

11:15 - 12:45 **Parallel workshops**

Round 1 - 4 in English - 1 with translation (DE, FR, EN)

- Workshop A: “ECVET as a Multiplier for Geographical Learning Mobility” (EN)
Facilitators: Mrs. Alexandra COSTA ARTUR and Mr. Segundo GONZALEZ
Introduction: Mrs. Sibilla DREWS (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany)
ECVET in European mobility projects
- Workshop B: “ECVET as a Multiplier for Lifelong Learning” (EN)
(horizontal & vertical mobility)
Facilitators: Mrs. Gabriela CIOBANU and Mr. Andre HUIGENS
Introduction: M. Rolf ASLAKSRUD KRISTIANSEN (EUROMASC Ltd, Norway)
ECVET project related to ECVET and permeability
- Workshop C: “Sharing the Added Value of ECVET” (EN)
Facilitators: Mr. Tormod SKJERVE and Mr. Loukas ZAHILAS
Introduction: Mr. Jean André LASSERRE (AFT-IFTIM, France)
ECVET in the logistic sector
- Workshop D: “Moving to an Effective Implementation of ECVET” (EN)
Facilitators: Mr. Rob VAN WEZEL and Mrs. Pauline VAN DEN BOSCH
Introduction: Mrs. Christiane EBERHARDT (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany)
ECVET testing for improving VET system, experience report.
- Workshop E: “Moving to an Effective Implementation of ECVET” (EN-DE-FR)
Facilitators: Mrs. Fiona BIBBY and Mr. Thierry LEFEUVRE
Introduction: Mr. Alain BULTOT (Agency Education Formation-Europe, Belgium)
ECVET testing for reforming VET system, experience report.

12:45 - 14:15 **Lunch**

14:15 - 15:00 **Plenary Round table**

Information and question corner

- Erasmus for all – Mrs. Alison CRABB (European Commission, DG EAC)
- National Teams of ECVET Experts – Mr Erik HESS (European Commission, DG EAC)

15:00 - 15:20 **Break**

15:20 - 17:00 **Parallel workshops**

Round 2 - 4 in English - 1 with translation (DE, FR, EN)

- Workshop F: “ECVET as a Multiplier for Geographical Learning Mobility” (EN)
Facilitators: Mrs. Alexandra COSTA ARTUR and Mr. Segundo GONZALEZ
Introduction: Mrs. Sibilla DREWS (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany)
ECVET in European mobility projects
- Workshop G: “ECVET as a Multiplier for Lifelong Learning” (EN) (horizontal & vertical mobility)
Facilitators: Mrs. Gabriela CIOBANU and Mr. Andre HUIGENS
Introduction: M. Rolf ASLAKSRUD KRISTIANSEN (EUROMASC Ltd, Norway)
ECVET project related to ECVET and permeability
- Workshop H: “Sharing the Added Value of ECVET” (EN-DE-FR)
Facilitators: Mr. Tormod SKJERVE and Mr. Loukas ZAHILAS
Introduction: Mr. Jean André LASSERRE (AFT-IFTIM, France)
ECVET in the logistic sector
- Workshop I: “Moving to an Effective Implementation of ECVET” (EN)
Facilitators: Mr. Rob VAN WEZEL and Mrs. Pauline VAN DEN BOSCH
Introduction: Mrs. Christiane EBERHARDT (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany)
ECVET testing for improving VET system, experience report.
- Workshop J: “Moving to an Effective Implementation of ECVET” (EN)
Facilitators: Mrs. Fiona BIBBY and Mr. Thierry LEFEUVRE
Introduction: Mr. Alain BULTOT (Agency Education Formation-Europe, Belgium)
ECVET testing for reforming VET system, experience report.

09:00 - 10:00 Plenary

Introduction

- What is a Community of practice?
Mr. Soeren NIELSEN (from Denmark, former ETF, Torino)
- What could be the ECVET Community of Practice?
Mapping, sharing, solving, committing – Mrs. Isabelle LE MOUILLOUR (Cedefop) and Mr. Didier GELIBERT (ECVET TEAM)

10:00 - 12:30 Workshops

(Break 11:00 - 11:20)

- Workshops 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: “ Sharing, solving, committing”
- Workshop 1: facilitator Mr. Rob VAN WEZEL, back-up Mrs. Alexandra COSTA ARTUR
- Workshop 2: facilitator Mr. Tormod SKJERVE, back-up Mrs. Isabelle LE MOUILLOUR
- Workshop 3: facilitator Mrs. Pauline VAN DEN BOSCH, back-up Mrs. Hanna AUTERE
- Workshop 4: facilitator Mr. Segundo GONZALEZ, back-up Mr. Didier GELIBERT
- Workshop 5: facilitator Mrs. Gabriela CIOBANU, back-up Mr. Richard MANIAK

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch**14:00 - 14:45 Feedback all workshops**

Mr. Mika SAARINEN (Center for International Mobility, Finland)

Questions

14:45 - 15:00 Conclusion

European Commission

The workshops

The ECVET forum is conceived as a place to exchange and network, as well as to challenge colleagues and peers. Good practices, solutions, proposals and debates emerging from examples of projects, strategies in progress throughout Europe and of networks in development will help participants to set up their own approaches and policies. It is also a place for active participation and open discussions.

The two thematic sessions are underpinned with workshops. The workshops address issues key to ECVET implementation. The discussions are nurtured by evidence and reflections from selected ECVET experiences, projects and initiatives. Participants have the opportunity to attend three different workshops during the whole forum. Facilitators are easing the discussions.

The thematic session on day 1 focuses on ECVET and its implementation fields. It is conceived so as to provide inputs to the thematic session of day 2, day 2 will focus on how to organise future collaboration within the ECVET community of practice.

Thematic session 1: Challenges for the Community of Practice ECVET

This session focuses on ECVET implementation and the related challenges to the ECVET community of practice, in short taking stock of ECVET progress and identifying the challenges to its implementation. This session includes 4 workshops.

Workshop A / F: ECVET as a Multiplier for Geographical Learning Mobility

Facilitator: Alexandra Costa Artur and Segundo Gonzales
Introduction: Representative of an ECVET project related to learning mobility

“ECVET is intended to facilitate the transfer, recognition and accumulation of assessed learning outcomes of individuals who are aiming to achieve a qualification. This will improve the general understanding of citizens’ learning outcomes and their transparency, transnational mobility and portability across (...) Member States in a borderless lifelong learning area”⁽¹⁾. In short, “thanks to ECVET, it should become easier to fully integrate mobility into learners’ learning pathways and to make visible and recognised what they have learned abroad”⁽²⁾. ECVET is essential in supporting learning mobility as contribution to the employability of young people as well as in improving the overall quality of education. ECVET is thus one of the European tools and principles⁽³⁾ contributing to increasing learning mobility towards the European benchmark of at least 6 % of 18-34 year olds with an initial VET qualification being mobile by 2020⁽⁴⁾.

Workshop A/F focuses on the ECVET potentials for geographical learning mobility. More precisely participants are invited to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of ECVET for organizing and running learning mobility based upon the introductory speech and their experiences with ECVET, mobility projects or while working with mobile VET students. This workshop further aims at identifying key issues to be resolved that could be integrated into the future community of practice.

Workshop B / G: ECVET as a Multiplier for Lifelong Learning

Facilitator: Gabriela Ciobanu and Andre Huigens
Introduction: Representative of an ECVET project related to ECVET and permeability

“ECVET is applicable for all learning outcomes which should in principle be achievable through a variety of education and learning paths at all levels of the EQF, and then be transferred and recognised (...). It contributes to the wider objectives of promoting lifelong learning and increasing the employability, openness to mobility and social inclusion of workers and learners. It particularly facilitates

the development of flexible and individualised pathways and also the recognition of those learning outcomes which are acquired through non-formal and informal learning⁽¹⁾. It further will improve the mobility and portability of qualifications at national level between various sectors of the economy and within the labour market.

Workshop B/G focuses on the potentials of ECVET for lifelong learning. More precisely participants to the workshop are invited to consider the relationships between ECVET and validation of informal and non-formal learning as well as ECVET as part of individual learning pathways. The perspective might include horizontal (from one sector to another) mobility and vertical (same sector from one level to another) mobility. This workshop further aims at identifying key issues to be resolved that could be integrated into the ECVET community of practice.

Workshop C/H: Sharing the Added Value of ECVET

Facilitators: Tormod Skjerve and Loukas Zahilas

Introduction: Jean-André Lasserre (AFT-IFTIM, France)
ECVET in the logistic sector

The ECVET recommendation identifies ECVET as foundation for developing learning mobility and lifelong learning in VET; ECVET pilot projects and initiatives confirm the potentials. There is also the possibility to consider ECVET from a more individual viewpoint; “the added value of ECVET is largely determined by national, sectoral, regional or local VET conditions and by VET reforms and changes already under way. It also depends on how ECVET can address specific shortcomings and difficulties facing VET systems.”⁽⁴⁾ Identifying the added value of ECVET is the first of a list of 15 necessary conditions for ECVET implementation⁽⁵⁾ validated by the ECVET users’ group. It is pivotal to initiating and developing.

Workshop C/H focuses on developing a shared understanding of the added value of ECVET. More precisely participants to the workshop are invited to reflect on how to best communicate on ECVET added value and how to integrate the rationales and narratives on added value into motivating and gaining commitment in their respective national, sectoral, regional or local contexts. This workshop further aims at identifying key issues and formulating proposals for actions to be taken within the ECVET community of practice.

Workshop D/E/J/K: Moving to an Effective Implementation of ECVET

Facilitators (D/J): Rob Van Wezel and Pauline Van Den Bosch

Introduction: Christiane Eberhardt (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany) ECVET testing for improving VET system, experience report.

Facilitators (J/K): Fiona Bibby and Thierry Lefevre

Introduction: Alain Bultot (Agency Education Formation-Europe, Belgium) - ECVET testing for reforming VET system, experience report.

The period between 2009 (agreement on the ECVET Recommendation) and 2012 (the 3rd ECVET annual forum) has been a unique opportunity for Member States and sectors alike to initiate and develop trials and testing for ECVET implementation. More than 150 European projects deal with ECVET in Europe. The first wave of the ECVET experimentations ended in December 2011 and led to consolidated information on implementation strategies, methods and tools⁽⁶⁾. All these experiences cast a differentiated light on ECVET and support

the understanding of potentials and obstacles to ECVET implementation. Reflecting on past experiences and on-going testing is an essential enabling element to newly mandated ECVET national experts.

Workshop D/E/J/K focuses on the achievements and challenges to inform the further development of ECVET towards a functioning credit system for VET in Europe. More precisely participants to the workshop are invited to reflect on ECVET characteristics on the basis of their experiences and the characteristics of their VET systems. This workshop further aims at formulating shared statements on what is functioning and which obstacles are still to be overcome. The identified challenges and concrete proposals for actions shall feed into the ECVET community of practice.

Thematic session 2:

Toward an ECVET Community of Practice

The second thematic session focuses on defining the ECVET community of practice, in short reflecting upon roles and resources of VET stakeholders and upon one’s own commitment and involvement to the ECVET community of practice.

The ECVET Community of practice represents a further step within the European ECVET initiative. The last few years witness the emergence of ECVET and the development of activities and engagements of a large range of organisations of different nature (public, private, education providers, ministries, sector organisations, trade unions, teachers and trainers,...) engaging in ECVET. Issues such as transfer of best practices, information on ECVET developments, expert discussions on specific ECVET aspects are carried out in many different settings. Time has come to transform the current ECVET initiatives, projects and networking activities into a reliable, resourceful and sustainable cooperation towards 2014; letting the ECVET community of practice take shape.

This session opens in the morning of Forum day 2 with two keynote speeches which are setting the scene and will directly feed into five parallel workshops, all dealing with one major question: what could be the ECVET Community of Practice in order to move forward on the ECVET implementation? The workshops also benefit from the outcomes of the first thematic session (day 1) and the support of a facilitator and colleagues experienced with Community of Practice. The five workshops are running in parallel.

Thematic session 2 - Workshops: Sharing, solving, committing

Facilitators: Rob Van Wezel, Tormod Skjerve, Pauline Van den Bosch, Segundo Gonzales, Gabriela Ciobanu

Back-ups: Alexandra Costa Artur, Isabelle Le Mouillour, Hanna Autere, Didier Gelibert, Richard Maniak

The workshops aim at developing a common understanding of the ECVET community of practice and shall address four main issues: sharing (such as the good practices), solving (e.g. common problems), committing (members should have an active participation) and making visible (CoP also as a tool for promoting ECVET). Furthermore participants shall reflect on how to use the ECVET community of practice for optimizing and increasing the efficiency of current cooperation as well as for their own ECVET activities. Concrete proposals for organising cooperation and ensuring transfer into national, regional and local contexts shall form the outcomes of the thematic session.

(1) Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18/6/2009 on the establishment of a European Credit System for VET. Official journal of the European Union, C 155,8.7.2009 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:155:0011:0018:EN:PDF>)

(2) European Commission (2011). Using ECVET for Geographical Mobility. Part II of the ECVET user’s Guide. http://www.ecvet-team.eu/sites/default/files/2011-08-02_ecvet_users_guide_mobility-final.pdf

(3) Cedefop briefing note on the European tools and principles for lifelong learning (2011) at <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/19146.aspx>.

(4) Council of the European Union (2011). Council conclusions on a benchmark for learning mobility. Brussels, 28 and 29 November 2011 http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/126380.pdf

(5) Cedefop (2012). Necessary conditions for ECVET implementation. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2012. http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/4113_en.pdf

(6) GHK Consulting (2012). We have tried ECVET: Lessons from the first generation of ECVET pilot projects. Synthesis of results and project portraits. http://www.ecvet-projects.eu/Documents/Seminars/ECVET_Brochure_singlepages_allthesame.pdf