


ECVET: Towards a credit system for lifelong learning

*Credit systems and qualifications framework
Cedefop – 21&22-01-2010*


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ECVET: what's new?

- Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council (18 June 2009)
- Launching conference in Brussels, organised with Cedefop (17 & 18 November)
- ECVET users' guide: questions and answers
- ECVET Thematic networking (National agencies network)
- ECVET & the LLP: projects and projects outcomes (2008, 2010, 2011...)
- Scheme for cooperation and governance validated by DGVT and ACVT


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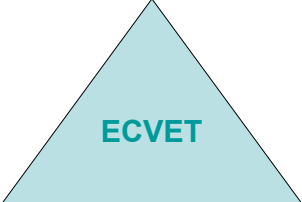
The ECVET package (ECVET Technical specifications)

- Concepts and glossary (preable)
- Description of qualifications in units of learning outcomes (main)
- Validation Process (assessment, transfer, recognition and accumulation of learning outcomes) and partnerships (essential)
- ECVET points allocated to qualifications and to units (additional)

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Units of learning outcomes

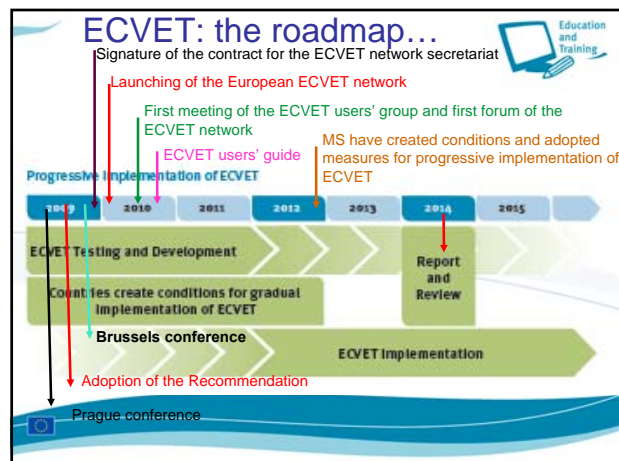
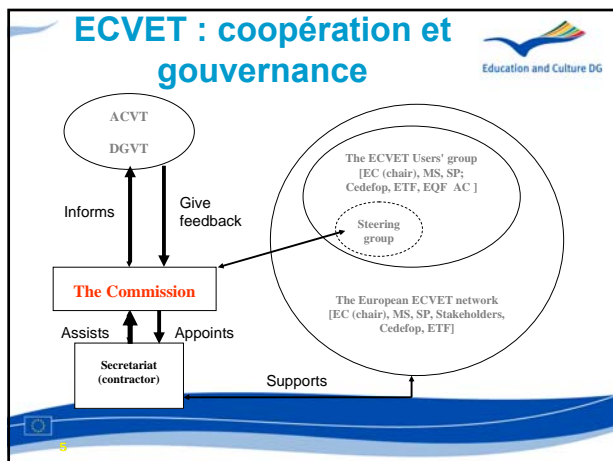


ECVET

ECVET validation process

ECVET points

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ECVET: the environment

- Other EU instruments:
 - EQF
 - Europass
 - ECTS
 - EQARF
- Maybe it is the right momentum?
 - Learning outcomes approach
 - NQF/EQF
 - Validation of NFL and IL

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ECVET and ECTS

The Commission's intention:

• « [...] develop expertise for enhancing the compatibility and complementarity of ECVET and ECTS used in the higher education sector ... »

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| | ECTS | ECVET |
|------------|--|--|
| Reference | ECTS Users 'guide 2009 | ECVET Recom. of the EP & C (18 June 2009) ECVET Q&A 2009 |
| In brief | Points system, based on workload and associated LO | Units system based on LO and transfer and accumulation process, with associated points |
| Definition | Quantified means of expressing the volume of learning based on the workload students need in order to achieve the expected learning outcomes of a learning process at a specified level. | Technical framework for the transfer, recognition and accumulation of individuals' learning outcomes with a view of achieving a qualification. |

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| | ECTS | ECVET |
|---------------------|--|---|
| The whole... | Qualification or study | Qualification |
| ... the part. | Educational components: modules, course units, dissertation work, work placements etc. | Units of learning outcomes |
| Elements of context | Bologna: cooperation; ministries' decision on harmonised architecture (3 cycles, BMD scheme, credits ranges, semester based programme ...) | Copenhagen: cooperation; constraint: no harmonisation, heterogeneity, diversity, fragmentation... |

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| | ECTS | ECVET |
|---|--|---|
| Impact on structuring: | The study programme: - duration/workload - balance workload/content - structure (standardisation: number of credits/workload per year, modules ...). | The Qualification: - number and size of the units - rules for combining units - rules and processes for the assessment, validation and accumulation of learning outcomes. |
| First Impact for the « competent institutions » | Design of the learning/teaching/training programme. | Design of the assessment, validation and accumulation (AVA) of outcomes processes (including L.O. achieved in F, NF and L learning). |
| The aim | To take into account the typical ability of an average learner in the design of the programme. (safety of the student against overweighting programmes) | To take into account the diversity of the learners in the design of the AVA processes. (openness of the access to qualifications) |

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| | ECTS | ECVET |
|----------------|---|---|
| Postulate | Workload = learning outcomes (input reference oriented system) | Learning outcomes ≠ learning process (output reference oriented system) |
| Blackbox | <i>Workload for which achievement? For which kind of learner? In which context? Estimation, invention or measurement of workload?</i> | <i>Common definition of learning outcomes? Which size for units? Which rules for combining units? Which method for allocating ECVET points?</i> |
| Points | Central - Role - Value - Information - Transfer and recognition | Additional Relative (in theory) On qualification Possible (but only in addition to transfer and recognition of LO) |
| - Accumulation | Yes, for describing the achievement of the study programme | Yes, but for describing the accumulation of L.O. |

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ECVET/ECTS: questions for the future

- Why?
- How?
- With whom?
- When?



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