

Focus on Europe:

increasing European interest in UK FE



Vocational Education Context



Vocational Education in Europe *is changing* to meet requirements of a mobile European labour market

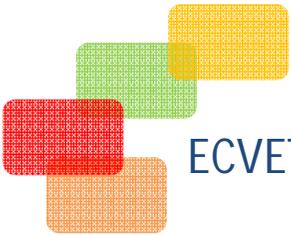
How?

European Qualifications Framework is a catalyst for reform paving the way for the European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training. Most European countries are developing their own National Qualifications Frameworks to focus on the learning outcomes of qualifications.

Learning outcomes are described through attitudes and competences e.g. "...able to..." therefore employers can see exactly what their candidates are able to do.

The UK is ahead of the trend having established the QCF, the Qualifications and Credit Framework. It's focus on Credits places the UK at the forefront in Europe for the implementation of the European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training.

ECVET



ECVET: The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training

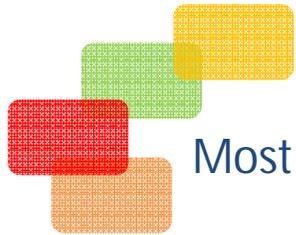
Copenhagen declaration of 30th November 2002 declared that the production of a credit transfer system for VET was necessary for promoting: *“transparency, comparability, transferability and recognition of competences and/or qualifications, between different countries and at different levels”*.

The need for recognition of learning period abroad and a Europeanisation of learning pathways has triggered the implementation of ECVET.

By 2012, it should create a technical framework to describe qualifications in terms of units of learning outcomes, and it includes assessment, transfer, accumulation and recognition procedures.

The UK has implemented a National Contact Point to provide advice and guidance with the implementation of ECVET.

ECVET: the situation on the continent



Most European Member States have undertaken steps to implement ECVET

Almost all Member States participate in ECVET projects*, with the exception of the UK most European Member States don't have a qualifications framework attributing credit(s) to modules of completed study.

This means that to adequately implement ECVET that Member States are adapting their qualification systems and developing their NQFs. such actions must be completed prior to engagement with relevant stakeholders.

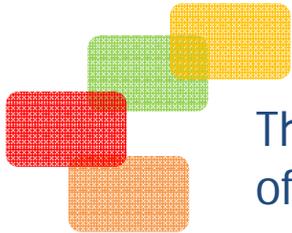
Next slide charts the stages the various Member States are at in terms of implementation:



ECVET: the situation on the continent

The lot	Engagement with stakeholders	Developing frameworks, updating national systems and projects	Developing frameworks and participating in projects	Participating in projects or some framework development
UK	Poland	Estonia	Belgium	Bulgaria
Austria	Portugal	Lithuania	Denmark	France
Czech Republic			Germany	Greece
Finland			Hungary	Ireland
			Italy	Luxembourg
			Latvia	Spain
			Slovakia	Sweden
			Slovenia	Romania
				Netherlands
				Malta
				Cyprus

ECVET: What's the big idea?



The focus on learning outcomes will support recognition and overlap of units studied across Europe allowing institutions to further develop mobility programmes in which students will acquire skills and knowledge which will be assessed and recorded as part of their overall qualification

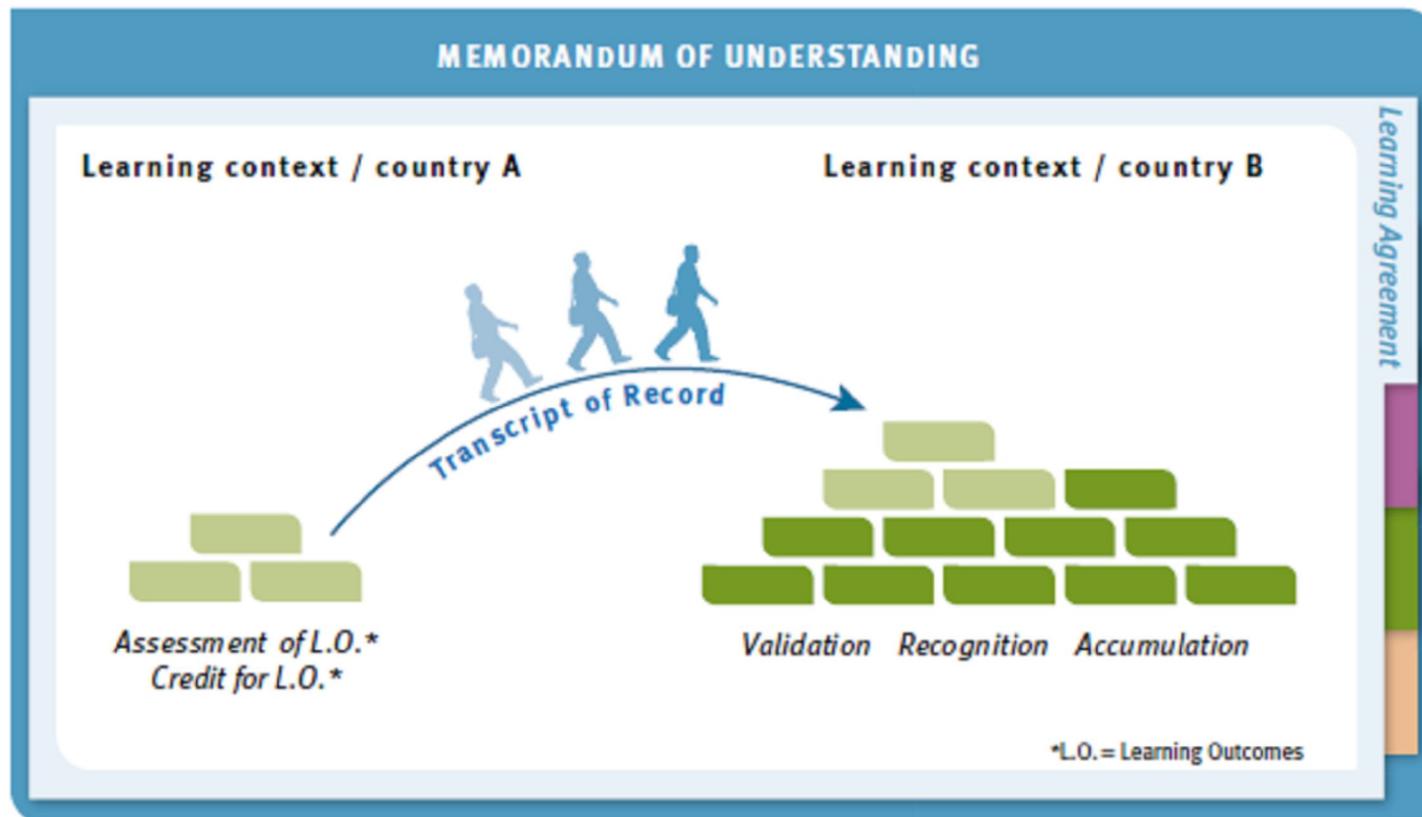
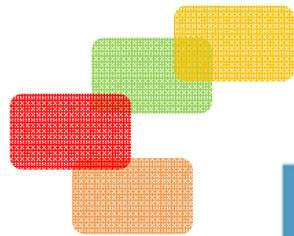
Which means?

For example, a hairdresser undertakes a mobility placement outside of his/her own country and during the placement they achieve a number of ***learning outcomes***.

The ***value*** of the achievements gained during his/her placement could then be validated on return to his/her home country (depending on agreements in place between him/her and their ***place of learning***)

This ***value*** would act as a ***credit*** allowing the hairdresser to then build towards a final qualification.

ECVET: How does it work?



ECVET: the jargon

Learning outcomes: are statements of knowledge, skills and competence that can be achieved in a variety of learning contexts

Units of learning outcomes: are components of qualifications. Units can be assessed, validated and recognised

ECVET points: provide additional information about units and qualifications in a numerical form.

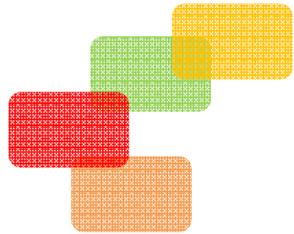
Credit is given for a learner's assessed and documented learning outcomes. The credit reflects the value of their study so far and can be transferred or accumulated to achieve a qualification

Memoranda of Understanding is a key device which creates the climate of trust in which credit transfer can operate. It is drawn up by partner organisations and provides information about reference levels and units of study

Learning agreements contains the list of units and credits covered during the mobility period

European Credit system for Vocational Education & Training

The benefits:



- ECVET supports flexibility of programmes and pathways to achieve qualifications
- ECVET makes it easier to recognise the learning achievements that young people or adults have gained in other contexts, be it countries, institutions or systems, formal, non-formal or informal ways of learning
- ECVET improves the credibility of international education and training experience by documenting what the learner has achieved.

How does that help the individual? Periods of work and study spent abroad can be assessed and validated as part of a larger award using ECVET

How does that help employers? ECVET is intended to serve as a mark of quality in vocational education and training. Employees embarking on periods of work abroad will be able to continue to study for qualifications in VET via arrangements with VET providers abroad.

ECVET: the UK taking a lead



We are currently **completing** a project with the **Awarding Body VTCT** it's results will allow the UK to suggest to ECVET partners across Europe a method for assigning credit points to qualifications.

We are working with the UK's National Europass Centre to facilitate the production of a European standard document to record the outcomes of a mobility placement and the skills and competences acquired.

Dissemination of the results across our European networks will demonstrate the level of interest and knowledge in the UK about ECVET

We are also Promoting the use of the National Europass Centre's Certificate Supplement and Mobility Document

Europass Certificate Supplement



Europass certificate supplement ^(*)



United Kingdom

1. Title of the certificate ^(en)

City & Guilds Level 2 Progression Award in Early Years Care and Education

⁽¹⁾ In the original language

2. Translated title of the certificate ^(de)

City & Guilds Ebene 2 Progression Zeugnis in Erziehung

⁽¹⁾ If applicable. This translation has no legal status.

3. Profile of skills and competences

Core Units:

- Understand the role of the childcare worker
- Apply the principles of good practice and equal opportunities
- Investigate the principles of working with children 1-8 years, to promote physical care and development
- Investigate the principles of working with children 1-8 years, to promote social and emotional development
- Investigate the principles of working with children 1-8 years, to promote sensory and intellectual development
- Investigate the principles of working with children 1-8 years, to promote language development
- Recognise a safe learning environment for children
- Prepare to contribute to the protection of children
- Prepare for working with parents

Optional Units (one from):

- Work effectively with babies 0-12 months
- Observe children
- Prepare to work with colleagues in a childcare setting
- Apply the principles of good practice with regard to communication in the childcare setting
- Prepare for professional development as a childcare worker

4. Range of occupations accessible to the holder of the certificate ⁽¹⁾

Nursery Assistant
Pre-School Assistant

⁽¹⁾ If applicable

5. Official basis of the certificate

Name and status of the body awarding the certificate City & Guilds Affinity 1 Giltspur Street London EC1A 9DD United Kingdom Telephone: +44 (0)20 7294 2800 Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7294 2400 Website: http://www.city-and-guilds.co.uk E-mail: enquiry@city-and-guilds.co.uk (City & Guilds is a recognised Awarding Body in the United Kingdom.)	Name and status of the national/regional authority providing accreditation/recognition of the certificate Qualifications and Curriculum Authority 83 Piccadilly London W1J 8QA United Kingdom Telephone: +44 (0)20 7509 5556 Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7509 6666 Website: http://www.qca.org.uk E-mail: info@qca.org.uk (QCA maintains and develops the national curriculum and associated assessments, tests and examinations; and accredits and monitors qualifications in colleges and at work.)
Level of the certificate (national or international) Level 2 in the National Qualifications Framework	Grading scale / Pass requirements Written Assessments: Distinction Credit Pass Examinations: Pass / Fail
Access to next level of education/training Provides access to Level 3 Progression Award or other Level 3 qualifications in the NQF; also acts as initial training before students take the work-based NVQ level 2 qualifications in the same occupational field.	International agreements N/A
Legal basis N/A	

6. Officially recognised ways of acquiring the certificate

Description of vocational education and training received	Percentage of total programme (%)	Duration (hours/weeks/months/years)
School-/training centre-based	100%	300 hours of guided learning
Workplace-based		
Accredited prior learning		
Total duration of the education/ training leading to the certificate		300 hours

Entry requirements
There are no specific entry requirements. Centres should expect candidates to be able to complete the course to the outcomes and have appropriate communication and numeracy skills to achieve this.

Additional information
It is recommended that 180 hours should be allocated for completion of the 10 required units together with an additional 120 hours of practical experience.

More information (including a description of the national qualifications system) available at:
<http://www.uknec.org.uk>

National reference point
<http://www.uknnp.org.uk>

Europass Certificate Supplements – advantages?

What do they do?

Certificate Supplements are designed to supplement a qualification certificate or diploma – for FE qualifications.

The documents provide information on the qualification's:

- Content, key skills and grading.
- Level within the NOF and information on the issuing institution.
- The function of the qualification and any professional status.

How can they help the individual?

Increase transparency of qualifications

Increase recognition by employers or educational institutions

How can it help organisations?

By increasing the transparency of its qualifications, a FE awarding body gives increased credibility to its qualification and gives the recipient of the qualification more opportunity to use the qualification outside the UK.

Europass Certificate Supplement – who uses it?

Who can issue them?

The Certificate Supplement is issued by Further Education Awarding Bodies.

Who uses them in the UK?

The Certificate Supplement is issued by City and Guilds England, and the Institute of Leadership and Management.

The Awarding Body VTCT Vocational Training Charitable Trust and EMTA Awards are currently evaluating how to implement the Certificate Supplement. Usually this means amending databases that store information on courses to compile the information in the template that the NEC provides.

For example, Section 3 can be populated with the Learning outcomes for the qualification, recognises learning outcomes focus of QCF, EQF

Section 4 indicates accessible occupations on completion of the qualification



Europass Mobility Document – advantages?

What does it do?

Europass Mobility provides a record, and **validation** of, skills and competences acquired by an individual during an organised period of learning or training in another European Country.

How does it help the individual?

Highlights competences gained from a work experience placement.

What use is it for institutions?

A free to use database exists for the production of Mobility Documents. No administration cost for institutions, just time cost to input data. Documents are automatically emailed and easily manageable.

Feedback: A Case Study

“facilitates the employability of people across Europe because it gives an added value to the CV of a candidate, as it gives evidence of the experience acquired “in the field.”” Amelia Fiorillo, Language Link London

Europass Certificate Supplement and Mobility Document benefits



These documents support the implementation of qualification frameworks and can harmonise this implementation across Europe

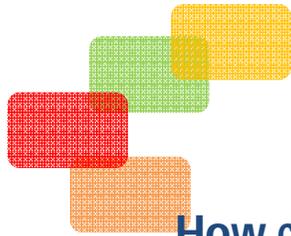
- (1) Include ECVET and EQF information – *transparency of qualifications*
- (2) Help students – *contextualise qualifications against EQF*
- (2) Mobility Document database - *ready to use*
- (3) Partnerships with UK Awarding Bodies – *greater implementation*
- (4) Employer friendly – *describes competences acquired*

Furthermore:

Development of European Standard Classification of Occupations (as used on EURES jobs database) to harmonise qualification descriptions with the jobs markets. I.e. phrasing skills and competences in a manner that describes to employers the calibre of their candidate



For further advice or guidance



How can the National Contact Point for England help?

The ECVET National Contact Point for England can offer advice about such matters as assigning ECVET credit to existing qualifications; how to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding and how to validate VET credits. Provide information on networks and partners for people interested in ECVET projects.

The National Contact Point is available by phone and email from 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday

info@ecvet.org.uk 01242 258608

