

Comments and proposals to the European Commission on the project of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training - ECVET

On 27 March 2007, on the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, a consultation seminar was organised in Vilnius. During the seminar a project on the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training – ECVET, designed under the aegis of the European Commission, was introduced and discussed.

Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, social partners, VET and higher education institutions and other institutions concerned in professional education and training took part in the seminar. During the consultation seminar, the ECVET project was introduced, reports of social partners, representatives of VET and higher education institutions were presented. Proposals and recommendations to the European Commission have been prepared.

During the consultation seminar, the following comments and proposals concerning the project of the European Commission have been formulated:

Advantages of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training:

- it is initiative that would facilitate not only a territorial mobility of learners, but also the mobility among training institutions, learning programmes and learning methods in a certain country;
- it complements the European Qualifications Framework and introduces a method for qualification design, organization of the delivery of qualifications and their assessment;
- it forms a background for design and implementation of modular study programmes in vocational education and training.

Disadvantages of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training:

- it does not reveal mechanisms and resources for designing units of learning outcomes.
- it does not disclose the specific features of the transfer of informal learning into the formal learning;

- it does not reveal the mechanisms of transferring of learning outcomes between various levels of qualifications;
- mechanism of credit allocation for unit of learning outcomes is not explained well enough;
- relationship between ECVET and ECTS is not shown.

The following proposals were offered:

- **ECVET should be an integral part of European Qualifications Framework and National Qualification Framework as well;**
- **various aspects of the mobility should be explained: (i) the role of ECVET in credit transfer between various levels of qualifications; (ii) the role of ECVET in credit transfer between informal, non-formal and formal learning;**
- **specificity of transfer of learning outcomes obtained in non-formal and informal learning should be disclosed;**
- **more detailed description of resources and mechanisms for unit design and credit allocation should be provided;**
- **advantages and disadvantages of the territorial mobility, especially as regards the new member states should be disclosed more explicitly;**
- **the use of 120 credit points as a point of reference should be grounded;**
- **both international and local partnership should be further developed with view to creating the system, improving and implementing it.**