

ROMÂNIA
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Cabinet Ministru

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His Excellency Jan Figel
Commissioner
European Commission

Your Excellency,

Following the invitation of the European Commission, the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with National Adult Training Board, acting as National Qualifications Authority organized a public consultation on the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET).

We have involved in the consultation, education and vocational training providers, teachers and managers, companies and institutions, social partners and authorities in order to get their feedback on the proposed system.

We are in the position to inform you about the results of the public consultation and in this respect, please find attached the report we have prepared. In "respondents" view, ECVET is a device for promoting the transfer, accumulation and a transparent instrument that is facilitating recognition of the learning outcomes in VET systems in Europe; it is also a driver of change together with the EQF that are inspiring the reforms in Romania.

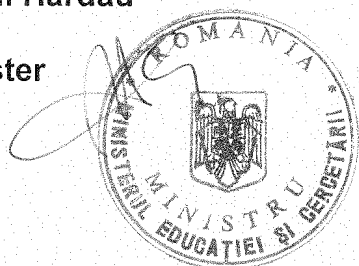
I would like to draw your attention on the fact that the Romanian respondents indicated that taking into account the diversity of VET systems in different countries, and the roles that the competent bodies should play at the national level, the working document should emphasize more on the importance of the Quality Assurance mechanisms for creating the mutual trust climate. The working document should also emphasize more on the relation between the assessment of the learning outcomes achieved and the process of validation and recognition of the learning outcomes.

We believed that based on the results of consultation and of the pilot projects developed in this field, we will be able to work together to find the most appropriate format for ECVET.

Yours sincerely,

Mihail Hărdău

Minister



Consultation on the European Commission Staff Working Document
“European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training” (ECVET)

Conclusions of the consultation process in Romania

The consultation process in Romania was organized by the Ministry of Education and Research with the support of the National Centre for TVET Development and National Authority for Qualifications. The target group involved policy-makers, social partners (Sectoral Committees and National Adult Training Board), training providers’ representatives, and experts in VET sector, hereinafter refer to as “respondents”.

The purpose of an ECVET system

- In “respondents” view ECVET is a device for promoting the transfer, accumulation, and a transparent instrument that is facilitating recognition of the learning outcomes in VET systems in Europe; it is also a driver of change together with the EQF that are inspiring the reforms in Romania.
- ECVET enables the transparency of qualifications, described in terms of learning outcomes (KSC), and facilitates the mobility of learning if methodologies for learning outcomes validation and recognition are in place.
- ECVET working document outlines the objectives and the main functions of a European system of credits for VET, and the role of competent authorities in the implementation of ECVET system at national level. *Taking into account the diversity of VET systems in different countries, and the roles that the competent bodies should play at the national level, the working document should emphasize more on the importance of the Quality Assurance mechanisms for creating the mutual trust climate.*
- Since the main added value of ECVET system is to facilitate the portability of learners’ achievements reached in different learning contexts, at national and European levels, *the working document should emphasize more on the relation between the assessment of the learning outcomes achieved and the process of validation and recognition of the learning outcomes.*

The technical specifications of ECVET system

- ECVET’s technical specifications describe very clear the evaluation, validation, recognition, accumulation and transfer of the learning outcomes in order to ensure a comprehensive view of the implementation process.
- The “respondents” are not welcoming the credit points’ allocation and the aim to achieve a European credit points’ allocation reference looks, in their view, rather an obstacle for the ECVET adoption, than a facilitator.
- *The working document could take into account the possibility to correlate the number of allocated credit points to a qualification with the EQF levels.* If there is an intention to create a European reference for the allocation of the credit points, this could be defined and used in the same approach as EQF level descriptors – as a translation device, each

country been responsible for the decision regarding the number of the credit points according to the procedures and practices in force.

Implementing ECVET

- The qualifications validated by the Sectoral Committees and delivered through the formal education system (TVET) in Romania are already described in terms of learning outcomes and organized in units, which contributed to the mutual trust accomplishment. Therefore, the respondents appreciated that the learning outcomes and units based structure of the qualifications are crucial for improving the transparency of qualifications and for the development of mutual trust.

- ECVET credit points could be allocated, at national level, on a basis of a combination of the following criteria, adjusted to each qualification' specificity (content, complexity, level):
 - the importance of the contents of each unit defined in terms of KSC
 - the importance of the unit for the whole qualification
 - the complexity' degree of the units' learning outcomes
 - the real or notional learner effort in an informal learning context

- As mentioned above, qualifications provided through the formal TVET system in Romania, have already fulfilled the conditions for making ECVET operational, but these qualifications represents only 30% of VET qualifications in Romania. Qualifications from other VET systems are still subject of learning outcomes development.

Operational procedures for validation of the learning outcomes achieved in informal and non-formal learning contexts have been developed, and specialized institutions for competence' assessment are in the process of accreditation by the National Qualifications Authority (National Adult Training Board is acting as NQA in Romania).

Therefore, we consider as respondents also mentioned, that Romania is partially ready for ECVET adoption and the planned developments are ensuring the full readiness.

- The respondents considered that an obstacle for the mutual trust achievement between VET providers within the country could be generated by the quality assurance system not fully operational at the training provider level. ECVET across Europe could be impeded by the language barriers. ECVET in HE is not yet subject for discussion, therefore the main purpose of ECVET - learning mobility in view of supporting LLL – will remain partially unsolved.

- ECVET implementation in Romania could be effective within a 5 years timeframe, if the qualifications, mainly those related to CVT and different sectors will be learning outcomes defined.

Measures for supporting the implementation and development of ECVET

- Several measures could be taken at European level in order to facilitate the implementation of ECVET system:
 - promotion of projects and programmes related to ECVET implementation testing, for developing practical instruments or common methodologies for implementation purposes, for developing common procedures for assessment, credit allocation, validation and recognition of the learning outcomes.

- creation of networks and partnerships between the competent bodies from the different countries in order to ensure a higher transparency of the qualifications systems, to ensure the coherence of the implementation process in different countries, and to increase the mutual trust. Common understanding of concepts and mutual trust are preconditions of all developments at EU level.
- At the Romanian national and sectoral levels an action plan could be set-up, with measures for ECVET implementation, such as:
 - immediate adoption of CVT law in view of introducing ECVET and learning outcomes based training programmes.
 - development of occupational standards and training standards with clear definition of credits and credit points allocated to units.
 - enhancement of quality assurance at training provider level including quality assurance procedures at the level of the assessment centres in charge with certification of achievements from informal and non-formal learning contexts.
 - Awareness campaign for the involved institutions to promote projects under ESF
- The ECVET implementation could be supported through the development of documents, studies, and practical guides regarding the validation and recognition of the learning outcomes, tools for defining the learning outcomes in terms of KSC, methods for allocation of the credit points, and practical aspects regarding the implementation process.

ECVET's potential for enhancing mobility

- Since ECVET is contributing to portability of the achieved learning outcomes there is an explicit potential of it to contribute to the mobility.
- If recognition of the learning achievements will be operational, ECVET will assist mobility enhancement, thus the participation rate to the Community programmes it is expected to increase.
- Europass is a tool created to make transparent the learning outcomes achieved by an individual. ECVET is a system that allows the transfer and the accumulation of the individual' learning outcomes achieved in different learning contexts. Together, Europass and ECVET ensure the transparency of the qualifications achieved, enhance the mobility of the learners, and increase the individuals' employability and LLL opportunities.