

4th European conference of craft and small enterprises- Stuttgart, 16-17.April, 2007

Short summary of my presentation in workshop 1, session 2: Creating common space in education and training- EQF, ECVET, Europass...

On the base of Copenhagen-Maastricht declarations and Helsinki Communiqué, there are strong common interest in EU to create and develop common instruments to make education and training process in EU countries more transferable, flexible and connected as closely as possible to the relevant needs of labour market, also to the needs of craft and small enterprises.

European qualification framework (EQF) as a voluntary mechanism for cooperation between different countries and different systems of education and training is an instrument to enhance transparency, recognition of qualifications and mutual trust. Supported by common tools as European Transfer Credit System (ECTS) Europass and last but not least Common Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) EQF should be developed on national qualification framework taken into account eight levels of qualifications. Which steps are already made, are there any open questions about EQF, do craft and small enterprises see it useful?

Are the benefits of outcomes orientation of education and training and in developing ECTS in VET (ECVET) already introduced to craft and small companies, do they see it as an answer to their needs and expectations? What about learning outcomes approach and its usefulness for employment and employability?

Common instruments and tools in education and training are also in development or partly introduced in Slovenia. From last year when the newest national law of education and training was introduced there are some initiatives in developing basic issues for NQF and creating ECVET ; by mentioned law, ECVET is already introduced in new VET programmes and some years ago in Higher education. As in EU also in Slovenia all common instruments in education and training should become more visible and useful for craft and small enterprises.

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