



## European ECVET Users' Group

02 May 2012, Brussels

- Draft Minutes -

### Agenda

1. Welcome and opening
    - 1.1. Adoption of the agenda
    - 1.1. Adoption of the minutes
  2. Plenary discussion and peer learning sessions:  
Quality assured ECVET implementation strategies: Case studies
  - lunch break
  3. Conclusions of the joint seminar between ECVET, EQAVET and EQF (Bonn, 14-15 November 2011)
  4. Support for implementation
    - 4.1. Validation of the updated document *Using ECVET for Geographical Mobility 2012*
    - 4.2. state of play: ECVET pilot projects call 2010 (GHK)
    - 4.3. state of play:
      - 4.3.1. ECVET thematic networking activities of LLP National Agencies (NetECVET)
      - 4.3.2. First activities of the National Teams of ECVET experts
    - 4.4. state of play: Europass – European Skills Passport
  5. Activities
    - 5.1. 3<sup>rd</sup> ECVET Annual Forum, Brussels, 31 May-1 June 2012
    - 5.2. Joint seminar (EQAVET-EQF-ECVET) *Requirements of learning outcomes in order to facilitate mobility*, Paris, 18-19 June 2012
  6. Information points
    - 6.1. CEDEFOP monitoring 2012
  7. AOB
- Closure of the meeting

Documents concerned are available from [www.ecvet-team.eu](http://www.ecvet-team.eu)



## Minutes (draft)

### Ad 1)

Risto Ravio (DG EAC/B4) welcomed the participants and announced that in DG EAC Directorate B Mr António Silva Mendes had been appointed as the new Director for Lifelong Learning: policies and programme. The agenda and the minutes of the meeting of 30 November 2011 were adopted.

António Silva Mendes welcomed the participants and emphasized the critical moments Europe is experiencing and which should be regarded both as a challenge and an opportunity in the pursuit of the goals set by the Europe 2020 strategy. When it comes to devising a skills strategy to support growth vocational education and training has to play a key role, not least as competitors like the US, Canada, Australia and Japan as well as the BRIC states are currently investing strongly in skills development.

Mr Silva Mendes pointed to the need for deliverables in the short term to tackle high unemployment rates and to respond efficiently to the trend that low skilled jobs offer decreases whereas the number of jobs with more specialised and demanding qualifications increase.

Besides figures changes, contents adaptation should also be considered and in this respect more cooperation with the business world should be carried out. The work of the Commission in this direction will continue through the recently launched campaign We Mean Business, aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of transnational placements and through the European Business Forum on Vocational Training (7-8 June 2012).

In addition, the future joint programme for education, training and Youth "Erasmus for All" will be crucial as regards lasting European cooperation and the development of a ECVET community of practice which fosters sustainable mobility.

### Ad 2)

Isabelle Le Mouillour (Cedefop) introduced the methodology of the peer learning activity which was divided into three parts:

- presentation of two case studies – DE and FI - and a Q&A session
- discussion in parallel working groups and
- report to the plenary.

The implementation of ECVET in DE was presented by Sibilla Drews (LLP National Agency) and Wolfgang Kreher (representative of the Länder in DE) while Hanna Autere (the Finnish National Board of Education) presented ECVET in Finland (for details see the respective presentations available from [www.ecvet-team.eu](http://www.ecvet-team.eu)).



Starting from the presentations, two parallel working groups discussed the questions:

- *Which key actions support ECVET implementation? How far are these transferable to other countries? and*
- *To which extent does ECVET implementation build upon pre-existing characteristics of VET systems/qualification systems? How can this be made evident?*

The discussion showed that the Recommendation is being interpreted according to national or sectoral settings and historical circumstances. There are basically two approaches for the use of ECVET: either centred on transnational mobility or on mobility in a lifelong learning perspective. Participants highlighted also that the strength and relevance of ECVET is its focus on individual pathways, underpinned by the learning outcomes approach. Several speakers considered the practical link to the qualifications frameworks process a challenge, particularly as the description of learning outcomes differ in many cases when it comes to validation and accumulation. Despite the progress done so far, it became also clear that a better communication of the added value of ECVET is needed in order to have the relevant stakeholders buy into the exercise. Specifically VET providers have to be approached in an appropriate way. It was a shared view that the implementation of ECVET will take time.

### **Ad 3)**

Sophie Weisswange (DG EAC /B4) referred in her presentation of the first Joint Seminar of the tools ECVET, EQAVET and EQF (14-15 November 2011) to the information point at the previous meeting. She underlined the need for a common language and the rising awareness among the stakeholders that quality assured procedures are crucial. It was agreed among the representatives of the respective tools to proceed through a step by step approach by means of common actions. Ms Weisswange informed that the scope of the focus is being widened and colleagues from higher education are involved in order to prepare the second seminar. This seminar was due to take place in June, but had to be postponed.

*Update: the second joint seminar titled "Using units within professional qualifications" will take place in Paris on 1-2 October 2012. A respective email was recently sent out to the users' group members.*

### **Ad 4)**

**4.1** Erik Hess (DG EAC/ B4) and Daniela Ulicna (GHK) presented the updated guide *Using ECVET For Geographical Mobility 2012*. It was explained that the working group decided to skip the initial approach to come up with a separate document on quality assured mobility in favour of a single and thus more coherent guide that added to each chapter key quality points which follow the phases of the quality circle. Apart from a new section, the body of the text was kept with only minor changes, particularly regarding the introduction.

The document discusses two perspectives of quality assurance in parallel by reflecting quality assurance from the angle of an individual and from a partnership's point of view.

The users' group validated the document. Final written comments were to send to the COM and Ms Ulicna by 11 May 2012.



**4.2** Daniela Ulicna (GHK) provided an update on the eight ECVET pilot projects call 2010 that focus on the system level implementation and currently address the issue of assessment. She presented briefly the FR led project MEN-ECVET and CPU of the French speaking community in Belgium (see details at [www.ecvet-projects.eu](http://www.ecvet-projects.eu) ).

It is expected that interim results of the pilot projects are available at the end of 2012.

The summary of the results of the Final Conference of the first generation of the ECVET pilot projects (call 2008) that took place in Brussels in February 2012 will be the focus of the ninth issue of the ECVET Magazine (update: <http://www.ecvet-projects.eu/Bulletins/Default.aspx> ).

**4.3.1** Sibilla Drews (LLP NA, DE) presented the progress of the thematic networking activities of the LLP National Agencies (NetECVET, <http://netecvet.com/ecvet-for-mobility/>). About 40 good-practice projects are expected to contribute to the development of a toolbox, of which 20 have been analysed so far. During 7 international workshops, project products were compared to VET realities. The needs of the practitioners were surveyed in 3 countries (AT, DE, HU) via a questionnaire the results of which will be available in summer.

**4.3.2** Erik Hess (DG EAC/ B4) distributed a list of contact details of the 25 National Teams of ECVET Experts that were funded as a result of the restricted call to LLP National Agencies and announced that the kick-off meeting of the coordinators will take place in Brussels on 14 June 2012.

**4.4** Pedro Chavez (DG EAC/ A2) presented the state of play of Europass and the future European Skills Passport. He announced that the structure of Europass shall be changed through the creation of the European Skills Passport then not being a document but a folder that consists of the Diploma Supplement, the Certificate Supplement, the Language Passport and Mobility. The Europass Skills Passport folder will be tested in 2013, with 2 new documents introduced: the Europass Experience and the Europass ICT Skills. (The format of the CV is not meant to change). It is not yet decided whether the different tools will continue to bear the Europass reference in their name.

Several speakers questioned the necessities for and the legitimacy of these changes. Participants also addressed the overlap between the Europass Experience and the open CV layout and questioned the name of the passport due to the use of "skills" as a limiting attribute. In addition, some members were not convinced about the added value of the ICT skills tool.

Mr Chavez invited the group to provide further comments and underlined that information about the development will continue to be communicated to the group.

## **Ad 5)**

**5.1** Didier Gelibert (ECVET Team) made a short presentation of the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECVET Annual Forum to be organised in collaboration with Cedefop and COM on the 31 May – 1 June 2012, in Brussels. Its focus will be on how to transform the current ECVET activities in reliable and resourceful cooperation, letting the ECVET community of practice to take shape. More than 200 participants are expected.



**5.2** see point 3)

**Ad 6)**

Loukas Zahilas (Cedefop) presented the design of the Cedefop monitoring 2012. The data collection that will again involve the users' group members will take place from May till the end of June. The final report is expected to be finalised in December, with the key results available for the next users' group meeting. In addition, Cedefop is about to launch a study on methodologies for evaluating ECVET implementation.

**AOB**

Risto Raviö (DG EAC/B4) reminded the group that the Recommendation asks for an assessment and evaluation and the reporting to the European Parliament and the Council in June 2014. He announced that the European Commission will therefore launch an external evaluation in 2013.

He also highlighted that the morning peer learning activities should be repeated and invited participants to send suggestions to be considered by the steering committee.

Additionally, any further ECVET related event to be added to the 2012 calendar should be communicated to Erik Hess and the ECVET Team.

**(Update) Next ECVET Users' Group Meeting: 26 November 2012**