



Guide

To Support ECVET Understanding for Learners



EURspace: European IVT Recognition Gateway

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

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Introductory Note

This manual aims to inform, clarify and even teach you how to make the most out of European Mobilities.

Nowadays, with virtual borders the opportunities that arise must be grasped and harnessed in order to achieve the recognition of units of learning outcomes at the European level.

European mobility programmes have two main goals:

- To promote the acquisition of basic skills and competences to contribute to your personal and professional development, as well as to the exercise active European citizenship;
- To raise awareness of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity.

In order to make reading this manual more enjoyable and for the message to be passed on in a positive way, we have elaborated a small dialogue between two high school students.



European Mobilities with ECVET: Discover your Potential

ERASMUS+:
OPENING DOORS
TO EUROPE

John and Marie are boyfriend and girlfriend and although they do not attend the same class, they attend the same school and the same grade. They both attend vocational courses: he is a cooking student and she is a 3D digital design student.

They usually meet during the breaks, not only to be together but also to share recent information received within the ambit of their course or classes.

Marie | You know, I've been thinking about doing a European mobility.

John | European Mobility! Why?

Marie | Well, according to my teachers European Mobility is a unique opportunity for the acquisition of skills and competences that will contribute to my personal and professional development. In addition, it will contribute towards the promotion of European citizenship where I will learn to value the cultural and linguistic diversity of the host country.

John | Well, I think I've heard my teachers talking about it, but they're always referring to ECVET!

Marie | That's right. Today, early in the morning, I went to the European Mobility Department to inform myself about ECVET. I learned that it means European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training.

It is a common methodological framework that facilitates the accumulation and transfer of credits assigned to learning outcomes from one qualification system to another.

Imagine that I decide to go abroad. ECVET will provide me with the recognition, validation and accumulation of knowledge and skills acquired during the mobility.

John | But what does ECVET consist of?



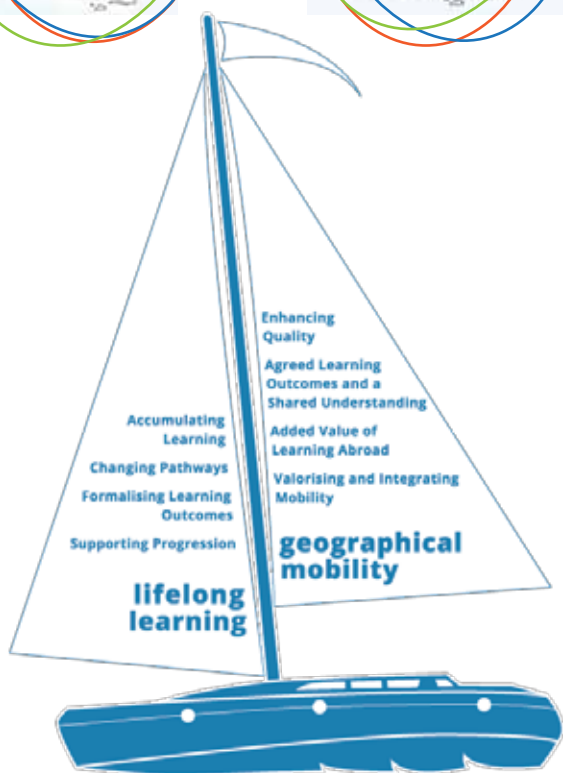
To learn more about European mobilities:

<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-1-learning-mobility-individuals_en
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/individuals/students/studying-abroad_en
http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/files/resources/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf

To learn more about ECVET:

<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
<http://www.ecvet-toolkit.eu>
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009H0708\(02\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009H0708(02)&from=EN)





Marie | As I understand it, ECVET has to be implemented through partnerships and networks established through a Memorandum of Understanding that is based on learning contracts. The memorandum should contain an appropriate table for the transfers of credits, principles and technical specifications for describing qualifications in terms of units of learning outcomes, as well as the association of these units with a credit system.

John | Learning outcomes? What are those?

Marie | They are statements that say what I am able to do at the end of a learning process, according to different distinctions: knowledge, skills and competencies.

I'll give you a practical example according to professional positions in your area.





Imagine, as a future cook you have to be aware that when working units of learning outcomes, such as the preparation of meat dishes, you will have to demonstrate not only the skills and competences associated with that key-technical outcome, but also the knowledge required for the particular technical performance. When you have to prepare the workplace, equipment and raw materials (technical performance) you have to demonstrate, for example, that:

- You know and identify the different types of meat (knowledge);
- You select the equipments and utensils necessary for the preparation of products (skills);
- You prepare the workplace, equipment and raw materials to prepare meat (competences).

By showing what I just mentioned, you end up achieving the expected technical performance, in other words, prepare the workplace, select equipment and utensils and apply the meat preparation techniques.

John | All right, so let's see if I understand what you just said.

ECVET is used to:

1. Facilitate the validation and recognition of our professional skills and the knowledge acquired during European mobility, so that these can be taken into account in our country;
2. Reinforce the compatibility between Vocational Education and Training Systems and their qualifications in Europe;
3. And also to promote employability upon completion of the vocational training course because it reinforces the employer's confidence in terms of the knowledge and skills you have acquired.



To learn more about Learning Outcomes:

<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
<http://www.ecvet-toolkit.eu/introduction/ecvet-and-learning-outcomes>
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009H0708\(02\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009H0708(02)&from=EN)

To learn more about Knowledge, Skills and Competence:

<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008H0506\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008H0506(01)&from=EN)

Marie | Yes, that's right. But we have to pay attention to one thing - to know how to choose a European mobility under ECVET.

John | Yes, you're right. And how do we do that?

Marie | The implementation and functioning of ECVET implies partnership work, formalized through the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Memorandum of Understanding is the document that contains all the relevant information about the organizations involved in the ECVET partnership.

There are two types of organizations in this type of process:

- The sending organization – the organization that sends you abroad and is responsible for recognizing and validating the learning outcomes acquired by you during the mobility period;
- The receiving organization – the organization that administers the relevant training action and evaluates the learning outcomes you accomplish.

John | Oh Marie, but in practical terms, how do we do it?

Marie | According to the European mobilities department, there is a transnational project about this topic. At <https://eurspace.eu/ecvet> you can get information on the organizations of the partner countries. Here you will find the training referential in accordance to ECVET principals.

After accessing the training referential, you will find the units of learning outcome available and you should select only the units that you want to do abroad.

After selecting the units, you will have to sign the Learning Agreement (normally elaborated by the department in accordance to your choices) which is a contract that must be signed by all parties involved in the mobility, including you. This contract mentions the duration of the mobility and the expected learning outcomes to be acquired, as well as the evaluation, recognition and validation mechanisms.



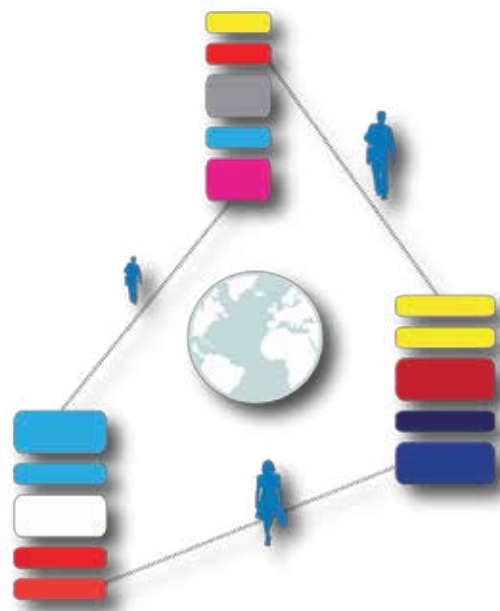
To learn more about the Memorandum of Understanding:
<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
<http://www.ecvet-toolkit.eu/ecvet-toolkit/prepare-memorandum-understanding>

To learn more about the Learning Agreement:
<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
<http://www.ecvet-toolkit.eu/ecvet-toolkit/sign-learning-agreement>

John | It seems to be quite interesting and I think I will also see if I can find my training area worked under the ECVET framework. WOW, this means that in addition to the opportunity of learning about another country and its culture, I can develop language skills and get it in the Language Passport; we can get the Europass Mobility; we also have the recognition and validation of learning abroad guaranteed.

Marie | Yes, it's very interesting. What do you think of asking the Mobility Department to organize an information session on this topic with our colleagues?

John | That sounds great! I really think it's important because in the long-run it is an experience that will greatly enrich our Curriculum Vitae and that can be a determining factor in the future.



To learn more about Language Passport, Europass Mobility and Curriculum Vitae:
<https://eurspace.eu/ecvet>
<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/>





GLOSSARY

Skills

Definition | a set of available abilities to perform a specific task.

Competence

Definition | the proven ability to use/mobilize knowledge, skills and personal, social and/or methodological competence in professional situations or in study contexts, and for the purpose of a professional and/or a personal development.

Knowledge

Definition | The result of the assimilation of information through learning. Knowledge is the collection of facts, principles, theories and practices related to one work or study area.

ECVET

European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training

Definition | a technical framework for the transfer, recognition and, where appropriate, accumulation of individuals' learning outcomes with a view to achieving a qualification. ECVET tools and methodology comprise the description of qualifications in terms of units of learning outcomes with associated points, a transfer and accumulation process and complementary documents such as learning agreements, transcripts of records and ECVET users' guides.

The ECVET system is based on the description of qualifications in terms of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and/or competences), organized into transferable and cumulative units, to which credits are associated, and which are transcribed into a personal registration of learning outcomes.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Definition | education and training which aims to equip people with knowledge, know-how, skills and/or competences required in particular occupations or more broadly on the labour market.

IVET – Initial Vocational Education and Training

Definition | vocational education and training courses for youths, which privilege the insertion in active life and allow the continuation of studies.

Credit System

Definition | instrument designed to allow the accumulation of learning outcomes obtained in a formal, non-formal or informal context, which aims to facilitate the transfer of the learning outcomes from one context to another in light of its validation. A credit system can be conceived as a description of:

- An education or training programme, which assigns points (credits) to its components (modules, courses, internships, dissertations, etc.);
 - A qualification based on the units of learning outcomes with the assignment of points to each of the units.
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Qualifications System

Definition | a set of activities linked to the recognition of learning outcomes and other mechanisms that link education and training with the labour market or with civil society.

These activities include |

- The definition of the qualifications policy, the design and implementation of training, institutional regulations, funding, quality control;
- The assessment and certification of learning outcomes.

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

Definition | a system that describes the programmes of higher education attributing credits to all its components (modules, courses, internships, dissertations, theses, etc.), with a view to:

- Facilitating readability of programmes and establishing comparisons between national and foreign students;
- Promoting students mobility and the validation of learning outcomes;
- Helping universities to organize and review curricula.

Recognition of learning outcomes

Definition | formal recognition – it is the process of formally recognizing the value of knowledge, skills and competence through:

- The validation of learning outcomes;
- The granting of equivalences, units of credit or exemptions;
- The issuance of qualifications (certificates, degrees or diplomas)..

Learning Outcomes

Definition | it is the set of knowledge, skills and/or competence that a person has acquired and/or is able to demonstrate upon completion of a formal, non-formal or informal learning process; statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do upon completion of a learning process and which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence.



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- Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.

Websites |

www.ecvet-secreariat.eu/en
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<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>
<https://erasmusmais.pt/>
https://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/ecvet_pt
www.dgert.gov.pt
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The Guide to Support ECVET Understanding for Learners is available in English and in the mother tongue of each partner organization.



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