Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Template 1: Favourable conditions in the country for ECVET implementation

Organization (full legal name):	**Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, CIPRL**
Country:	**Portugal (PT)**

Favourable conditions in the country that can contribute to the implementation of ECVET's principals	
Examples: - National policies that facilitate the implementation of ECVET principles; - Reforms of the national VET system; - New regulations that aim to introduce elements supportive of ECVET; - Aspects of the national VET system that are in line with the ECVET philosophy; - Alignment between EQF / NQF; - Indications of ECVET trials for internal use.	In December 2007, Decree-Law No 396/2007 created a National Qualification System (NQS), under the Vocational Education and Training reform, in which modularisation was introduced. Training modules are present at both lower and upper secondary level, in apprenticeships and in training programmes for those aged 18 and over who want to achieve academic and vocational qualifications. The National Qualification System assumes the main purpose to increase the qualification level of the Portuguese population, giving priority to the universality of secondary level as a minimum qualification of the population, as well as betting on dual certification qualification (both academic and vocational qualifications), either by increasing the provision of Vocational Education and Training courses (youth and adults), or through Recognition, Validation and Certification of formal, informal and non-formal learning. One of National Qualification System's main tools is the National Qualifications Catalogue (NQC), which aims to regulate and organize the dual certification offers regarding Vocational Education and Training, making them relevant and tailored to the requirements of enterprises and labour market. The National Qualifications Catalogue (NQC) is developed in line with the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) – Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008, on the EQF institution for Learning Lifelong (2008 / C 111 / 01) – and also the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The Portuguese National Qualifications Catalogue: - is a strategic management tool of national qualifications of non-higher education; - is an instrument of regulation of vocational education and training offers of dual certification (both academic and vocational qualifications); - integrates qualification frameworks (referential) for Vocational Education and Training dual certification, for both youths and adults, and qualification frameworks (referential) for Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences. The Portuguese National Qualifications Catalogue (NQC) currently integrates 303 vocational qualifications, organized by 40 training fields (September 2016). For each qualification, the National Qualifications Catalogue presents: - the Occupational Profile – a set of activities associated with the qualification, and the theoretical knowledge, the know how to do and the know how to be, to perform such activities; - the Training Referential/Framework – composed by a basis training component and a technological training component, organized by short-term training units, which can be

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

capitalized and autonomously certifiable Within the same training field;

- the Recognition Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC) Referential/Framework – a set of assessment tools for use in the Recognition, Validation and Certification of professional skills.

The current Training Referential/Framework (either for youths training or for adults training) are still input-oriented. It is under review at the moment. Since January of 2015, the National Agency for the Qualification and Vocational Training (ANQEP) is working in a framework in order to organize qualifications based in learning outcomes.

The National System of Recognition, Validation and Certification of professional competences (accreditation of prior learning) is much more output-oriented. The current RVCC Referential/Framework is based in competences and focalized in the learning results. The Referential for RVCC Professional Skills is organized in Units of Competence (UC) – instead of training units. Each Professional Skills Referential includes the identification of actions to perform, performance criteria, description of context conditions and learning outcomes' descriptors.

In Portugal, qualifications are currently organized by reference to the EQF levels, through the entry into force of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF), in force since 1st of October 2010, was created by Decree-Law No 396/2007 of 31 December and is regulated by Ordinance No. 782/2009 of 23 July, which repeals the application of the training levels structure established by the Council Decision 85/368 / EEC of 16 July.

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is structured into 8 qualification levels. Each level is defined by a set of descriptors indicating the learning outcomes relevant to qualifications at that level, in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

The referentiation process has shown that there is a clear and direct relationship between the levels and descriptors of the Portuguese National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework. Thus, if an individual holds a level 4 qualification of the National Qualifications Framework, has the level 4 of the European Qualifications Framework.

In Portugal, on February 1, 2017, Ordinance no. 47/2017 was issued, giving account of the creation of a credit system that, in line with the modular structure of the existing training offer, enables the coherent capitalization of training units and greater mobility and flexibility in the training paths. This ordinance regulates the National System of Credits of Vocational Education and Training, with the objective of promoting the flexibility of the qualification pathways, capitalizing individual paths of training and lifelong learning and favouring the readability and recognition of the education system and training of the various actors, in particular by employers. Credit points are allocated to qualifications that integrate the National Qualification Catalogue, according to the qualification level defined in the National Qualifications Framework. A full-time formal training year corresponds to 60 credit points, as provided for in the ECVET Recommendation. Qualifications with the same level of qualification, according to the National Qualifications Framework, have the same minimum limit of number of credit points. Credit points are distributed among the units that comprise the qualification, taking into account the following criteria: (a) the relative importance of the learning outcomes for the labour market; b) complexity of the learning outcomes to be achieved; c) the amount of work required to acquire the learning outcomes, in particular the hours of training required for this purpose. The minimum number of credit points allocated to EQF level 4 qualifications is 180 credit points: 70 credit points for all units relating to the basic training component; 110 credit points allocated to all units relating to the technological training component or professional skills, of which 20 correspond to the internship, when applicable.

In Portugal, the *National Agency for the Qualification and Vocational Training (ANQEP)* is the National Coordination Point for the implementation of the *European Credit*

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

	System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), since March 2012.
For more information (website page):	
Sources:	*Monitoring ECVET implementation strategies in Europe in 2013*, Working Paper no. 22, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2014. Decree-Law No 396/2007 of 31 December, Diário da República, 1st serial, No. 251, 31 of December 2007. Ordinance No. 782/2009 of 23 July, Diário da República, 1st serial, No. 141, 23 of July 2009.

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.