



Education and Culture DG



# Introduction to **ECVET**

## The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training

**FINECVET 3 Launching seminar  
Helsinki – 09 February 2009**

European Commission, DG EAC – Unit B5 – Michel ARIBAUD

2008/04/01



# **ECVET: a challenge**



European Commission, DG EAC – Unit B5

## ECVET: a challenge from several points of view

- **Political (1):** Copenhagen, Maastricht, Helsinki, Bordeaux ...
- **Political (2):** subsidiarity and diversity (Qualifications frameworks/systems; education and training systems...)
- **Technical** (Qualifications, education and training organisation, mobility, learning outcomes ...)
- **Cultural** (mutual trust, openness, national “habitus” ...)

## ECVET: the momentum

## 1- The European cooperation in VET: tools in the fields of Qualification, mobility and lifelong learning

- Single framework for transparency of qualifications and competences, EUROPASS
- Common principles for validation of non-formal and informal learning
- Strengthening policies, systems and practices for lifelong guidance – Council recommendation
- **European Qualifications Framework - EQF**
- European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET (EQARF)
- **European Credit system for VET (ECVET)**
- Directive on recognition of qualifications

## 2- The shift to “learning outcomes”: a conceptual, political and technical challenge

- Learning outcomes: statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of learning
- Transition from input based VET qualifications to output oriented VET qualification -» disjunction **learning process / outcomes**
- Openness to all types of learning contexts (formal, non formal, informal...)

# ECVET: a simple idea

Learning context B

Non formal



Assessment of L.O.  
Credit for L.O.

Transcript of record



Learning context A

Formal



Validation of L.O.  
Recognition of L.O.  
Accumulation of L.O.



## Qualification context (A)



### Context A Qualification

The learning outcomes  
gained are accumulated  
and are now an integrated  
part of his qualification



## ECVET is:

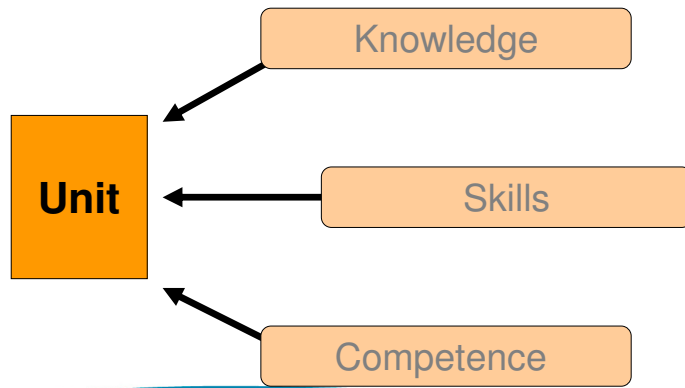
- Dedicated to **individuals**, in a borderless and lifelong learning perspective & focused on **Mobility/”mobilities”**
- Based on **learning outcomes** (knowledge, skills, competence) achieved in all learning contexts (Formal, Non F, Informal)
- Centred on **qualifications**
- Fully coherent with **EQF** (learning outcomes approach...)
- Linked to **Europass**
- **Transparency oriented and flexible**
- Compatible and **complementary** with ECTS used in the higher education sector

# ECVET: a common approach and some technical specifications

## The ECVET package (annex 1 to the Recommendation of the EP and of the Council)

- Concepts and glossary (preable)
- Description of qualifications in **units of learning outcomes** (main)
- **Transfer Process** (assessment, validation, recognition and accumulation of learning outcomes) and partnerships (essential)
- **ECVET points** allocated to qualifications and to units (additional)

**1 - A qualification is described in units of learning outcomes**



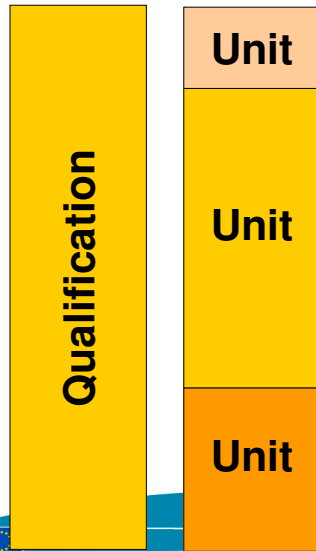
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**The heart of ECVET: Units of learning outcomes**



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## The heart of ECVET: Units of learning outcomes



Designed at national level by competent institutions (number, size, rules for combining and accumulating...)

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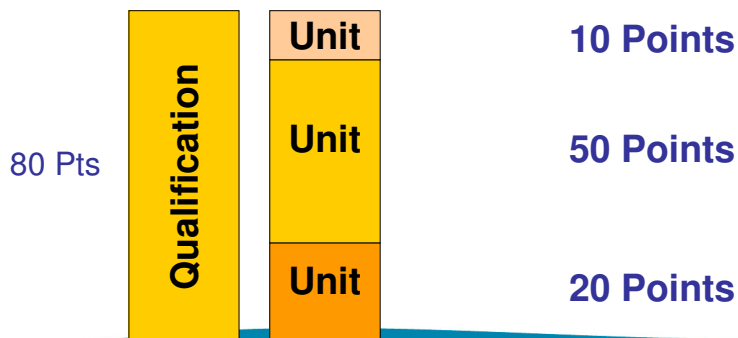
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**ECVET is a  
« unit of learning outcomes »  
based  
credit accumulation and transfer  
system**

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## 2- ECVET points indicate the relative weight of units: an example



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## •Assignment of ECVET points:



- To a qualification and to units
- Different possible methods
- A common European convention: 60 ECVET points allocated to the L.O. to be achieved in one year of full time learning
  - common landmark
  - compatibility with ECTS



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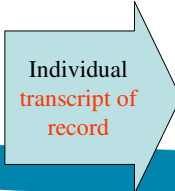
### 3-The achievement of ECVET: the learning outcomes transfer process

In the learning/qualification context A,

- An individual achieves knowledge skills and competence (learning outcomes)
- ↓
- The individual's learning outcomes are assessed
- ↓
- Crédits are awarded (units and associated points). These credits are registered in an...

In the learning/qualification context B,

- Learning outcomes are recognised and accumulated as a part of the intended qualification and corresponding points are included
- ↑
- Learning outcomes (units/credits) are validated



# ECVET: the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council 18 June 2009



## Recommendation to be adopted by the Council and the EP



### - Member States are recommended to:

- Promote ECVET
- **Adopt measures by 2012 for progressively applying ECVET on the basis of results of tests and experimentations**
- Progressively implement ECVET from 2012
- **Support the development of partnerships and networks involving VET stakeholders, social partners and sectors**
- Ensure access to information and guidance
- Ensure that concerned qualifications and related Europass documents contain explicit information on the use of ECVET
- Promote and apply the principles for Quality assurance
- Insure that mechanisms of coordination and monitoring are operational



## - The Commission's intention



- Support Member States in the implementation **by facilitating testing, cooperation, mutual learning and promotion**
- Develop complementary tools, mainly an ECVET users' guide
- Develop an expertise for reinforcing the compatibility and complementarity between ECVET and ECTS
- **Establish an ECVET users' group and an ECVET network**
- Monitor the action
- Report to the EP and the Council, 5 years after adoption; possible review of the Recommendation.



# ECVET: the roadmap

## ECVET: main accompanying measures

- **LLP for supporting tests and experimentations**
- **Complementary tools: ECVET users' guide, templates (learning agreement, MoU...), Europass...**
- **Follow up: European ECVET users' group**
- **Survey: studies and « veille » (Cedefop)**
- **Promotion, development and mutual learning: European ECVET network**

## The current ECVET pilot projects



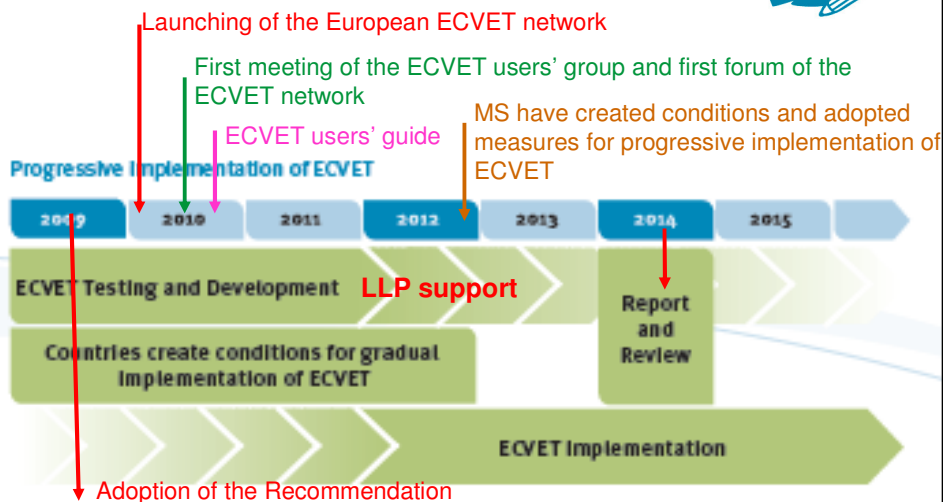
- ECVET pilot projects (specific call LdV 2008 - 2011)
- Coordination of Pilot projects website  
<http://www.ecvet-projects.eu/Default.aspx>
- ECVET projects bulletin  
<http://www.ecvet-projects.eu/Bulletins/registration.aspx>



ECVET BULLETIN 2009/01	In this issue...
Welcome to the first edition of the ECVET Bulletin! The Bulletin is a quarterly update about the latest developments related to the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET). This first issue of the ECVET Bulletin introduces the newly launched ECVET pilot projects, which were selected in 2008 and are now beginning their work in testing and implementing the ECVET technical specifications. This issue also contains a reflection on themes and issues identified by EQF pilot projects which have particular relevance to the ECVET testing process.	Editorial by Odile Quintin p.2 Summary in French and German p.3 ECVET testing: What experiences and lessons can be learnt from EQF pilot projects? pp.4-6



## ECVET: the roadmap...





**Thank you for your  
attention!**



*For further information:*

**DG EAC's website:**

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