

ECVET-STEP NEWSLETTER 7



ECVET-STEP can undo Industrial Revolution! (Don't worry, in a good way...)



Strengthening Training to Employment Pathways

In our previous Newsletter (August 2014) we described the potential that can be realised by ECVET-STEP from cooperating with the AGROBUSINESS START project.

...“since steam engines were more expensive than people, people had to start traveling to steam engines rather than vice versa. Thus work migrated to cities“... with the United Kingdom and followed closely by other industrialisers) underwent during the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th and in the 19th Centuries. This article tells the story and draws the connection.

If the cooperation does help ECVET to create rural jobs (and the last Newsletter explained how that will be achieved), it will have a wider economic implications, similar in scope with those that (Western) European economies (starting

Labour markets then
The Industrial Revolution was a process that changed the pattern of human work. Previously, manufacturing was based in villages. It usually involved artisan production of single families, but some large scale coordination of

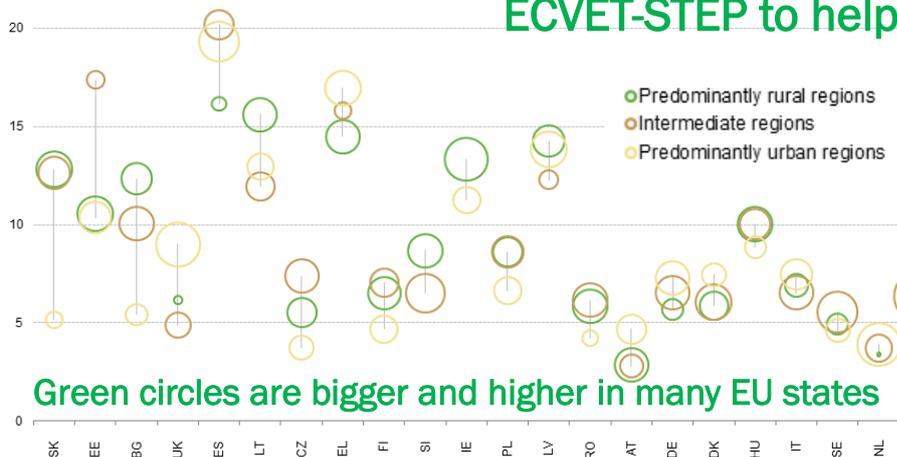
various stages of production was also observed already in the Middle Ages. This was especially true in textiles, which are indivisible from the agricultural base.

When the steam engine developed sufficiently to replace humans as the source of power for spinning and weaving yarn into threads and cloth, first manufactures started to develop. And since steam engines were more expensive than people, people had to start

Highlights

- ECVET and ECVET-STEP can help with lowering rural unemployment
- Rural unemployment especially bad, through inverse to Industrialisation
- Launch of Quality Management and Continuous Improvement Cycle

EU rural unemployment: Plenty of scope for ECVET-STEP to help



Green circles are bigger and higher in many EU states

Source: Eurostat, 2012

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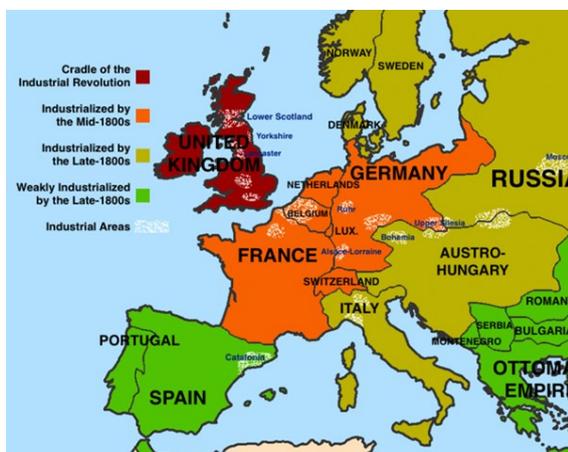
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...ECVET-STEP & Ind. Rev. (continued)

Today, no city dweller needs to have a rural link to provide subsistence during unemployment spells. The modern Welfare State in EU Member States provides much more than subsistence.

Therefore, rural unemployment is today higher. In the past, excess workers from the cities were "absorbed" back on farms. Today farms do not need to employ more farmhands and they do become unemployed

Map of historic chronological spread of Industrial Revolution from the UK onto the continent:

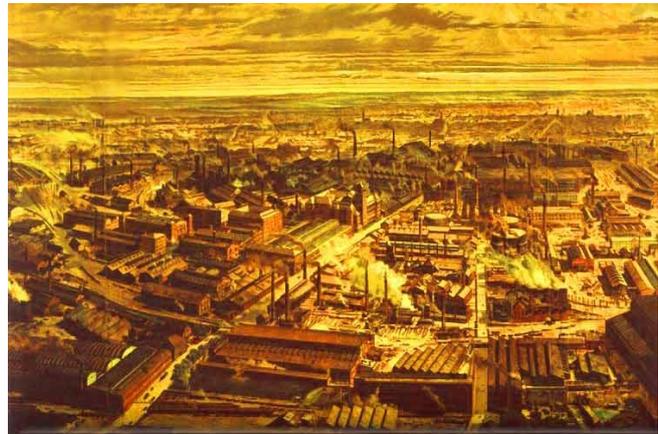


traveling to steam engines rather than vice versa. Thus work migrated to cities.

Productivity was higher there (concentrated production under one roof) and higher were also the wages (workers were also being paid part of the of the steam engine's product) since paid). However, they were less certain.

In the countryside one could always "eat off one's farm" even if unemployed from the dispersed and domesticated textile industry. Once people moved to cities, this "backup" was no longer there. City dwellers had no direct access to a farm that would feed them during unemployment.

As a result, there was much resistance against moving to cities. Paradoxically, it was only after a sufficiently generous "social security" system developed in the UK under the Poor Law that people started to move in greater numbers to cities and the classical "19th century capitalism" could take off.



Labour markets today

Today, no city dweller needs to have a rural link to provide subsistence during unemployment spells. The modern Welfare State in EU Member States provides much more than subsistence.

Therefore, there is now more urban unemployment than there used to be during standard times in the past. (Unemployed workers used to move back to countryside much more frequently in the past, to secure sustenance).

However, rural unemployment is today also higher. In the past, excess workers from the cities were "absorbed" back on farms. The average product dropped, there was under-employment, but not unemployment. Today farms do not need to employ more farmhands just to let them survive, and they can let them become unemployed, since "the state will provide".

Therefore, rural unemployment has become a problem for the first time in human history.

How the Industrial Revolution can be reversed if ECVET-STEP helps in successful ECVET adoption.

The key to ending rural unemployment lies self-employment. It is more difficult in cities which cater for mass market and therefore large upfront physical capital investment is often needed. Rural economies are a better environment for a start-up, whether in the agricultural sector or in the (small-scale] rural sector.

A successful start-up is impossible without a good source of skilled labour in the rural sector. This labour may actually migrate "back" to villages from the cities, or be local. Either way, "rural" skills are needed, either by the start-up entrepreneur herself, or in her workers.

ECVET, with its emphasis on idea sharing and life-long learning, is just the ticket for such start-up culture.

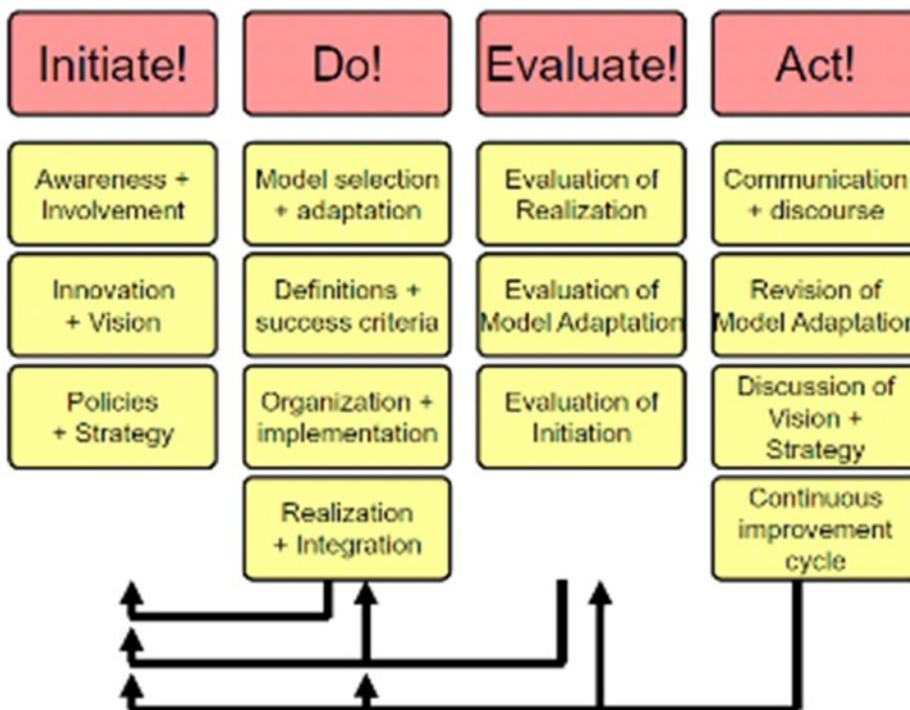
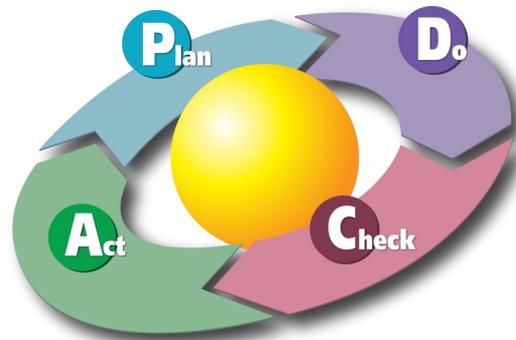
Quality Management and Continuous Improvement Cycle: IDEA released!

One of the outcomes of the ECVET-STEP project is the creation of a Maturity Capability Framework for quality-assured path to implementing the ECVET system of an inter-operable EU system of vocational education and training.

It is therefore only appro-

priate that the self-management of the project is subject to a similar assurance of quality of procedure.

September sees the release of project deliverable on the Continuous Improvement Cycle, framed on the IDEA model.



Trivia: The Deming Cycle or the PDCA (plan-do-check-act or plan-do-check-adjust) is an iterative four-step management method used in business for the control and continuous improvement of processes and products. (from Wikipedia)

The Idea behind IDEA for ECVET-STEP

The abbreviation IDEA stands for four main tasks which subsume the different phases, objectives and activities of the ECVET-STEP work packages during the project lifecycle.

These four tasks and their phases and steps were developed according to the Deming cycle and the ISO standard family ISO 900x and modified for the specific requirements of

human resources development with a special focus on competence modelling, learning, education and training.

The tasks 1 and 3 are different from the Deming cycle (Plan - Do - Check - Act) because in human resources development the (initiation of) awareness raising (task 1) and the evaluation (task 3) are special requirements.

All four tasks have to be fulfilled for the implementation of the project objectives: These phases and steps can be realized and applied according to the specific needs and the given situation of the organisation including feedback loops, individually adapted sequences and parallel implementation.

...“The phases and steps can be realized and applied according to the specific needs and the given situation of the organisation“...

Take the ECVET step!

This Newsletter's mission is to inform general and professional public about proceedings of the ECVET-STEP project
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ECVET-STEP aims in making the best value of the ECVET system, facilitating the transfer, accumulation and recognition of credits and learning outcomes or competence acquired otherwise between countries, thus promoting mobility and lifelong learning.

ECVET-STEP's mission is to support European citizens and industry to "take the ECVET STEP": adopt and use ECVET through a stepwise, quality-controlled framework and online services for building knowledge-based employment for the 21st century... And beyond!

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Strengthening Training to
Employment Pathways



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