

ECVET-STEP NEWSLETTER 8



The Rise of RULOs

Progress in the ECVET-STEP is going well and on schedule. The month of October saw, among other project developments, major advancements in the RULOs “department”. RULOs are Reusable Units of Learning Outcomes, and make one of the major cornerstones of the ECVET-STEP project in improving the modular nature

of ECVET and thus making it easier for stakeholders to participate in ECVET.

By enabling and facilitating for them the possibility of pick-and-mix from the (structured and organised) smorgasbord of Europe-wide learning opportunities, the ECVET system may no longer look like a dauntingly big project

ECVET-STEP



Strengthening Training to Employment Pathways

whose adoption may seem like a daunting vision for some

This Newsletter explains the nature and role of these RULOs.

The resulting model and definitions enabled by ECVET-STEP ensures full interoperability with ECVET and all related European instruments and policies (EQF, Europass CS and e-CF).



Highlights

- RULOs are Reusable Units of Learning Outcomes
- They further enhance modularity of ECVET
- Modular adoption makes ECVET access easier.

RULOs and the Information Model

The work undertaken by ECVET-STEP project partners focuses on mobility learning in the agricultural domain. However, the process shall be documented in a way that is easily transferable and adaptable for other domains. (Agriculture has been specifically selected because it contains at least some aspects of virtually all other branches of human

technical and practical endeavour.)

This information model and associated metadata application profile will specify how a solid infrastructure can be deployed for the support and delivery of training to employment pathways through interoperable IT systems and the development of services. These can be aimed at:

- recruitment,
 - opportunity exploration,
 - career planning.
- As such, they will be instrumental in facilitating
- personal development,
 - achievement of greater expertise in the working field, and
 - enhancement of employability and job mobility.

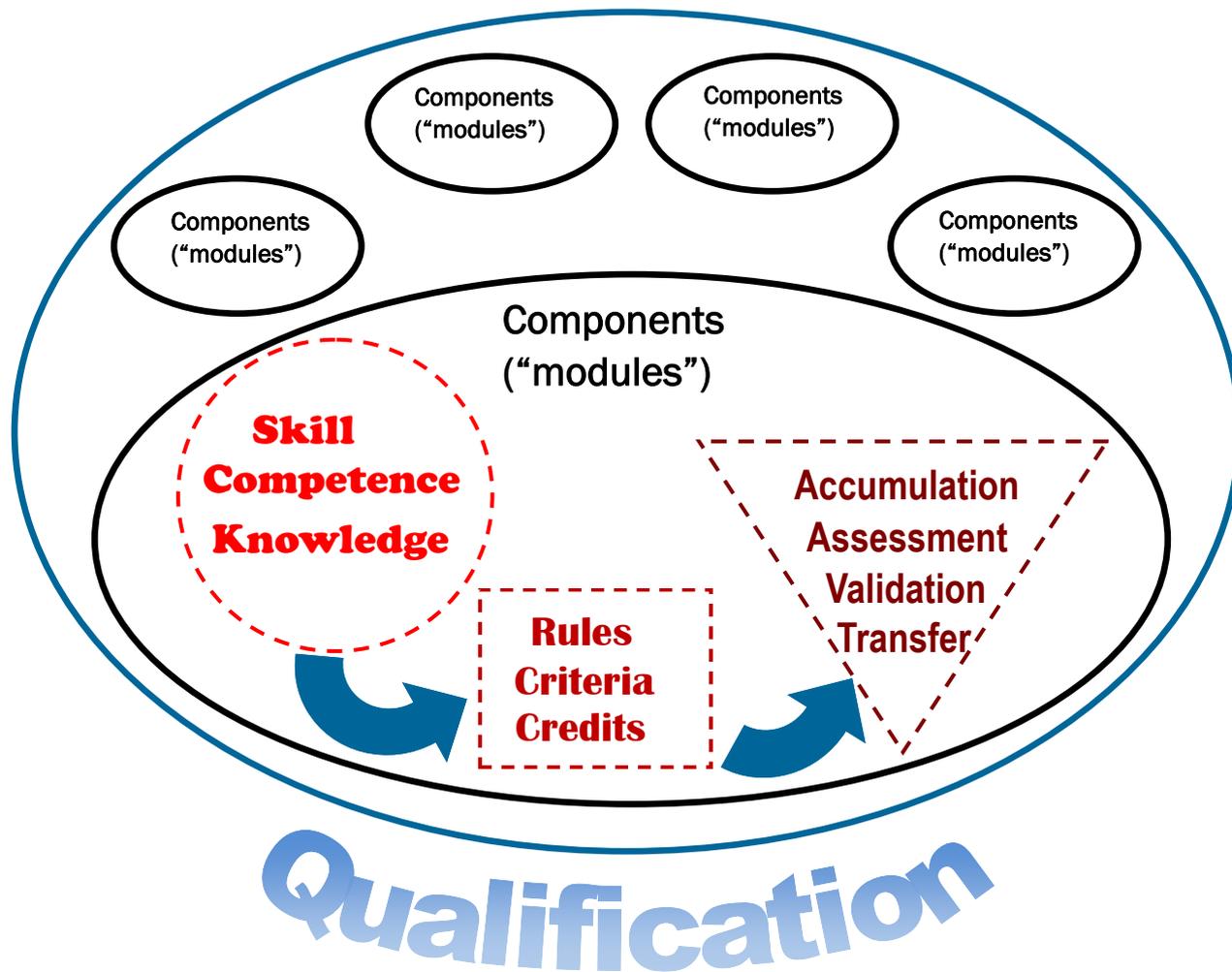
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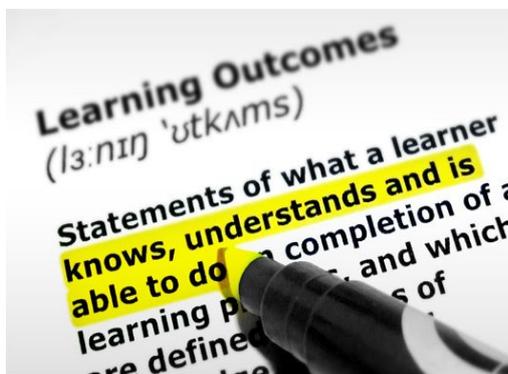
Constituent parts of RULOs

RULOs are a core concept of the systems architecture. They are *shareable* descriptions of reusable units of learning outcomes. In effect they **contain descriptions for the components of the qualification**

consisting of a coherent set of knowledge, skills and competence which can be accumulated, assessed, validated and transferred according to specific rules, criteria and credits. (See figure below.)



Ensuring longevity of ECVET-STEP



The ECVET-STEP project is designing and describing a methodology for creating RULOs in such a way that they are reusable and sharable across different domains, educational levels and contexts.

However, the work of ECVET-STEP must be alive and

useful also after the end of the project.

To achieve this, the methodology will not only present a set of “design patterns” for the creation of RULOs, but also a **quality-controlled process for creating new patterns and further evolve existing ones.**

Division of labour on RULOs

As with other parts of the project, consortium members collaborate in individual tasks involved in the work of designing and polishing the RULOs system. Specifically, partners are involved in the following activities:

- Analysis of the information components and entities exchanged in the context of Training to Employment Pathways with an focus on the agricultural domain;
- Specification of the ECVET Systems Architecture, based on the identified workflows and information exchange, providing a high-level system design and the components of these systems;
- Description of the notion of RULOs and implementation of a supporting metadata application profile that will be based on the Dublin Core Abstract Model approach;
- Review and validation of the proposed systems architecture and metadata application profile by involving relevant experts from communities like ISO, Dublin Core and CEN (eSkills and WS-LT communities);
- Specialisation and elaboration of all instruments for the agricultural domain and the specific realistic existing or expected use cases from the targeted stakeholders.

...“Instead of describing learning outcomes from scratch every time a new learning opportunity is created, teachers should be provided with a list of relevant learning outcome definitions that they can link to their learning opportunities.”

Why is our work with learning outcomes so important?

The Best Practice Network ICOPER sets out:

“Learning outcomes can be common within the same learning opportunity, taught by several teachers and for different groups of students, and across universities and domains. Instead of describing learning outcomes from scratch every time a new learning opportunity is created, teachers should be provided with a list of relevant learning outcome definitions that they can link to their learning opportunities. In order to enable finding and reusing learning outcomes across learning opportunities and universities, their descriptions should be stored in a repository accessible via outcome based finding and publishing services across universities and LMSs“



Building on existing structures: InLoc

The focus is on “reusability”, i.e. on facilitating a discovery and reuse of existing definitions of learning outcomes, as well as structuring with increased levels of granularity.

The RULOs model builds on the InLOC model, emphasising the reusable representation and modeling of learning outcomes, their structuring

and binding through the linked data approach.

Anyone who is developing a course with intended learning outcomes can use the InLOC information model and bindings to publish machine-readable versions of their curricula. The ease of access to this information, and its standard structure, will mean that many web-based ser-

vices can find and use the information, advertising the courses at no extra cost.

In the process of development, curriculum developers can take advantage of any available information about occupational competences published in InLOC format, and reuse it as permitted, saving them time, and leading to more consistency.

Anyone who is developing a course with intended learning outcomes can use the InLOC information model and bindings to publish machine-readable versions of their curricula....

Take the ECVET step!

This Newsletter's mission is to inform general and professional public about proceedings of the ECVET-STEP project
No. 539816-LLP-1-2013-1-GR-LEONARDO-LMP

This newsletter is published monthly. If you want to receive it electronically by email, please sign up on the website. (Archive of past issues is on the website.)

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



Lifelong
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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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