

ECVET-STEP NEWSLETTER 11



The Janus face of the New Year

The first month of the year is called January after the god Janus. He was the god of beginnings and transitions, of gates, doors, doorways, passages and archways.

A special superstition was attached to the departure of a Roman army. There were lucky and unlucky ways to march through a doorway (janus). The god's pictures and statues usually have two faces (Bifrons) - one face is looking in one direction, the other in the opposite one - or four faces (Quadrifrons).

January has its origin in the Latin Ianuarius. Our January is looking back at the year 2014 and assessing all the tasks and work packages that were accomplished in it. Janus is surely happy seeing four work packages almost finished, namely

- Work package 1: Analysis of agricultural learning mobility in VET,
- Work package 2:

ECVET Capability Maturity Framework,

- Work Package 3: Reusable Units of Learning Outcomes for ECVET instruments and
- Work Package 4: ECVET STEP Online Services.

The outputs are not yet perfect, but the bases are solid and we still have time to finish them in the beginning of the year 2015.

The God Janus is looking into the future and seeing a lot of work in 2015.

The outputs we have created will be tested and evaluated, disseminated and exploited in 2015. We will be working mainly on three packages:

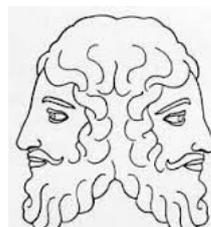
- Work package 5: Pilot testing and Evaluation will start at the end of May, followed by
- Work package 6: Dissemination and by
- Work package 7: Exploitation.

The work on the packages has already been started, but there is still



Strengthening Training to Employment Pathways

a lot of work to be done. Janus is the guardian of Heaven and symbolizes the progress of future to past, from one condition to another and from youth to adulthood. That means he reminds us of the effort which would be rewarded by good results. Work package 5 consists of the organization of controlled trials in April and May 2015 and a period (October 2015) where public demonstrations will take place. We mustn't forget the European dimension of the ECVET-STEP project. That is why in Work Package 6 we will disseminate the results. The communication and dissemination is already underway, but the dissemination of the main results will be carried out in 2015 after their analysis.



Highlights

- **New Year has come**
- **Preparation for Pilot Testing**
- **Dissemination underway**
- **3rd Project meeting in Alcalá**

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ECVET-STEP Consortium members do cooperate

The ECVET-STEP team works hard and uses the advantage of teamwork and synergy as well. There were 7 Flash meetings, and 3 project meetings in 2014. Synergy means that a whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It comes from the Greek *synergeia* (συνεργία) and *synergos* (συνεργός) which means working together.

Synergy can be found in physics and chemistry where new qualities emerge when some elements are properly combined or in complex systems. Cooperation of various organs leads to the emergence of life

which can't be found in just one separated organ, but in their complex only. Synergy also



means that teamwork will produce better results than if individuals were working on the task. The list of flash meetings and project

meetings follows:

- 1st Flash Meeting (Thu, Feb 20 - 10:00 CET)

- 2nd Flash Meeting (Fri, Mar 28 - 13:30 CET)

- 3rd Flash Meeting (Fri, Apr 25 - 12:00 CET)

- 4th Flash Meeting (Fri, May 23 - 10:30 CET)

- 5th Flash Meeting (Fri, Sep 05 - 09:30 CET)

- 6th Flash Meeting (Thu, Oct 02 - 09:00 CET)

- 7th Flash Meeting (Thu, Nov 20 - 10:00 CET)

3 project meetings:

Kickoff Project Meeting (Athens, Jan 20-22, 2014)

2nd Project Meeting (Ede, Jul 2-4, 2014)

3rd Project Meeting (Alcala de Henares, Dec 1-3, 2014)

TEI-A visited the CEDEFOP

On 7 November 2014 our project coordinator Technological Educational Institute of Athens (TEI-A), visited the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) focus group. Cedefop was founded in 1975 and has been based in Greece since 1995. It

supports development of European vocational education and training (VET) policies and contributes to their implementation. The agency is helping the European Commission, EU Member States and the social partners to develop the right European VET policies.

Europe's strategy for

2020 is a route for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through knowledge and innovation.

The success of this strategy depends on the skills of Europe's workforce. People need the right qualifications to find jobs.

Participation in PCI 2014

ECVET-STEP participated in the 18th Panhellenic Conference on Informatics (PCI 2014) in Athens, Greece, on 2 to 4 October 2014 that took place in the Department of Informatics and Telematics of Harokopio University of Athens. PCI 2014 was organized by the Greek Computer Society (EPIY) and the Department of Informatics and Telematics of Harokopio University of Athens.



CEDEFOP

European Centre
for the Development
of Vocational Training

ECVET and ECVET-STEP as Successors of the Platonic Academy

The Platonic Academy was founded in 387 BC in Athens by Plato. It was dissolved in 83 BC. In 410 AD it was re-established as a neoplatonistic centre and existed till 529 AD when it was closed by Justinian I. It received its name from Akademos (Academos, Hekademos, Hecademos) who

was an Attic hero in the Greek mythology. (Attica is a historical region that encompassed the city of Athens.) The land belonging to Akademos laid on the Cephissus close to Athens. The land was planted with olive trees and was named after its owner, Academia. Plato gave his lectures in this grove. The site was sacred to Athena, the goddess of wisdom. Plato inherited the land at the age of thirty and organized informal gatherings there. The official school was founded around 385 BC and charged no fees. There was probably no official

doctrine; Plato posed problems that were

and were founded by the sovereigns or re-



solved. It seems very likely that the dialectical method was used. The idea of such an organized education was revived in the 15th century during the Florentine Renaissance by the Medici family. Little by little academies specialized on particular topics, like arts, sciences, natural sciences

publics. Since the 17th century academies have spread in Europe. As the number of academies or universities and other educational institutions increased, the mutual recognition of knowledge, skills and competencies acquired became a problem which hasn't been solved until now; that is



why there is an opportunity for the ECVET and ECVET-STEP efforts. The ECVET-STEP's aim is to facilitate the transfer, accumulation and recognition of credits and learning outcomes or competence acquired otherwise between countries, thus promoting mobility learning in VET.

Academy of Athens

Today the Academy of Athens is Greece's highest research institution with its 12 research centres, 10 research offices and the central library. Its building belongs to the landmarks of Athens. The Academy of Athens was established in 1926 by the Ministry of Education.



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.)

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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!

ECVET-STEP



Strengthening Training to
Employment Pathways



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

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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