

# ECVET TC NET

European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training Network for Tourism and Catering  
142847-LLP-1-2008-1-AT-LEONARDO-LNW



## Sustainability Strategy

provided by  
bfi Steiermark, Karin Wiedner  
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# 1 Introduction

This sustainability strategy is written for the multilateral network project “*ECVET TC NET – ECVET Network for Tourism and Catering*” (142847-LLP-1-2008-1-AT-LEONARDO-LNW) funded by the action *Leonardo da Vinci – Network* within the framework of the *Lifelong Learning Programme*.

It presents the sustainability strategy of the ECVET TC NET project after the end of the funding period in October 2011.

The sustainability strategy does not focus only on the individual suggestions of each partner, but also provides some general information and suggestions on how to use the results of the ECVET TC Net project after the end of the funding period. This paper tries to give useful recommendations on how to achieve this objective.

A project and its results are only successful when they are of sustainable value. For this reason it is necessary to provide a sustainability strategy. The further use of the project outcomes is basically dependent upon successful projects results and exploitation activities.

Karin Wiedner, project coordinator, bfi Steiermark

## 2 General information about the sustainability of EU project results

*„A project is sustainable when it continues to deliver benefits to the project beneficiaries and/or other constituencies for an extended period after the Commission’s financial assistance has been terminated“.* (cf. <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/doc/sustainhandbook.pdf>)

The successful exploitation of project results in terms of sustainable use and the permanent further development of results and outputs, especially after the funding for the development and pilot implementation of the outputs has ended, is highly dependent upon a number of crucial key factors and criteria, which should be presented at this stage as the basis for the sustainability strategy. From our experience - we consider the following key factors to be relevant:

- a) **Output quality:** To achieve a certain degree of value for sustainability and further use, the outputs produced need to be of - very high quality. It is important to pay considerable attention to the output quality during the entire project development, and therefore it is always advisable to introduce procedures and responsibilities for quality management in project processes in order to guarantee a high quality final output. Outputs must be up to date and appealing to the customers, otherwise dissemination and further use cannot be expected.
- b) **Adaptability of outputs to the specific circumstances of the countries and organisations involved:** From our point of view it is an important precondition that the results and outputs of the project are highly adaptable to the circumstances of different countries and companies. This is particularly important as the developed materials and approaches should be relevant to different types of companies and target groups. We need to be aware that the results must have the necessary methodological and content flexibility to be adaptable to different backgrounds. A major problem concerning European project outputs and results that we frequently encounter is that they are not adaptable enough to country specific conditions and requirements.
- c) **Clear definition of advantages for users:** A high degree of usability is, in our opinion, mainly dependent upon the capacity of the project and the partnership to clearly show the advantages of using the instruments and outputs for the final target group. For this reason, all the partner institutions should always try to make the advantages of the project and its results transparent and evident, in relation to all events and possibilities. The project website in particular expresses very clearly what the added value of the output is and its use to the potential customer.

- d) **Early identification of stakeholders and potential users:** It is vital that relevant stakeholders and potential users (customers) of the project results are clearly identified and defined at a very early stage in the project's life. It is not advisable to change user groups in the course of the project's being in process. Identified stakeholders were contacted and kept informed throughout the whole project process in order to ensure the sustainable use of our results after the project ends.

### 3 Background objective and aims of the ECVET TC NET project

Tourism and catering is one of the most important economic branches in Europe and provides for more than 7 million jobs in Europe. This sector in particular, however, relies very much on the flexibility and mobility of work force. This was the main reason for the development of the ECVET model as a basis for mutual recognition and transparency of competences and learning outcomes. The mobility of workforce is still often largely restricted by the lack of transparent and recognizable qualifications and competences and there is a strong need for models to allow mutual recognition of competences and skills throughout Europe. The ECVET based model provides a system of transparency of learning outcomes for the first time as well as an approach for the concrete implementation in the sector.

On one hand, the ECVET TC NETWORK is embedded in a multistakeholder approach ensuring the highest possible relevance for all the stakeholders involved in the sector, and on the other hand, the network as such is following an elaborated network development strategy allowing for a sustainable network development as a reference network for ECVET in the tourism and catering sector and, on the overall, for VET in the tourism and catering sector in Europe.

### 4 Project Results

The main goal of ECVET TC NET was the development of an ECVET based model for the mutual recognition and transparency of learning outcomes and competences in the tourism and catering sector in Europe. To achieve this overarching project aim ECVET TC NET envisaged the following more specific aims:

- European survey "Competences and skills in the tourism and catering sector in Europe": The aim of this survey was to get a detailed perspective of the different competences and job profiles needed in the tourism and catering sector in Europe as a basis for the development of the ECVET model
- Development of a competence description grid: The competence description grid provides a description basis for all deducted competences in the tourism and catering sector.

- Elaboration of the ECVET model for the tourism and catering sector in Europe: out of a multistakeholder perspective with a strong focus on the companies and service providers included in the partnership the ECVET model for this sector was developed and documented in a comprehensive way
- Development of guidelines on how to work with ECVET in the tourism and catering sector in practice: Additionally to the model description we elaborated some concrete guidelines and a step by step approach on how to work with ECVET in practice.
- Development of guidelines on how to develop ECVET compliant training programs: For the training organizations in the tourism and catering field it is also important to have proper guidelines on how to develop ECVET compliant training programs in the future.
- Test implementation of the ECVET model: Training organizations and companies involved in the ECVET TC NET also tested the developed approaches and instruments to receive feedback on the practical implementation and feasibility for the sector's needs
- Policy development: the ECVET TC NET developed further the VET policy for the tourism and catering sector from the perspective of a high quality multistakeholder by developing a policy recommendation paper for vocational education and training in the tourism and catering industry in Europe

### Summary of the ECVET TC NET project's results and outputs:

Deliverable No	Deliverable Title	Delivery Date
D 1	Network Website	12/2008
D 2	European Survey and Competence Grid	05/2009
D 3	ECVET Model for Tourism and Catering	05/2010
D 4	Memorandum of Mutual Trust	07/2010
D 5	ECVET Certificate	07/2010
D 6	Test Report	05/2011
D 7	Policy Paper – VET in Tourism and Catering	10/2011
D 8	Network Enlargement Strategy	07/2009
D 9	Network Sustainability Strategy	05/2011
D 10	Start Conference	05/2009
D 11	Final Result Conference	10/2011
D 12	Interim Quality Report	05/2010
D 13	Final Quality Report	10/2011
D 14	Materials for public relations and dissemination	06/2009

## 4.1 Target groups

The main target groups of this project are tourism and catering schools in Europe and vocational education providers in tourism and catering. The tourism sector and industry has some peculiarities, which - must be taken into account in the ECVET TC NET project: vocational education and training in the tourism sector is, unlike any other sector, to a large extent also provided by tourism companies such as hotels, spas, clubs etc. Therefore, the main target group comprises tourism companies as well as other institutions that are linked to the target group, as well as potential stakeholders. In the long run, the beneficiaries of the ECVET TC NET project are the people working in the tourist and catering sector and tourists themselves.

## 5 Plans for the future

The ECVET meets the requirements of a changing and internationalized hospitality industry and as such it is applicable for learning outcomes in the field of tourism, catering and hospitality which are achievable through the levels of the European Qualifications Framework with the objective to facilitate the mobility, transfer, recognition and transparency of assessed learning outcomes in a lifelong learning Europe without frontiers.

In the course of the project the network itself pursued a distinct enlargement and sustainability strategy. These strategies enabled the continuous network development during and also after the funding period with the intention to further support and enhance its impact in the long term, my means of improvement of the service quality and workforce mobility.

### 5.1 Proceeding of the ECVET TC NET after the termination of the funding period

Through the experiences gathered in the course of this ECVET TC NET project, it can be considered a means of allowing mutual recognition of competences and skills and of upgrading the skills in the tourism industry in Europe. The ECVET based model provides a system for transparency of learning outcomes together with an approach for the concrete implementation in the tourism sector, where flexibility and mobility of workforce is of greater significance than in any other economic sector in Europe.

After having acquired experience and knowledge concerning the recognition of skills and competences, the ECVET TC network will serve as an open and sustainable platform for cooperation which will support ECVET among the partners in the future. It will enable exchanges, develop dissemination, networking and promotion and give advice to the European member states on the application of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training.

The ECVET TC NETwork proposes meetings and conferences after the termination of the funding period in partner countries on an annual or biannual basis in order to maintain the network for the following years, to discuss about the progress of ECVET in tourism and catering and to exchange our experiences gained in the course of this project.

## 5.2 Continuation on the European level

**Proposals for further ECVET TC NET projects with higher thematic orientation, e.g.:**

- ECVET in tourism and catering with regard to the European Qualification Framework
- Comparison of professions on a higher professional level (B and C-level) like chef de rang, chef de partie, front office manager, staff manager, governess)
- Comparison of new professions in the tourism and catering industry (tour guide, animateur, sommelier)

**Leonardo da Vinci – call for proposals 2011:**

- P2, the bfi Steiermark participated in the call for proposals on a transfer of innovation project called “MOBI’VET”, in February 2011. In case of the positive approval, this TOI project could serve as a platform for the transfer of the ECVET TC NET project’s results. In the course of this new project the elaborated and developed outputs, instruments and documents of the ECVET TC NET project (the European survey and competence grid, the ECVET model for Tourism and Catering, the Memorandum of Understanding and the ECVET certificates) could be implemented, taken to further development and tested in practice.
- P14, the Coleg Llandrillo, signed up for another Leonardo da Vinci project called “Leonardo da Vinci ECVET Vision 2020”. This project will contain a comparative Study of Curriculum in Hospitality and Tourism for chefs, restaurant service, bar, front office and housekeeping with the aim to reinforce the mobility of training staff and students.

**Contacts to international tourism associations and international exchange**

- P 15, the University of Suceava in Romania, proposes an exchange of training staff and students on bilateral agreements and Erasmus programmes with P10, the Vocational College for Caterina in Maribor, and P14, the Coleg Llandrillo,

## 5.3 Continuation on the national level

Below you will find our list of further ideas and suggestions for a continued theme-oriented networking on the national level:

- The project’s results will continue to be disseminated via the E.N.T.E.R. network - the European Network for Transfer and Exploitation of EU Project Results with 300 member organizations all over Europe

- The ECVET TC NET will be linked to other ECVET projects in the partner countries
- Establishment of contacts with the National Agencies for ECVET
- Continuation of the bilateral agreement between partner organizations for the recognition of skills in the tourism industry
- Contacts and shared events with professional associations in the tourism industry (e.g. EHRHODIP) including workshops and the further dissemination of our project's results.
- Development of new curricula amongst the training partner organizations: with the experiences acquired in the course of this project and on the basis of our project's outcomes, some partners will develop new international training curricula for international chefs.

#### **5.4 What could be the topics for a future co-operation?**

THE ECVET TC partnership discussed about the following topics for a future cooperation:

- ECVET in tourism and catering related to the European Qualification Framework
- Comparison of professions on a higher professional level (B and C-level) like chef de rang, chef de partie, front office manager, staff manager, governess
- Comparison of new professions in the tourism and catering industry (tour guide, animateur, sommelier)
- Dissemination of existing results to other developing countries
- Influence on policy makers
- Continuation of testing and improvement of the project's results
- Foundation of an international body to develop the international workforce mobility in the tourism industry

#### **5.5 Where could funding be coming from?**

- From other existing projects (dissemination costs)
- Membership fee for an international body
- Creation of a foundation from industry to support mobility
- Sponsorships from industry
- Educational trusts in the industrial sector

## 6 Legal forms

During the 5<sup>th</sup> international project meeting in Wales, UK, in February 2011 the partnership agreed on the following project's legal form:

- The Memorandum of Understanding will be used and signed by all project's partners as an agreement basis for networking
- No separate legal body should be created
- There are no plans for commercialization

## 7 Regulation of the project's intellectual property rights

During the 5<sup>th</sup> transnational project meeting in Wales, UK, in February 2011, the partnership agreed on the following regulation of the project's intellectual property rights:



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- The ECVET TC NET's intellectual property rights are regulated by the Creative Commons copyright licenses as a tool to grant copyright permissions to our work.
- After the termination of the project the intellectual property rights are exclusively held by the applicant organization, the Tourismsschulen Bad Gleichenberg.
- Visitors of the project's webpage are free
  - to share** — to copy, distribute and transmit the work
  - and to remix** — to adapt the work

under the following conditions:

**Attribution** — You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).

**Noncommercial** — The ECVET TC NET project's outputs may not be used for commercial purposes.

**Share Alike** — If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same or similar license to this one.

## 8 General recommendations for the sustainability and further steps in the ECVET TC NET project

The ECVET TC NET partnership agreed on the following recommendations for the sustainability and further steps in the ECVET TC NET project. These are suggestions that could be and will be taken into account after the Commission's financial assistance has been terminated in the project's process:

- Continuous communication within the project partnership
- Meetings and conferences within the ECVET TC NET partnership after the funding period in partner countries on an annual or biannual basis to maintain the network for the following years, to discuss about the progress of ECVET in tourism and catering
- Continuous dissemination of existing results to other ECVET developing bodies, institutions and countries
- Continuations and updates of the ECVET website for the next 5 years for maintaining of the network's results
- Continuous enlargement of the ECVET network
- Connecting with other European projects working in the same thematic field
- Continuation of other European projects: LdV project: ECVET Vision 2020, MobiVet
- Establishment of contacts with national agencies for ECVET
- Continuation on the national level (thematic networking – link to other ECVET projects in the partner countries)
- Contacts and events with professional associations to have workshops and contributions about the project results (e.g. EURHODIP)
- Further thematic orientation of the ECVET TC NETWORK: ECVET related to the EQF; application of new ECVET TC NET projects on a higher level (chef cook, chef de rang) or with new professions (animateur, sommelier, barkeeper)

- ➔ Contact Karin Wiedner, bfi Steiermark if you have any questions or for suggestions concerning any kind of further use of the ECVET TC NET project's results

## 9 Conclusion

To sum it all up, there is no denying the fact that a European area for lifelong learning is only possible if there is the possibility of transparency and recognition of learning outputs and competences throughout Europe. In the tourism and hospitality sector the need for these systems has become more evident due to seasonality and tourist fluctuation.

It goes without saying that project results can only be of sustainable value and use if their dissemination and exploitation was well planned and implemented at different levels. This strategy aims to support all activities for the further use of our project results by presenting general aspects as well as specific information to be used by each project partner according to the national sustainability ideas.

In general, the sustainable use of a European project can only be successful through close cooperation of all the partners involved. Not only the communication but also the individual use of national dissemination channels, contacts and networks have great influence on the sustainable impact of a project.

The partners of the ECVET TC NET project have excellent networks and contacts to all the potential groups of stakeholders in the partner countries. From the perspective of the sustainability of the ECVET TC NET project there is no cause for concern:

the project's main objective was to facilitate the mobility, transfer, recognition and transparency of assessed learning outcomes in a lifelong learning Europe without frontiers. The project's results are of very good quality, the project attracted the interest of other European partners during its lifetime, the results will be further used and developed in the partner countries and in other European projects.

Finally, the ECVET TC NET project developed a set of approaches and an ECVET model for the tourism and catering industry in Europe. This will have, as a long term target, clear effects on the workforce mobility and on the transparency of qualifications gained in vocational training and particularly in corporate training which is of very high significance in this sector. By providing highly qualified and flexible staff and human resources for this sector there will be an obvious impact on the services offered, which again will have an immediate impact on the long term target group.

Karin Wiedner, bfi Steiermark, May 2011