

Implementation of ECVET in practice

How to make your organisation ECVET-proof

Your ECVET Recommendation 5

Start the implementation of ECVET by connecting it to a quality evaluation of the already existing international mobility in your organisation. The implementation should take place step by step.

Explanation and further information

Given the diversity of qualification systems in Europe and the different possible uses of ECVET concepts and processes, it is neither possible nor desirable to design a manual for ECVET implementation at European level. (Get to know ECVET better, Questions & Answers)

The Question & Answers document, the ECVET user's guides and many other publications have not yet resulted in a widespread use of ECVET for international mobility. Many projects have paid attention to the development and descriptions of learning units in different VET fields, but the exploitation of their results in international placements stays behind the expectations.

In the Your ECVET project, we have found that ECVET is experienced too much as a policy instrument, and too theoretical in spite of its practical purpose. Teachers, counsellors, international officers and managers in VET have difficulties in understanding ECVET (and EQF!) and show reluctance to implementing it. Therefore, we advise to start from the quality of your already existing mobility and try to improve this by using the ECVET instruments.

- When using an ECVET Learning Agreement with your students for the first time it will become clear that many parts of it are not very new in comparison to what you do already, at least if the international mobility in your institute has some basic quality. However, it will help you and your students to define more detailed what could be the learning outcomes of their placement abroad.
- A next step would be to discuss with foreign partners which Learning Units could be part of the placements abroad and how these would relate to qualifications and curricula in your institute. It is advised to pay a visit to partners to get to know each other well and to create mutual trust.
- Increase the use of ECVET instruments in your institute gradually: inform all those colleagues who have a role in international mobility, organise seminars with your national ECVET reference point in which practical training is given on how to use and fill in the ECVET documents, ask VETPRO funding for visiting foreign partners, and establish Memoranda of Understanding with foreign partners.
- The implementation of ECVET for international mobility in a VET institute should be evaluated and improved by making use of the EQAVET quality circle: planning, implementation, evaluation and review. Just like this circle is useful for improving each specific mobility experience of an individual student, and the quality management of each mobility partnership.
- Using the ECVET instrument on a regular base means that a VET institute aims to develop its inter-

national activities. Therefore, the institute has to create a strategy concerning their international activities – or it has to be part of the over-all strategy of the institution. If international affairs are considered to be something extra and nice to take part in, not too much effort should be put on the implementation of the ECVET instrument.

- When developing and using the ECVET instruments, make sure your institute is well-organised in international affairs. Everybody has to know, what is the role and position of international activities in the institute. It is also important that all personnel knows their role, responsibilities and mandates. This increases motivation of teachers, counsellors, international officers and managers.