

ECVET in relation to EQF

How to connect the EQF with the ECVET key instruments

Your ECVET Recommendation 6

If a training organisation wants to implement ECVET successfully, the difference between the levels of the EQF should be clearly recognisable in the learning outcomes and units that are applied.

Explanation and further information

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) aims to relate different countries' national qualifications systems to a common European reference framework. Individuals and employers will be able to better understand and compare the qualifications levels of different countries and different education and training systems. The EQF acts as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe (EQF recommendation).

The EQF was developed in response to requests from Member States of the European Union for a common reference tool to increase the transparency of qualifications. Principal aims of EQF are to promote the mobility of learners and workers between countries and to facilitate their lifelong learning. An underlying need, emphasised by employers' organisations, large companies and SMEs, is obviously to enhance opportunities to identify a candidate's skills, knowledge and competences in terms of learning outcomes. It will also enable a better match between supply and demand on the labour market.

- If you describe units of learning for international mobility, it is recommended to formulate learning outcomes - in terms of knowledge, skills and competences - as close as possible to the descriptions used in the corresponding level of the EQF. On this basis, it will be possible to overcome the differences between the various national VET-systems and the diversity in for example the duration of training courses and the names that are used for these courses.
- The most important distinction between the EQF levels can be found in the descriptions concerning responsibility, complexity, range and ambiguity. Refer especially to these domains in the EQF when the level of units and learning outcomes is indicated. Further, make sure that the right articulation and vocabulary is used, i.e. corresponding to the required EQF level.
- In addition to the ECVET instruments, also other relevant documents, in particular the Europass, the Europass diploma supplement and the Europass certificate supplement should contain a clear reference to the appropriate EQF level.
- Explain the EQF to those colleagues who are involved in international mobility and make them aware of the importance of EQF, being the overall system to which ECVET and EQAVET belong.
- Teachers and other staff, who define units of learning outcomes for international mobility or other reasons, should reckon with the possibility that learning outcomes can also be the result of non-formal and informal learning.