

EQF

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework which links countries' qualifications systems together, acting as a translation device to make qualifications more readable and understandable across different countries and systems in Europe. It has two principal aims:

- to promote citizens' mobility between countries and
- to facilitate their lifelong learning.

The Recommendation formally entered into force in April 2008 and since 2012 individual qualification certificates are supposed to bear a reference to the appropriate EQF level. As an instrument for the promotion of lifelong learning, the EQF encompasses all levels of qualifications acquired in general, vocational as well as academic education and training.

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ECVET

The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) aims to give people greater control over their individual learning experiences and make it more attractive to move between different countries and different learning environments.

ECVET applies to all outcomes obtained by an individual from various education and training pathways that are then transferred, recognised and accumulated in view of achieving a qualification. This initiative makes it easier for European citizens to gain recognition of their training, skills and knowledge in another Member State.

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It's time to bring European instruments into practice



Making comparability and transparency of VET in Europe a reality is a matter of all those working within VET in Europe.

European education policy has been on the agenda of DEKRA Akademie GmbH since many years now. During this time we

have coordinated and took part in a number of outstanding projects that made important contributions to the discussion and the realisation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET).

While the European and national discussions continue we believe it is important that VET praxis at VET providers, schools and in companies gets ready for the application of the EQF and ECVET within daily teaching and training praxis. From our point of view it is time now to bring the results of our projects and discussions into praxis for this purpose ... to the trainers, teachers and tutors out there who are engaged into VET and work everyday with the beneficiaries of these European tools: learners, workers, job-seekers, career changers, companies, etc..

That's why we initiated euVETsupport. Our European partners and us want to share the know-how and experience gathered over all these years with VET practitioners in order to foster the practical application of these European instruments on the grass-root level of VET.

Dr. Peter Littig,
Manager Education policy and strategy,
DEKRA Akademie GmbH (DE)

euVETsupport: Supporting the practical application of European instruments

Educators at a grass-root level of VET often do not feel concerned by European instruments such as EQF and ECVET but they are the ones who bring these tools finally to life. euVETsupport is here to provide support in the practical application.

Although successfully piloted in a variety of national and European projects and initiatives, the application of the EQF and ECVET at the grass-root level of VET is still a challenging task. Misconceptions and questions such as "What does this mean for our teaching and training?", "How are we supposed to make use of these instruments?", "How is this supposed to work?" or "What can we do with all this?" are common questions asked by VET practitioners from all over Europe.

euVETsupport answers these questions and provides guidance and support for the practical application of these European instruments in the daily VET praxis of VET teachers, trainers and educators at VET providers as well as at HRD departments in companies. The heart of euVETsupport is an online platform that provides basic information about EQF and ECVET but also more advanced tools and services in terms of a library on this topic, practical examples, a pool of expert, a consultation forum where practitioners can seek expert and peer support and a number of online courses that can be followed in order to get familiar with the practical application of EQF and ECVET. The overall portal and its offers are specifically developed for the purposes of VET practitioners and what EQF and ECVET means for their daily praxis.

The euVETsupport portal will be launched at the beginning of 2014. If you are interested to participate in the testing of the tools, please get in touch (registration@euVETsupport.eu).

www.euVETsupport.eu



Improving VET by applying the EQF: the project ProfDRV

Realising the aspired comparability and transparency of qualifications with the EQF requires more than the description of qualifications in terms of learning outcomes.

The European project ProfDRV dealt with the qualification of professional drivers in Europe. It aimed to facilitate transparency and comparability of the very heterogeneous landscape of professional driver qualifications with the means of the EQF. The existing European directive that defines minimum qualification requirements on drivers has been the starting point for this project.

In order to apply the EQF in this context an occupational profile has been defined in the EQF learning outcomes descriptors "knowledge", "skills" and "competence" which proved to be an important step towards comparability of the different qualifications or even a common minimum qualification. But it became very quickly clear that this would not be sufficient in order to reach the aim of comparability or even a common standard.

The application of the learning outcomes approach requires a number of additional changes. Some of the most important ones apply to training and assessment praxis. This includes for instance a learner centered approach towards training, a pedagogical qualification of the trainers and the assessment of not only knowledge but actual competences. All in all an improvement of training quality is key in order to apply the EQF!

www.project-profdrv.eu



Transport and Logistics: A European approach to qualification is indispensable to prepare workers for their work within this sector

Mobility of learners within transport and logistics: the project CENTRAL

Structuring Transport & Logistics jobs in Europe is a perpetual and an ever-evolving endeavor due to a labour market requiring continuously updated competences.

The CENTRAL (Certification for Employment in Transport and Logistics in Europe) European project redefined jobs in logistics, researched innovative training programs and set up a European training database.

The project was coordinated by AFT and led to extensive cooperation with European partners: ITL in Italy, DEKRA Akademie in Germany, the University of Pannonia in Hungary, LE FOREM in Belgium, Economic High School Ion Ghica in Romania, and Skills for Logistics in the UK.

Project partners updated the NOVALOG logistics job classification and extended it so as to redefine transport jobs. This led to a greater emphasis on specific job classifications in the

Transport sector. Hence two specific occupations were selected: the warehouse operator and the freight forwarding agent.

For each occupation, a qualification standard, bearing a learning outcomes approach and using EQF descriptors was drawn. The entailed standards were designed to be ECVET compatible.

The resulting standards can thus serve as a solid ready-to-use basis for the mobility of workers involved in these occupations. However, the Transport sector is in perpetual demand for new skills, thus CENTRAL results will need to be continuously updated and extended.

www.logisticsqualifications.eu

Imprint

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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."



Upcoming euVETsupport activities

Workshops

- „EQF and ECVET within transport and logistics - fire place talks“ (DE)
DEKRA Akademie GmbH, Stuttgart (DE),
Wednesday, 11 Dec 2013, 4 pm, venue: t.b.d.

Webinars

- “Assessment and learning outcomes orientation”
Guest speaker: Gerald Thiel (DE)
DE: Thursday, 05 Dec 2013, 2.30 pm
EN: Thursday, 27 Feb 2014, 2.30 pm

Registration: EU-project.akademie@dekra.com

Online workshops

- „Applying learning outcomes orientation in practice“, an online workshop for VET practitioners as of December 2013
- “Organising ECVET learner mobility“, an online workshop for teachers and trainers within IVET as of January 2014
- “EQF and ECVET for youth representatives in workers councils: ECVET mobility and recognition of non- and informal learning of migrants“ as of January 2014

Please check www.euVETsupport.eu for further activities and information.

Please register for webinars and courses at registration@euVETsupport.eu