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European Credit system for
Vocational Education & Training



ECVET for Beginners

12 June 2019

Meet the Team

for Today's Webinar



Monika



Paul

Webinar Goals

Knowledge Sharing

Participants will know:

WHAT ECVET

goals, history,
rationale, etc.

HOW ECVET

principles,
components

WHO ECVET

countries,
key actors

Additionality

Bureaucracy

Complexity



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Demystify

Explain

Facilitate Use



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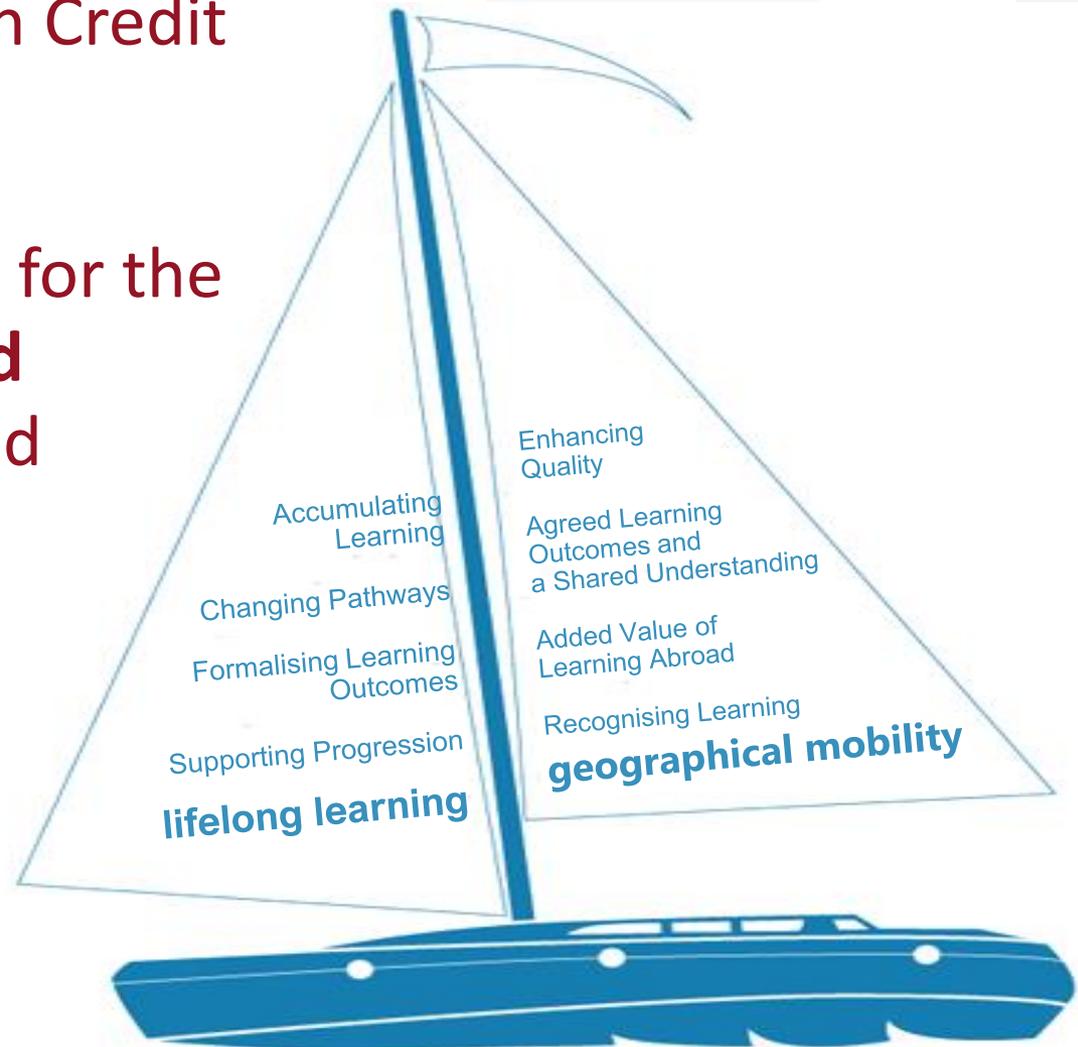
European Credit system for
Vocational Education & Training

What is ECVET?



✦ ECVET is the European Credit System for VET.

✦ ECVET is a framework for the **transfer, recognition and accumulation** of acquired and assessed **learning outcomes** with a view to achieving a qualification.





LEARNING OUTCOMES

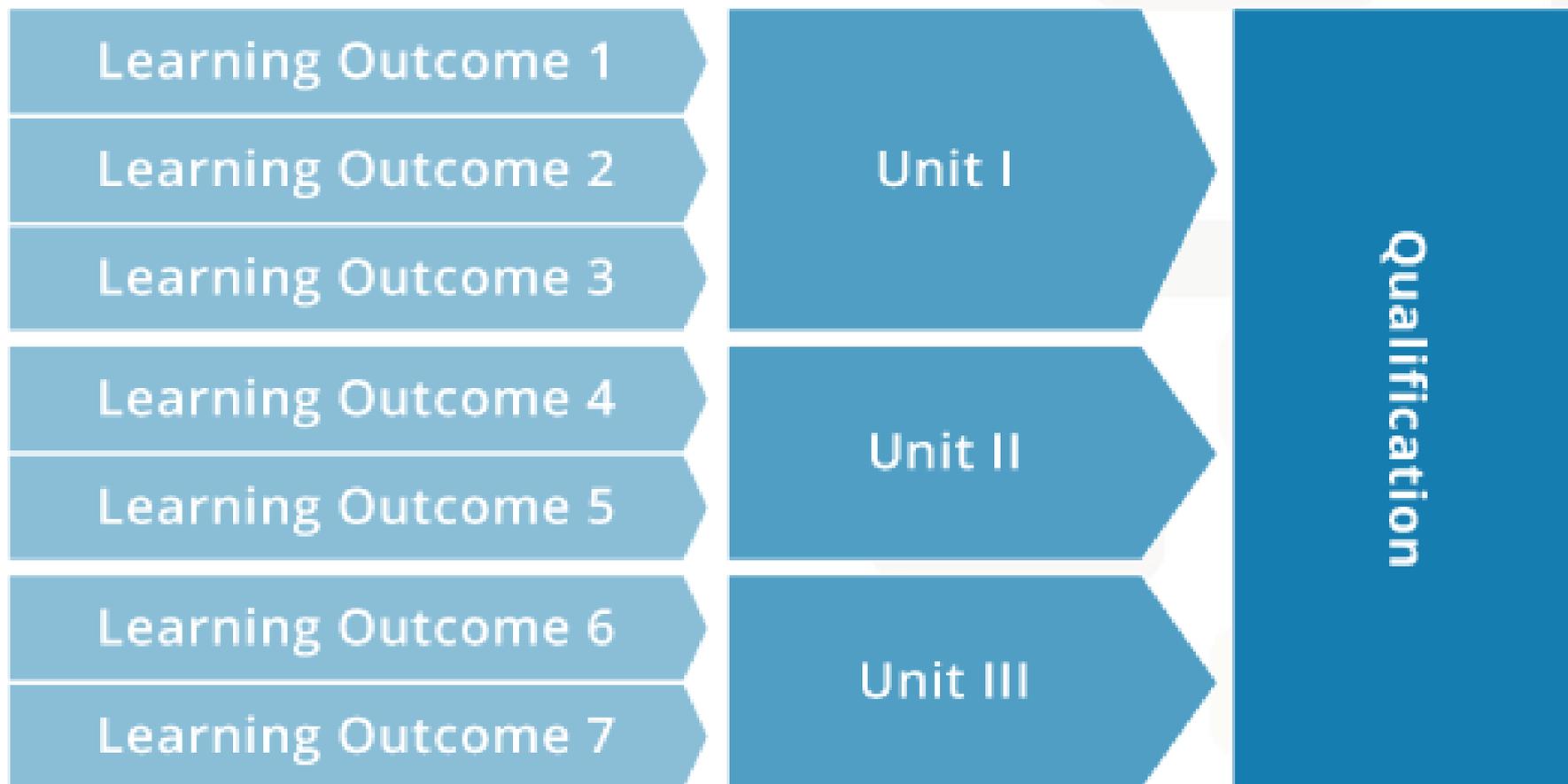
Statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process



UNITS

Components of qualifications; a coherent set of knowledge, skills and competences that is able to be assessed and validated

Units & Learning Outcomes





ECVET POINTS

Numerical representation of the overall weight of learning outcomes and the relative weight of units in relation to a qualification



CREDIT

For units which have been assessed and which can be accumulated towards a qualification or transferred to other learning programmes or qualifications

Brief History of ECVET



2009

Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council on *Establishment of a European Credit System for VET (ECVET)*



10 Years since ECVET Recommendation... active use of ECVET principles to support quality assurance in VET qualifications design and in development and delivery of mobility

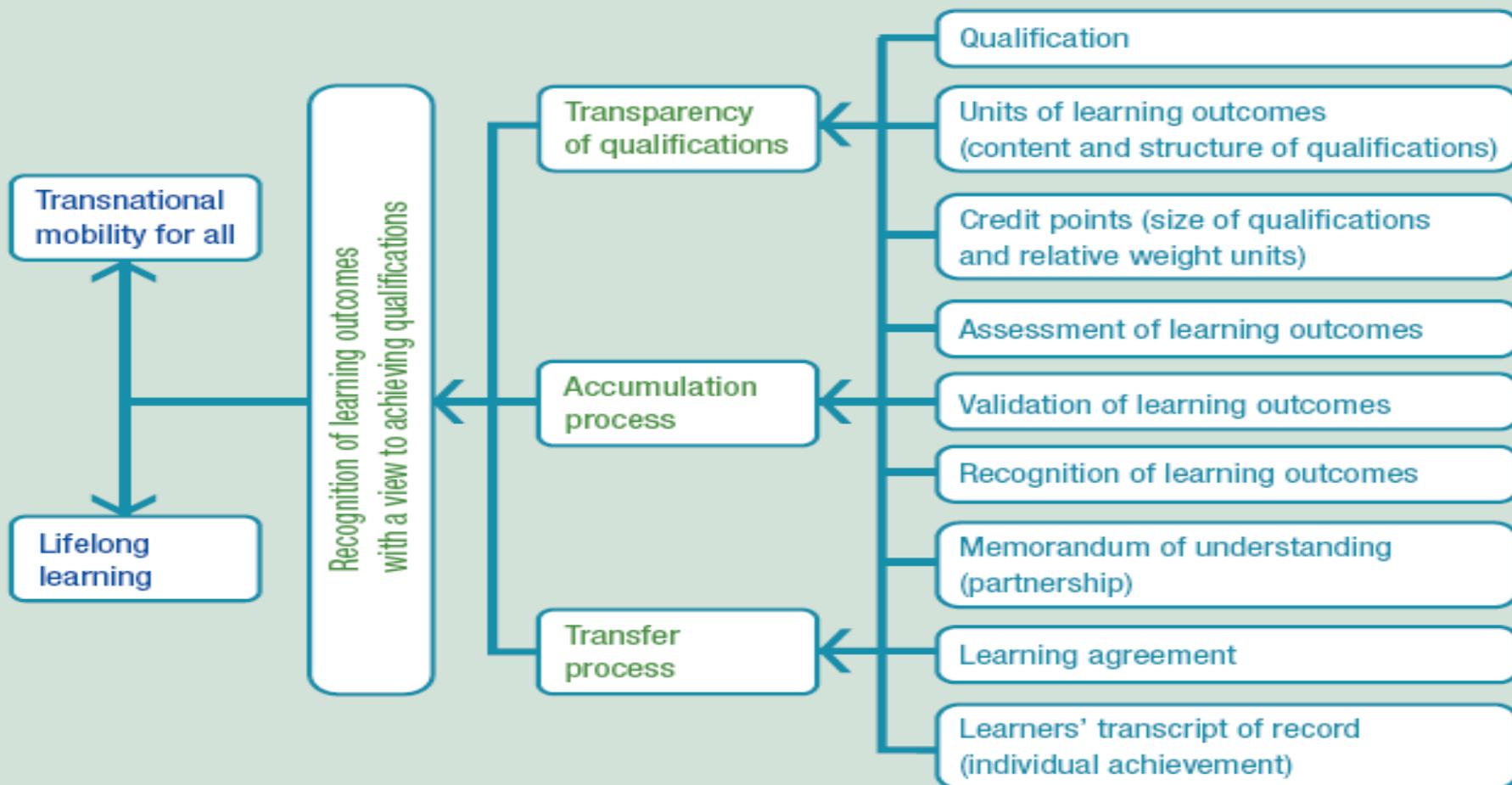
Goals and Technical Components



What are the general objectives of ECVET?

How does ECVET contribute to mobility and lifelong learning?

ECVET technical components



Learning Outcomes 1



Units of Learning Outcomes

That might be delivered as a part of one or more qualifications or defined specifically for a period of geographical mobility and which comprise a coherent set of *knowledge, skills and competences* (the latter also referred to as responsibility/autonomy)

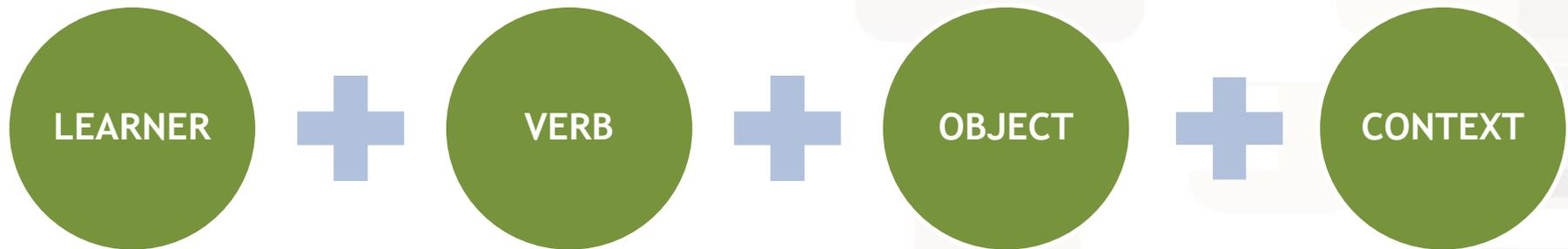
Learning Outcomes should normally:

- use **active verbs** to describe what the learner will be able to do and to demonstrate (e.g. describe, perform, explain)
- be **achievable** as a result of a learning activity
- use language that **learners can understand**
- avoid using verbs where the **meaning is ambiguous** (e.g. understand, listen, learn)
- be able to be **observed, measured and assessed**

Learning Outcomes 2



- Example 1: The learner will be able to select and describe common preventative measures for a range of hazardous situations in a commercial kitchen.
- Example 2: The learner will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the personal nutrition requirements of different customer groups.

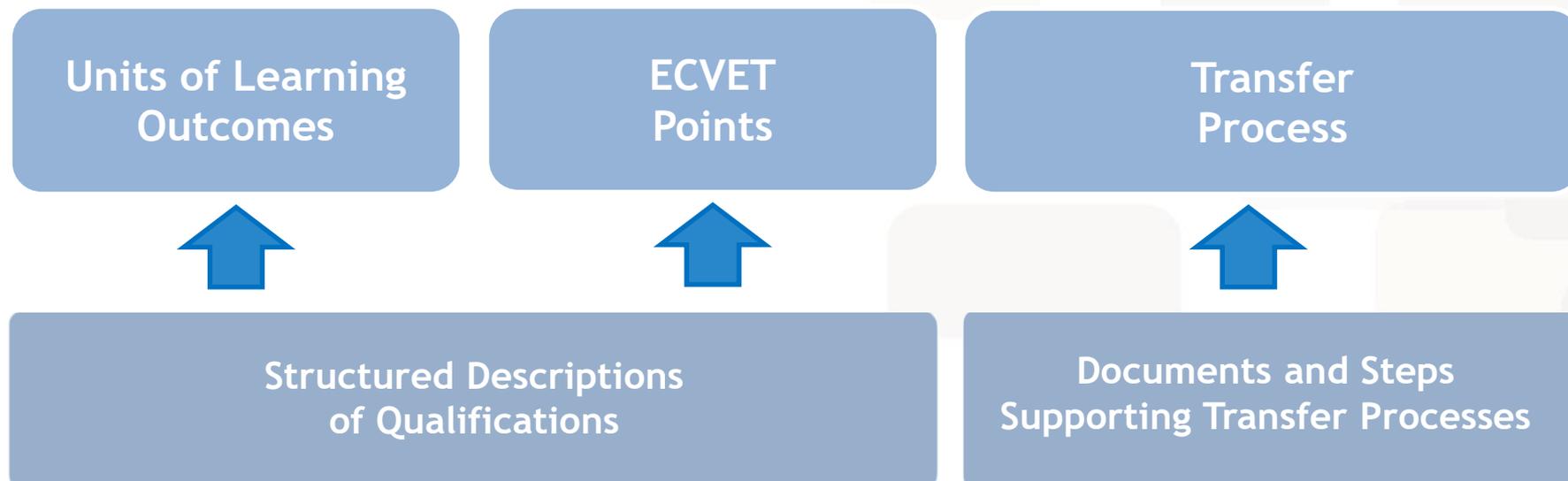


Learning Outcomes 3



Transfer and Accumulation of Learning Outcomes

Allowing Learning Outcomes to be *achieved and assessed* in one setting and subsequently transferred to another setting whereby they are *validated and recognised*. Allowing acquired Learning Outcomes to be accumulated (in accordance with national rules) with a view to achieving a full qualification.



Where is ECVET Used?



In 2015, in monitoring the use of ECVET in different European countries, it was concluded that there were three main groups of countries, namely:

- **Group 1:** Countries that have credit systems compatible with ECVET
- **Group 2:** Countries that are working towards ECVET-compatible systems [2a] or that are currently testing one or more ECVET technical components [2b]
- **Group 3:** Countries without credit systems and/or with no evidence of systems-level ECVET initiatives

Where is ECVET Used?



Group 1
Belgium-French Community, Bulgaria,
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France,
Croatia, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania,
Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania,
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United
Kingdom

Note 1: In some countries, there is only a partial focus on ECVET (i.e. mobility only)

Note 2: even in Group 3, pockets of interesting practice exist, yet with limited systems-level activity (at the time of reporting)

Group 2a
Cyprus, Czech Republic, Poland

Group 2b
Austria, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands,
Norway

Group 3
Belgium-Flemish Community,
Germany, Greece, Hungary,
Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Switzerland

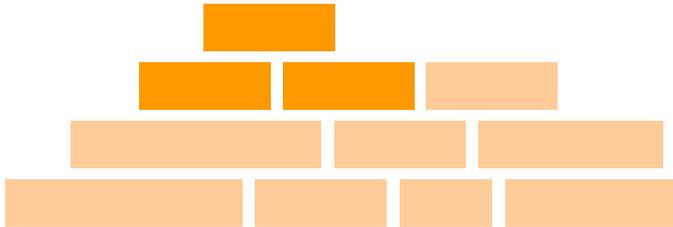
Source: ECVET in Europe Monitoring Report (Cedefop, 2015) updated with data from Study on EU VET Instruments - EQAVET and ECVET (EC, 2019)

Range: EU-EEA-EFTA Countries



ECVET and Mobility

**Spanish VET
Qualification**



**Validation of Assessed LOs
Recognition of Assessed LOs
Accumulation of Assessed LOs**

Memorandum of Understanding
(agreement between competent institutions)

Learning Agreement
(based on units of learning outcomes; agreements are usually created for individual learners)

Personal Transcript
(for example, Europass Mobility)

**Dutch VET
Qualification**



Assessment of LOs

**Before
Mobility**



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Before Mobility

Key Steps



- Establish / Confirm Partnership
- Prepare Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Identify Units of Learning Outcomes (LOs)
- Discuss Assessment
- Agree How to Document Learners' Achievement
- Clarify Validation and Recognition
- Sign Learning Agreement (LA)

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

An agreement between organisations that formalises the ECVET Partnership and which outlines (or confirms):

- **qualifications, sectors and programmes** associated with planned mobility programmes - with direct reference to qualification levels and using the EQF as a tool for comparison and translation
- targeted **learning outcomes**
- **assessment, validation and recognition** processes (and roles)
- acceptance of existing **quality assurance processes** and criteria

 **Memorandum of Understanding** 
Version 2013

File code of the Memorandum of Understanding (optional)
(use where necessary)

1. Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding¹ (MoU) forms the framework for cooperation between the competent institutions. It aims to establish mutual trust between the partners. In this Memorandum of Understanding partner organisations mutually accept their respective criteria and procedures for quality assurance, assessment, validation and recognition of knowledge, skills and competence for the purpose of transferring credit.

Are other objectives agreed on? Please tick as appropriate: No Yes - these are: (insert information)

¹ For more information and guidance on the establishment of a MoU please refer to the ECVET Users' Guide: 'Using ECVET for geographical mobility (2012) - Part 8 of the ECVET Users' Guide - Revised version - including key points for quality assurance' - available at: http://www.ecvet-projects.eu/Documents/ECVET_Mobility_Web.pdf

1

Learning Agreement (LA)

An individual document for each learner that explains (or confirms):

- **Information** on a specific mobility period
- **Learning outcomes** that the learner is expected to achieve
- Details on **planned assessment mechanisms** (confirming tools and approaches, timing and required documentation)
- Details on the **partner roles and responsibilities** confirming **who** will assess and **where** and **when**
- **Evidence** required to ensure **recognition** at the home institution



The image shows a document titled "Learning Agreement" with "Version 2013" below it. On the left is the ECVEET logo, and on the right is the European Union flag. The document is divided into two main sections for contact details, each with a header "Contact details of the home organisation" and "Contact details of the host organisation". Each section contains a table with fields for Name of organisation, Address, Telephone/fax, E-mail, Website, and Contact person. The "Contact details of the host organisation" section also includes fields for Tutor/mentor, Telephone/fax, and E-mail. The page number "1" is visible in the bottom right corner.

1. Information about the participants	
Contact details of the home organisation	
Name of organisation	
Address	
Telephone/fax	
E-mail	
Website	
Contact person	
Telephone/fax	
E-mail	
Contact details of the host organisation	
Name of organisation	
Address	
Telephone/fax	
E-mail	
Website	
Contact person	
Tutor/mentor	
Telephone/fax	
E-mail	

**During
Mobility**



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During Mobility

Key Steps

- Provide Agreed Learning Activities
- Carry Out Assessment
- Document Assessment Results - Personal Transcript



Assessing Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Partners should jointly agree on:

- who will assess the identified learning outcomes;
- what type of assessment mechanisms will be used;
- the feasibility of different assessment mechanisms.

Sending organisations should consider:

- whether there are specific requirements that they need to meet as a part of their agreement with one or more awarding organisations.

Recording Assessment Results

Learners must keep a record, or personal transcript, of the learning outcomes they have acquired/achieved.

Europass Mobility is recommended for this purpose.

<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/>

Note: In some cases, there might also be a need for **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** to meet the needs of the sending organisation - examples include:

- Completed Assessment Grids
- Written Assessments
- Portfolios



After Mobility



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After Mobility

Key Actions

- Validate, Verify and Recognise (assessed)
Learning Outcomes
- Evaluate Processes and Results (added-value)

Validation & Recognition

VALIDATION: the process by which the sending institution confirms that the assessment meet their needs and expectations

RECOGNITION: a more formal process allowing inclusion of assessed learning outcomes as part of or in addition to an existing learning programme or qualification.

Related Tools & Frameworks



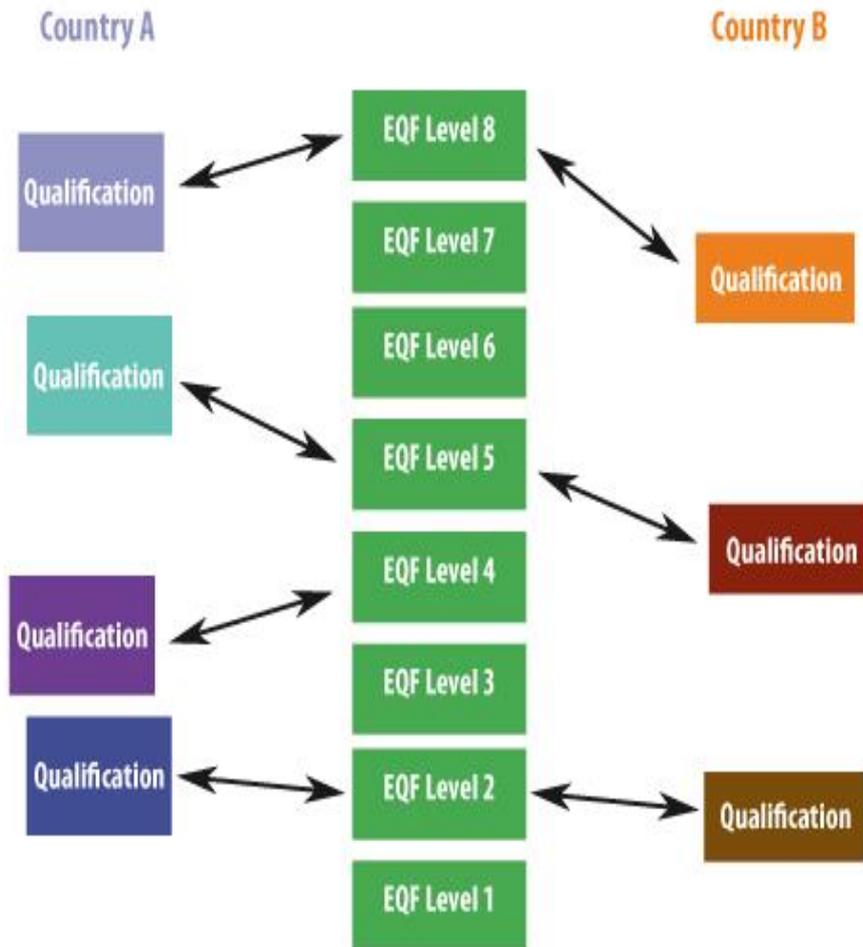
There are many European tools and instruments that complement ECVET goals and ambitions in terms of facilitating learning/skills recognition.

ECVET also complements:

- Recommendation on the Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning (2012)
- Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways (2016).



European Qualifications Framework



The **European Qualifications Framework, or EQF**, acts as a translation device to allow qualifications (and levels of qualifications) to be compared across countries.

European Quality Assurance in VET, or EQAVET, brings together Member States, the European Commission and Social Partners to develop and improve quality assurance in VET.

EQAVET relies on the **European Quality Assurance Reference Framework** which centres on a **four-step quality circle** and which actively promotes the use of quality management tools in VET.

EQAVET also provides a series of **ten indicators** for monitoring and assuring quality in VET systems and provision.



The most well known of the Europass tools is the **Europass CV**: a common European CV template.

Beyond this, there is the **Europass Skills Passport**, comprising four distinct elements:

- **Language Passport**: a self-assessment tool for language skills and qualifications;
- **Europass Mobility**: a tool for recording skills acquired during transnational mobility;
- **Diploma Supplement**: a description of the skills acquired by holders of HE degrees;
- **Certificate Supplement**: a description of the skills acquired by holders of VET certificates.



In summary:



ECVET can be used, alongside other recognition and transparency tools and frameworks, to facilitate:

- the *recognition of learning* acquired in non-formal and informal contexts ✓
- the *accreditation of prior learning* acquired in formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts ✓
- the transfer, recognition and accumulation of learning outcomes acquired (and assessed) during a period of geographical mobility ✓



2020 and Beyond

- ❖ ECVET: Continues to Enhance the Quality of VET Mobility (including short and long-duration mobility financed as a part of the Erasmus+ programme)
- ❖ ECVET: Part of a Wider Policy Framework in which Flexible and Responsive VET Provision is Promoted (alongside other tools, initiatives and frameworks: EQF, VNFIL Upskilling Pathways)

Information and Support:



Beyond today, additional information and support relating to ECVET can be accessed via:



ECVET Mobility Toolkit
www.ecvet-toolkit.eu



ECVET National Teams of Experts



ECVET Secretariat (PLAs, forum):
www.ecvet-secretariat.eu
ecvet-secretariat@icf.com





Thank you

