



LEarning Outcome-oriented quality mobility placements to gain transparency and recognition of qualifications within the Tourism and Catering field

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Sixth Project Newsletter

VET system and ECVET implementation in one of LEO quali-TC Partners Countries: Bulgaria

In the last ten years the role of the Bulgarian VET system has completely changed in order to facilitate individuals' lifelong learning and increase their employability and social integration. In response to national and European challenges, Bulgaria introduced reforms to ensure the VET education providers could meet the increasing demand for qualifications from the Bulgarian and European labour markets. Bulgarian VET reforms began in 2007 with improvements to the VET standards which have become outcome oriented. In 2011, based on a series of pilot projects and intensive dialogue with social partners, a new model for VET standards was proposed. This new model is based on ECVET principles; uses units of knowledge, skills and competences; is linked to the NQF/EQF Levels; and includes criteria for the quality assurance of assessment. Further reforms to the VET system occurred in 2012 with the official adoption of the National Qualification Framework and the appointment of the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET) as the national coordination point for ECVET in Bulgaria. In the same year the national team of ECVET experts was appointed as part of the Human Resource Development Centre - the National Agency for Lifelong Learning Programme and, now, Erasmus+ Programme.

During 2012-13 the national ECVET team established a good basis for cooperation with the business and employers organisations. This was based on national team's project and has been also strengthened through a series of actions and initiatives in 2014. In this year there has been a focus on the ICT and tourism sectors – this included an ICT Sectoral Framework seminar and a human resource and strategy development conference for tourism and catering in September 2014. Considering what has already been achieved in relation to ECVET, and in the context of the ongoing reforms in the national VET system, the activities of the Country on ECVET will now focus on the quality aspects of implementation, ensuring greater synergy in the application of the European instruments e.g. ECVET, ECTS, EQF/NQF, Europass etc.

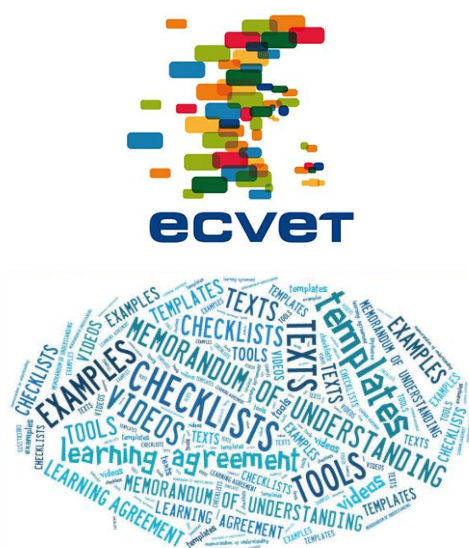
Welcome!

Welcome to the LEO quali-TC Sixth Newsletter!

The quarterly newsletter is part of the informative material published to disseminate and promote the aims, activities and outputs of the LEO quali-TC project. This sixth issue of the newsletter deepens some content related the VET system and the ECVET implementation in Bulgaria, the using of ECVET and EQAVET principles in Member States, the use of LOs in Spanish VET system as well as the progress of the project, which is now in its last six-month of work.

Next Newsletter will contain a particular focus on the testing phase of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model on mobility activities as well as a thematic article on the 5th Meeting of the project partners and the 3rd Transnational Dissemination Thematic Workshop, to be held in Veliko Tarnovo (BG) on the 11th and 12th May 2015.

Using ECVET and EQAVET principles



ECVET and EQAVET were published as Recommendations from the EU Parliament and the Council in 2009.

In many Member States the Recommendations have been seen as separate and decisions on their implementation and use have been made independently. However there is an increasing recognition that many of the EU instruments have close connections as each contributes to the reform of VET systems. This emerging perspective was summarised in the independent evaluation of ECVET's implementation (July 2014) as

follows: *"The generic objective of ECVET is the promotion of lifelong learning and employability, openness to mobility, and social inclusion. ECVET should contribute to this overarching objective by facilitating transfer, recognition and accumulation of assessed learning outcomes, which would support citizens' mobility and flexible learning pathways. This links ECVET to other European transparency and recognition tools, including Europass, EQF, EQAVET, ECTS as well as validation of non-formal and informal learning".*

The objective of ECVET is the promotion of lifelong learning and employability, openness to mobility, and social inclusion!

Quality assuring the use of learning outcomes in VET in one of LEO quali-TC Partners Countries: Spain

In Spain the Ministry of Education designs the core curriculum for each VET qualification and the Autonomous Regions take responsibility for the development of each qualification in their specific context.

Learning outcomes and units are central to all these qualifications and used at all three levels of VET – basic, middle and upper.

The quality assurance arrangements for the development of each learning outcome based qualification takes account of:

- the views of all the stakeholders;
- the evaluation by the National Institute for the Evaluation of the Education Service;
- the views of the education inspectorate; and
- the level of resources available at each VET provider.

The test implementation of the LEO quali-TC ECVET Model: workshops/peer learning activities

One of the three main activities of the second year of LEO quali-TC project life is the test implementation of the project ECVET Model through a set of two workshops/peer learning activities per each Partner Country.

Partners implemented the two planned workshops/peer learning activities between January 1st and February 28th, 2015.

The main aim of the activity has been the testing of the practical features of the whole project ECVET instruments and outputs. For this, each project partner involved in two workshops/peer learning activities 8 to 10 participants from training organisations, schools, hotels, service providers etc. which are actually training staff and persons in the tourism and catering sector.

The whole testing phase has been embedded in an in depth evaluation and test report development with the aim to get a detailed report about all features of the outputs, concrete needed adaptations and changes and a general experience report about the implementation of the ECVET model in the tourism and catering industry.

The test report has been developed in EN language by P5–Vocational High School of Tourism "Dr Vasil Beron" and will be available in PDF version for the download via the project website.



4th Project Meeting & Dissemination Thematic Seminar with Experts: Frankfurt Oder (DE), 12-13 January 2015

The 4th Meeting of the project partners and the Dissemination Thematic Seminar with Experts took place in Frankfurt Oder (DE) on the 12th and the 13th of January 2015.

During the meeting of the first day all partners discussed about the project state of the art, namely the activities carried out during the first year of the project and the activities planned and to be carried out during the second year of the project life.

The meeting was, in particular, the occasion to discuss and decide about the planning of the test implementation of the LEO quali-TC ECVET model and the methodology to be adopted.

Particular attention was also paid to Quality Management & Assurance (WP2) thanks to the participation to the meeting of the quality assurance partner P6-INIT Developments and to Dissemination activities and impact (WP3) as well as to Project Management (WP1) and project technical and financial reporting.

During the Dissemination Thematic Seminar with Experts of the second day, held at P3-IHK-Projektgesellschaft mbH Ostbrandenburg venues, the state of art related the implementation of ECVET in Germany was presented and discussed together with the content and results of LEO quali-TC project as well as other related contents and projects initiatives:

- ▶ *The LEO quali-TC project in a nutshell;*
- ▶ *High Quality in mobility with recognized learning outcomes within the Tourism & Catering fields;*
- ▶ *ECVET – State of the art within the German VET system;*
- ▶ *The project “VET4SUCCES” – within the Tourism & Catering fields (hosting ES learners for the DE dual training system);*
- ▶ *Presentation & discussion from/with apprentices & trainers in mobility;*
- ▶ *Europass Mobility award to participants to mobility programmes promoted by P3-IHK-Projektgesellschaft mbH Ostbrandenburg.*



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