



The Project

The project **ECVET for Permeability and Transferability between the Non-Formal and Formal VET System (ECVET PERMIT)** aims to implement the [European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training \(ECVET\)](#) methodology in the curricula of VET study programmes within the non-formal and formal VET system, at national and EU level, in an effort to increase the permeability and transferability of the learning outcomes achieved within different learning contexts.

Specifically, the project aims to apply the ECVET methodology for describing, assessing and validating learning outcomes in the VET study programmes of three non-formal technical specializations, in order to test the transferability of credits from the non-formal to the formal VET system, firstly within the national borders and secondly on a European level. The three professional specializations are:

- Electrician
- Plumber
- Automotive Mechanic

Project State of Play at a glance

The project ECVET PERMIT is on its second year of implementation. After establishing the project methodology for the conversion of VET study programmes of non-formal and formal vocational education and training into the ECVET system, we have converted eight VET study programmes, two per each partner—VET provider.

The study programmes that have been converted are shown in the table below, The study programmes are grouped in pairs that have been compared by the two VET providers and common units of learning outcomes have been identified for the credit transfer using ECVET.

Programme title		VET provider
Diploma in Automotive Engineering	EQF 5, 2 years – full time	Intercollege
Automotive Technician programme	EQF 4, 6 months acceleration	CPC
Mechatronics Technician	EQF 5, 2 years – full time plus 6 months practical training	IIEK DELTA
Light Vehicle Maintenance	EQF 4, 2 years – full time	MCAST
Diploma in Mechanical Installations and Technology	EQF 5, 2 years – full time	Intercollege
Plumber	EQF 4, 6 months acceleration	CPC
Domestic Electrical Installations Technician	EQF 5, 2 years – full time plus 6 months practical training	IIEK DELTA
Advance Diploma in Electrical Systems	EQF 4, 2 years – full time	MCAST

Between March and June 2016, the converted VET study programmes have been piloted by the partners and the feedback from the pilots will be finalized within July 2016. After the results of the pilots, the methodology used will be finalized and documented in the project's manual.

Partners

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Conversion of VET curricula using ECVET – Key steps

Define Units of Learning Outcomes

- Learning outcomes are grouped together in coherent and complete units.
- A unit is not always equivalent to a course / module. It can correspond to more than one module.

Define Learning Outcomes

- Learning outcomes are described as knowledge, skills and competences.
- Each unit has a limited number of learning outcomes
- For writing learning outcomes, we use Bloom taxonomy.

Assessment Methods

- Learning outcomes should be assessed, using commonly agreed assessment methods between the VET providers.
- Assessment methods and criteria should be relevant to the expected learning outcomes and learning contents.

ECVET points

- ECVET points are attributed to units of learning outcomes, based on sound calculation methods.
- Each VET provider will define a formula for calculation of ECVET points, based on the convention that 60 ECVET points correspond to one academic year of formal education.

Quality Assurance

ECVET process is underpinned by a transparent quality assurance process.

Memorandum of Understanding, Learning Agreements and Europass Mobility are the key documents utilized.

ecvet permit

Project News

Third transnational partners meeting in Larnaca 12-13/5/2016

The 3rd transnational partners meeting took place in Pervolia, a small village outside Larnaca, Cyprus. The Cypriot partners CPC and Intercollege, cooperated and organized the meeting agenda and facilities in an excellent way.

The scope of the third meeting was to finalize the first set of intellectual outputs, to discuss the progress of the pilot activities and to organize dissemination and quality management activities.

Project progress by output:

IO1 – Common Methodological Guidelines for the Implementation of ECVET within the Non-Formal and Formal VET System has been finalized.

IO2 – ECVET Training Manual for Curriculum Conversion within the Non-Formal and Formal VET system will be finalized by July 2016 and the Greek version will be released in September.

IO3 - Synthesis Report: Curriculum Mapping within the ECVET Framework has been finalized.

IO4 – Conversion of 8 VET Study programmes - 2 from each VET Provider - from the non-formal and formal VET system into the ECVET system has been finalized and currently the study programmes are being piloted.

IO5 – Common Assessment and Validation Process for Credit Transfer between the Formal and Non-Formal VET System. A quality assurance plan has been agreed by the partners during the meeting and finalized shortly after the meeting.

As the project is already on the second year of the project, the partners have established a common language and an effective cooperation. The participants had the chance to do most of the work in small teams, and to discuss the project challenges and find common acceptable solutions.

The VET trainers from Intercollege, CPC, IIEK DELTA and MCAST worked in groups and identified as main challenges of the ECVET process (a) the different level of study programmes (EQF level 4&5) and (b) the transfer from non-formal to formal sector. The solution that has been proposed is to match parts of the units that have comparable learning outcomes. ECVET experts from Intercollege, IDEC and MCAST worked on quality assurance issues and supported the VET trainers' teams in their work.

The next and final transnational partner meeting will take place in Athens, Greece, in November, 2016.





Project News

HRDA and the utilization of ECVET in Cyprus

The role of the Human Resources Development Authority (HRDA) in Cyprus in this project is advisory, due to its expertise in developing and operating vocational education and training schemes and, mostly, due to the fact that it is, by law, the appointed body for Development of Standards of Vocational Qualifications, Assessment of Candidates and Awarding of Certificates of Vocational Qualifications.

Within the framework of the System of Vocational Qualifications (SVQ), during the 2007-2013 Programming Period, HRDA has assessed and certified over 1700 of candidates from Tourism Industry, Construction Industry, Retail and Wholesale Sector, Trainer of Vocational Training and has proceeded with the development of the infrastructure for Assessment and Certification for Manufacturing, Vehicle Repair, Communications & Computers and Hairdressing.

HRDA's participation in the ECVET PERMIT Erasmus+ project has coincided perfectly with the preparation and development of SVQ for the 2014-2020 Programming Period. The experiences and good practices that were shared amongst the partners, the know-how that was gained from participation in all aspects of the project (steering committee meetings, training, NAG participation, Intellectual Outputs involvement and review), will be valuable tools for HRDA in the further development of SVQ.

HRDA has already taken steps towards upgrading SVQ and achieving further integration with CyQF and EQF by adopting the level descriptors of EQF for the Standards of Vocational Qualifications of SVQ.

The goals for the 2014-2020 Programming Period are:

- Continue the assessment of candidates and awarding of certificates.
- Review and update the existing 72 Standards of Vocational Qualifications.
- Develop 80 new Standards of Vocational Qualifications.
- Utilize European tools in the development of the Standards, including ECVET principles and methodology.
- Establish procedures and mechanisms in SVQ for validation of formal, non-formal and informal learning and inclusion of technical/vocational study programs, apprenticeship programs, as well as initial vocational education and training programs.

A lot of hard and creative work is in store for HRDA but the results will be rewarding.

Stella Philippou
Human Resource Officer
HRDA

Presentation of the project in Athens

Dr Konstantinos Kiouisis from IIEK DELTA participated in the Conference "Designing of Apprenticeships at IEK", organized by General Secretariat for Adult Education, in Athens on 2/6/2016.

Dr Konstantinos Kiouisis presented the project ECVET Permit, the converted training curricula and the way IIEK DELTA is going to capitalize on the project, for the benefit of its training activities, enhancing their quality, relevance and transnational dimension, by incorporating ECVET methodology for curriculum development.



Future project activities

National workshops

National ECVET workshops for VET instructors working in the non-formal and formal sector will be organized in Cyprus, Greece and Malta in the upcoming Fall 2016. The workshops are expected to provide present the ECVET methodology, using the training materials that have been developed in ECVET PERMIT project. Each workshop will gather trainers and staff from the partners VET institutions as well as other VET institutions interested in ECVET methodology. Detailed information and workshop dates will be announced soon.

For more project news please visit us
<http://www.nic.intercollege.ac.cy/ecvetpermit>

Presentation of the project in the conference “Quality in Education – Link to the Labor Market”

IDEC and IIEK DELTA will present the ECVET PERMIT project in a conference in Athens on Tuesday 5th of July 2016. The conference is organized by IDEC and tackles quality assurance issues of vocational education and training, the link between occupational profiles and training curricula, transnational mobility and credit transfer systems and work-based learning. The participants of the conference are: VET stakeholders, training organizations, companies that provide work-based opportunities.