

“Toward a recognized mobility”

Background paper

DRAFT

Context

The main objective of EuroApprenticeship is to build and organise a network of competent bodies and intermediary organisations which provides expertise, information, help and support to any learning mobility project promoted by VET providers, for the benefit of SMEs or Skilled Crafts Companies and for the benefit of apprentices or people in alternated training systems.

More specifically, the EuroApprenticeship project aims at:

- Supporting VET-providers in creating sustainable European partnerships,
- Giving an added value to the companies through transnational mobility projects,
- Implementing a coherent quality system,
- **Proposing appropriate methods and tools for the recognition of mobility periods as a recognized part of the domestic education and training (curriculum approach / added value approach),**
- Providing expertise on legal, financial, administrative and other practical issues,
- Supporting “new comers” with identifying suitable and experienced host companies and training centres
- Enhancing the role of intermediary organisation in motivating and supporting companies.

The PLA is focusing on the development of recognized geographical mobility for apprentices. Despite an important tradition, the rate of the learning geographical mobility in VET is still low (3%). The recognition (whatever the shape) could favour the increase of this rate. Actually, it formalizes the skill gained or the learning outcomes achieved. On the other hand it contributes to a quality assurance approach.

The PLA is aimed at writing recommendations regarding the necessary conditions for the implementation of a recognized learning mobility (more particularly ECVET) for apprentices. The CEDEFOP has already presented in its 2011 monitoring the main issues related to the necessary conditions for the ECVET implementation, but a specific work can detail these conditions according to the apprenticeship approach.

Although recognition may take different forms, we will focus on ECVET. We will improve, working together, our collective understanding of the issues about mobility and ECVET and will design the state of play about implementation of learning mobility approach in the VET Systems.

The outcomes of the Move-it study¹ revealed that the lack of recognition of qualifications obtained in another country is one of the high scoring obstacles to mobility

¹ Move-it CINOP / PriceWaterhouse 2006
http://ec.europa.eu/education/more-information/doc/moveitcountry_en.pdf

It seems necessary to move from a study visit (basic mobility, regular mobility and more structured mobility) to a recognised mobility with the support of the ECVET technical specifications. ECVET is a tool to facilitate learning mobility and to support lifelong learning in Europe. This system is based on learning outcomes that permit the comparability and understanding of qualifications through Europe.

Level	Objectives	Key elements	Partnership	Partnership agreement	Pre-condition
Level 1 Study Visit	EXPLORING Set up dynamics Explore conditions for possible mobility actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few days mobility • No reciprocity in case of • Group mobility • Professional visits/meetings • Exploring-focus program 	No still settled	No partnership agreement	Will to discover if pre-conditions for mobility may exist
Level 2 Classical mobility	TESTING Pedagogical project, based on a job-approach. Test of the partnership and the logistic framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short length (at least 2 weeks) • Reciprocity (or not) in case of Group mobility • Placement in companies (length can vary) • “Classical” (soft) pedagogical program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ VET centres, companies ▶ optional : institutional bodies, professional organisations 	Basic partnership agreement. Necessary elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Group of learners or individual learners involved – Mobility calendar – Financial resources – Logistic agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capability to implement a mobility action (from the logistic point of view) • Capability to suggest a relevant content • Capacity to finance the action
Level 3 Structured mobility	STRUCTURING Strengthening linguistic skills In-depth pedagogical work Agreement between VET centres aiming at perpetuate the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth mobility project • Average length (or combined short actions) • Reciprocity (highly recommended) in case of group mobility • Placement in companies • In-depth pedagogical program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ VET centres, companies ▶ optional : institutional bodies, professional organisation 	Detailed partnership agreement Necessary elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Group of learners or individual learners involved – Mobility calendar – Financial resources – Logistic agreement – In-depth pedagogical program – Middle/long term agreement 	Fulfil the level 1 conditions (having experience on level 1) and : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Capability to develop (design and implementation) an in-depth pedagogical program – Capability to be committed for a middle/long term.
Level 4 recognised mobility “ECVET Mobility”	RECOGNITION Validation of Learning outcomes acquired abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth mobility project • Minimum average length (or combined short actions) according to the trade concerned • Reciprocity (or not) in case of group mobility • In-depth pedagogical program > learning outcomes clearly defined • Assessment and transfer defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ VET centres, companies ▶ professional organisations, institutional bodies (including competent institutions) 	Very detailed partnership agreement Necessary elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Group of learners involved – Financial resources – In-depth pedagogical program including: units of LO, assessment process and transfer. – MOU and La 	Fulfil the level 1 conditions (having experience on level 1 and/or 2) and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Partners are all committed and legitimated to develop (design, implementation and assessment) a deep pedagogical content. – Legitimacy to assure transfer procedure.

Also, ECVET aims to facilitate the assessment, the validation and recognition of learning outcomes – credit transfer - from one VET context to another, allowing accumulation in the perspective of a qualification. This aspect is particularly significant for the beneficiary, but also for the companies and institutions involved, which will be participating in the better qualification of workers.

1. How does ECVET enable transparency on mobility experiences and mutual trust between involved organisations? Is this the way towards sustainability in mobility projects?
2. How to embed quality assurance tools in mobility processes? From the design / description of qualification to the assessment and organizational process

Sources of information

In order not to overload the introductory paper, we chose to indicate -when existing- the web link in order to give the reader the opportunity to print or not the information.

User's guide ECVET for Mobility (EC

http://www.ecvet-team.eu/sites/default/files/2011-08-02_ecvet_users_guide_mobility-final.pdf

Necessary conditions for ECVET implementaiton (cedefop 2012)

http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/4113_en.pdf