

The EU instruments EQF and ECVET and their possible significance for the countries outside of Europe

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WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF)?

Agency of the European Union

VISION

To make vocational education and training in the partner countries a driver for lifelong learning and sustainable development, with a special focus on competitiveness and social cohesion.

The ETF has both an **analytical and a developmental role** and works within the EU policy framework.



The 31 ETF partner countries

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT COUNTRIES ENP SOUTH:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria and Tunisia

ENP EAST:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Russia

POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999)

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES:

Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey

OTHER COUNTRIES FROM CENTRAL ASIA:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan



VET/qualifications in EU: new trends, new paradigms, new instruments

- The shift to learning outcomes
- Distinction between learning process and learning outcomes
- Concept of learning and qualification pathways (permeability, transfer, progression, lifelong learning...)
- All kinds of mobility for all (VET learners, HE students, workers) and validation and recognition of learning outcomes achieved in different contexts, including abroad and non-formal and informal contexts
- Qualifications design: closely linked to the needs of the labour market and quality assured
- Qualifications Framework (**EQF** and NQF) and mobility tools (**ECVET**)

The European Qualifications Framework - EQF (Rec. of the EP and of the Council, 23/04/2008)

1) A regional meta-framework (EU Member States):

- Linking national qualifications frameworks or systems through levels descriptors of learning outcomes

- Driving the development of **national qualifications frameworks**

2) A grid of descriptors: **8 levels of qualification** expressed in terms of learning outcomes, related to **knowledge, skills, competence** (autonomy and responsibility).

3) EQF makes qualifications easier to understand across countries, education and training systems, economic sectors, through a referencing process supported by Quality Assurance specifications (10 criteria).

The EQF governance and cooperation structure

(1) European Commission – Cedefop – ETF

EQF Advisory Group – developing systematic dialogue on qualifications, including representatives of:

- participating countries (EU, EEA, candidates)
- European social partners and other stakeholders
- European Higher Education Area (Bologna process - close cooperation with the HE framework).

The EQF AG has agreed on the criteria and procedures to reference national levels to the EQF (QA)

The EQF governance and cooperation structure

(2) EQF National Coordination points

- charged with the referencing process, involving stakeholders;
- Charged with the QA for the referencing process.

(3) Peer learning activities on:

- learning outcomes issues;
- national qualifications frameworks;
- validation of non formal and informal learning.

The EQF implementation

- A majority of countries have achieved their referencing process. Most do it in parallel with the development of national qualifications frameworks.
- Most countries should be able to issue individual qualifications carrying an EQF indication by 2013.
- All EU countries are developing national qualifications frameworks based on learning outcomes.

The external dimension of EQF

- Growing interest in the implementation of EQF
- Other important initiatives in the field of qualifications frameworks:
 - **National** (120 countries - 27 of the 31 ETF partner countries)
 - **Regional** (Caribbean regional framework, Southern African framework, Regional Framework for the Pacific, ASEAN initiatives for mutual recognition arrangements...)
- Clear message: qualifications communicate important signal in terms of their transparency, currency and portability at both national and international level

- Online community, developed with the EC and CEDEFOP
- Bringing countries experts and practitioners to exchange and disseminate experience
 - All information available on:

www.etf.europa.eu

An ETF initiative inspired by EQF: a regional approach to qualifications

- Based on specific request from ETF partner countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia
- Associating 3 EU countries: France, Italy, Spain
- Sectoral approach with 2 sectors, strategic for human resources and economic development and characterised by increasing industry globalisation and labour mobility and migration: tourism (hospitality) and construction
- Objectives:
 - Equipping countries with tools to make qualifications more transparent, comparable...
 - Ensuring sustainable capacity to embed the project results in sectoral, regional and national policies

ETF project “a regional approach to qualifications”: current results

- Operational national technical teams involving key partners in the field of qualifications
- Methodology and tools for comparing and linking qualifications
- Design of common profile descriptions covering knowledge, skills and competences for two trades in each sector (hospitality: waiter and receptionist) and construction.

ETF project “a regional approach to qualifications”: next steps

- Pilot phase for using common profiles depending of:
 - The contexts: existing NQF or not, specific agreement with EU (as “Statut avancé” for Morocco) etc
 - For different purposes: national or transnational mobility, companies recruitment processes...
- Expanding the methodology to other sectors and trade, on the basis of the needs of countries
- Linking with EQF activities and development at EU level

ETF project “a regional approach to qualifications”

- Further information:

- ETF website: www.etf.europa.eu

- ETF project team address:

euromedregionalqualifications@etf.europa.eu



ECVET (Rec. of the EP and of the Council (18/06/2009))

- **“ECVET is a technical framework for the transfer, recognition and, where appropriate, accumulation of individuals’ learning outcomes with a view to achieving a qualification [...]”.**
- **“ECVET is intended to facilitate the recognition of learning outcomes in accordance with national legislation, in the framework of mobility, for the purpose of achieving a qualification [...]”.**



Learning context B



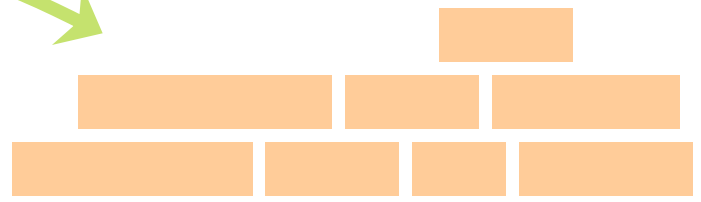
Transcript of record



Learning context A



Assessment of L.O.
Credit for L.O.



Validation of L.O.
Recognition of L.O.
Accumulation of L.O.
Award of qualification

The ECVET “package”

- Description of qualifications in units of learning outcomes (main)
- Transfer Process (assessment, validation, recognition and accumulation of learning outcomes) and mobility partnerships using Learning agreements and MoU (essential)
- ECVET points allocated to qualifications and to units (additional)
- Quality: process and outcomes

The ECVET implementation in EU countries

- Variable from one country strategy to another (already in law, operational, testing phase, emerging...), in particular with regard to the development of NQFs
- Different focus: mobility, lifelong learning, reform of the assessment processes, transfer from VET to HE, sectoral approach...
- Important role of the activities at EU and national level for supporting and streamlining the national initiatives:
 - The ECVET Team (EU level)
 - The national ECVET experts teams
 - The EC and Cedefop publications



Further information on EQF and ECVET

- http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc40_en.htm