



EOSE INFONOTE

October
2015

For skills matters!

FEATURED IN THIS NOTE : # GENERIC
INFORMATION ABOUT ECVET #

European Credit System for VET (ECVET)

The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) helps individuals who are studying vocational qualifications to move between countries and gain access to lifelong learning. It does so by making it easier to accumulate assessed learning outcomes.

ECVET describes units of learning outcomes as parts of qualifications that can be assessed and validated. It gives an indication of the size of units and qualifications in ECVET credit points. It offers a framework for making learners more mobile and qualifications more portable. ECVET applies to vocational qualifications at all levels of the European Qualifications framework.

ECVET can be facilitated in the sport sector when sport qualifications are made up of learning outcomes and there is a link to a credit point system – units and qualifications are given a credit point value.

As ECVET exists to support movement between countries it is linked to the concept of mobility. This is a concept gaining in prominence in the sport sector.

In 2013 EOSE led a consortium appointed by the Sport Unit of the Directorate-General Education and Culture (DG EAC) to carry out a feasibility study on possible future mobility measures for sport in the EU.

The feasibility study aimed to analyse current learning mobility opportunities in sport and then make detailed recommendations to help determine whether funding of sport learning mobility measures at the European level is necessary in future EU funding programmes. The study concluded there is clearly a strong demand for learning mobility in the sport sector. Sport recognises the benefits for the individual, for their organisation and for the sector as a whole that would arise from an increase in learning mobility.

With this potential for increased mobility in the sector, ECVET and the transfer of learning outcomes and credit points becomes a more important issue to tackle. In line with EQF implemented through national frameworks, ECVET principles can most readily be implemented at the national level in sport through partnership with national qualification authorities.



Implementation in the sport sector

Many countries have now implemented a learning outcomes approach in the sport sector, particularly in higher education. ECVET is also starting to be implemented where there are links to national qualifications frameworks.

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Key ideas and facts

There are a range of European tools and principles for vocational education and training, their implementation will increase transparency of qualifications, support mobility and benefit citizens by providing a systematic way to validate and document their knowledge, skills and competence.

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Implementation in the sport sector

The sport sector in most EU countries is progressing towards the expression of all qualifications in terms of learning outcomes. Certainly in higher education and in cases where vocational qualifications are on the national framework, learning outcomes are always used – as in the case of Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Romania and the UK for example. In some countries learning outcomes are related to occupational and professional profiles and this can be seen in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland and Latvia among other countries.

As would be expected in an area being implemented autonomously in Member States, progress is not uniform and feedback from some countries indicates there is still work to be done to encourage take up of learning outcomes for vocational sport courses.

In some countries the implementation of the learning outcome approach is not limited to the description of the qualification frameworks but also include assessment and validation systems, curriculum, and validation mechanisms for recognition of non-formal and informal learning experiences – this is the ideal for all in the sport sector to aim for.

With regards to the implementation of ECVET this is tied to national qualifications framework developments and sports organisations will use the prevailing credit system adopted by their country. It should also be remembered that in higher education the ECTS system is the prevalent credit system.

In the sport sector, probably in line with other occupational sectors, the implementation and use of ECVET is not happening at a consistent pace among nations.

To some extent the sport sector in each country is tied to national developments in the area of qualifications including in credit systems. Therefore at the European level it can be said that the sport sector is still on a pathway towards achieving learning outcome and ECVET



credit point objectives throughout the sector in all countries.

Milestones



- ⇒ 2002 – [Copenhagen Declaration](#). First agreement of Member States to aim to improve the performance, quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training through enhanced cooperation at European level.
- ⇒ 2009 - The [ECVET recommendation](#) is adopted by the European Parliament and Council and the official experimental phase of the project starts
- ⇒ 2010 – [Bruges Communiqué](#). Long-term strategic objectives for European cooperation in VET for the period 2011-20 set by Member States
- ⇒ 2012 - The [ECVET Recommendation](#) encourages Member States to create the necessary conditions and adopt measures for gradual implementation
- ⇒ 2015 – EOSE completes [Feasibility Study on Possible Future Mobility Measures for Sport in the EU](#)

Key ideas and facts



The European Commission, Member States, and the social partners, have established common European tools and principles for vocational education and training. Namely:

- ⇒ European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
- ⇒ European credit system for VET (ECVET)
- ⇒ Europass
- ⇒ European quality assurance framework for VET (EQAVET)
- ⇒ Principles and guidelines for identifying and validating non-formal and informal learning
- ⇒ Principles on lifelong guidance and counselling

These tools and principles constitute an integrated framework, their implementation

will increase transparency of qualifications, support mobility and benefit citizens by providing a systematic way to validate and document their knowledge, skills and competence. All are based on learning outcomes which make it easier to understand what the holder of a certificate or diploma knows, understands and is able to do.

The EQF and ECVET operate at the systemic level to make easier the recognition of qualifications across Europe. By supporting quality assurance, EQAVET provides a basis for confidence and trust in national VET

qualifications and their international comparison through the EQF. Europass, ECVET, validation and guidance support individuals looking for a job or applying for training.

All of these tools and principles have had an impact on the sport sector at the European and national level.

National examples

Finland

Sport qualifications in Finland have been written in learning outcomes for the past 2 to 3 years.

In the areas of credit points the ECTS and ECVET systems are in place and used.



Latvia

Sport qualifications are expressed in learning outcomes.

There is a Latvian credit points system linked to ECTS and ECVET so Latvia can be said to be in compliance with ECVET.



Malta

ECVET credits are used in sport sector where courses are accredited nationally.

An example of this was the recent Level 5 CPD Award in Sports Administration accredited and awarded by Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST).



FOR MORE INFO

EOSE has developed a State of Play report in 2015. Available on demand.

GET IN TOUCH WITH EOSE SECRETARIAT :
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To go further

Cedefop website section

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/ecvet-european-credit-system-vocational-education-and-training>

EOSE (2013), *Feasibility Study on Possible Future Mobility Measures for Sport in the EU*

http://eose.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/feasibility-study-mobility-finalrpt_en.pdf

DOWNLOADS

Cedefop (2014), *Monitoring ECET implementation strategies in Europe in 2013*

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/6122>

Cedefop (2015), *The role of modularisation and unitisation in vocational education and training*

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/6126>



Latest developments

European Commission Sport Unit Expert Group

With the introduction of the new EU Work Plan for sport 2014 - 2017, the Sport Unit in DGEAC of the European Commission updated its structure and set up five reformed expert groups to look at particular areas related to sport policy. One of the Expert Groups is for Human Resource Management in Sport, which deals with education, training, employment and volunteering in sport. This Expert Group continues to take an active interest in the implementation of national qualifications frameworks in the sport sector and the relationship between national sport federations and requirements for education from international federations.

Sector Skills Alliances (SSAs)

Sector Skills Alliances are an initiative designed to promote European cooperation within a specific sector of the economy. SSAs develop vocational skills from the perspective of labour market needs, ensuring cooperation between education and employment.

In the sport sector EOSE led a Consortium supported by the Directorate-General Employment and Social Affairs to carry out a feasibility study on setting up a Sector Skills Council for skills and employment for the sport and active leisure sector in the EU (the designation of council later changed to alliance with the launch of a new funding programme under Erasmus+ KA2 in 2016). This was supported by the whole sector.

European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)

The EC through the DG Employment and Social Affairs has launched a new portal and database to support employment and recruitment services in all member states as they seek to tackle unemployment and assist job seekers. The system is called ESCO.

The ESCO classification system identifies key occupations in the labour market and categorises the skills, competences and qualifications relevant for the EU labour market and the education and training pathways.

In the sport and active leisure sector 25 occupations have been defined under the headings of: Sports coaches and instructors; Sport managers and operations; Sportspeople, Fitness; and outdoors. This work would be greatly enhanced by the work of an SSA.



EOSE INFONOTE

EOSE is an international organisation working towards the development of the sport and active leisure sector, expert in building bridges between the worlds of education and employment and ensuring the development of a competent workforce with the right skills.

Its vision has been defined as "A sport and active leisure sector that is playing its full part in the economic, health and social development of Europe and its member states." And its mission consists in "facilitating and supporting the development of the sport and active leisure sector workforce, to ensure people working and volunteering in the sector have the right skills to perform and enable the sector to fulfil its potential as a social, health and economic driver".

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