



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 \(ECVET\)](http://www.intercollege.ac.cy/euro-affairs/european-projects/ecvet-permit/) 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: (1) Electrician; (2) Plumber; (3) Automotive Mechanic.

Project State of Play at a glance

The project ECVET PERMIT is coming to an end in December 2016, after 24 months of challenging work. One of the key activities of the project was the conversion of selected VET programmes of non-formal and formal vocational education and training into the ECVET system. 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.

Examples of VET Programmes converted in Units of Learning Outcomes can be found on the project website <http://www.intercollege.ac.cy/euro-affairs/european-projects/ecvet-permit/>

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

Partners

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CPC - Cyprus Productivity Centre
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The ECVET PERMIT Manual

One of the key outputs of the project is the development of the **ECVET Manual for VET Providers**. The Manual aims to provide practical information and guidance for the implementation of the ECVET by VET providers within the formal and non-formal learning sector. The manual offers a detailed insight in the development and implementation of the ECVET Permit methodology, through practical information and real case examples through the implementation of the ECVET PERMIT project.

The manual would be highly beneficial for VET providers' staff such as:

- VET programme coordinators
- curriculum developers
- teachers and trainers
- quality officers
- international mobility officers that manage student mobility.

The Manual will be available in English and Greek language in an electronic format on the project website in December 2016: <http://www.intercollege.ac.cy/euro-affairs/european-projects/ecvet-permit/>

The ECVET PERMIT Methodology

The proposed ECVET Permit methodology for building an ECVET partnership between VET providers for permeability and transferability between the formal and non-formal sector can be summarized in the following three distinct steps. Each of these steps is analyzed in further detail within the ECVET PERMIT Manual.



**Step 1: ECVET
Mapping
Process**

**Step 2: VET
Programme
Conversion
Process**

**Step 3:
Transfer &
Accumulation
Process**



Examples from Traditional VET Programmes to Units of Learning Outcomes

Two examples from the conversion process of ECVET Permit project are presented below. The first example demonstrates the change of the unit before and after the conversion process showing how the objectives of the training units were reformulated into learning outcomes. Example 2 presents a converted ECVET unit showing the formulation of specific learning outcomes and their categorisation into knowledge, skills and competences.

Example 1: Objectives of a Unit (before conversion) and Learning Outcomes (after conversion)

	Before Conversion	After conversion
AUTO-100 Internal Combustion Engines I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining knowledge on the various types of internal combustion engines. • Learning about the various subsystems of internal combustion engine. • Understanding physical concepts and quantities that are needed on this subject. • Familiarization and identification of basic engine parts through workshops. 	<p>By completion of this unit the learner should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the Otto and Diesel cycles for internal combustion engines 2. Describe the different types of valve timing systems 3. Identify the major engine parts through practical workshops

Source: ECVET Permit project - Intercollege



Example 2: Converted ECVET Unit in categories of Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes By the end of this course a learner is expected to:		
1. Understanding the Otto and Diesel cycles for internal combustion engines	K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to describe the different IC engines cycle of operation (petrol and diesel) • Be able to describe two stroke and four stroke engines • Understand pressure-volume diagrams
2. Describe the different types of valve timing systems	K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand methods of valve timing (chain, gears and belts) • Understand the variable valve timing principles
	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract information from valve timing diagram
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform measurements in workshop and adjust valve/cam clearance
3. Identify the major engine parts through practical workshops	K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to identify the exact location of each component on the IC engine
	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to determine the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. • Be able to identify worn parts that need to be replaced
	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disassemble and assemble the IC engine • Measure the engine cubic capacity in workshop • Imagine how something will look after it is moved around or when its parts are moved or rearranged. • Be able to use supporting software for the utilization of correct/proper methodologies in assembling and disassembling an engine



Project News

Fourth transnational partners' meeting in Athens 3- 4/11/2016

The 4th transnational partners' meeting took place in Athens, Greece. The Greek partners IIEK Delta and IDEC, cooperated organizing the meeting and facilities in an excellent way and the meeting was very productive.

The scope of the fourth meeting was to finalize the deliverables, organize the workshops and prepare the final report.

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. There is one final revision round for its finalization.

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. The template needs finalization.

IO5 – Common Assessment and Validation Process for Credit Transfer between the Formal and Non-Formal VET System. Two final reports will be produced, one for Intercollege – CPC and one for MCAST – IIEK DELTA



The ECVET PERMIT Project at the Annual ECVET Forum 2016

The ECVET PERMIT Project was one of the three European projects presented at the Annual ECVET Forum that took place in Rome on the 11th of October 2016. The Annual ECVET Forum, which is organized by the ECVET secretariat is the place to gather information and exchange views and experiences on how learners, workers, employers and VET providers can benefit from using ECVET. The topic of the ECVET Annual Forum 2016 was 'Flexible pathways to vocational skills'. The Annual Forum brought together over 250 policy makers, ECVET experts, social partners and VET practitioners to discuss how ECVET can be developed, in the context of New Skills Agenda for Europe, to make vocational pathways more open and flexible. This was discussed based on experiences and challenges related to such areas as work based learning, re-training and up-skilling of adults or the validation of skills from prior learning in different learning environments. The Annual Forum was an opportunity to learn more about ECVET progress in different European countries, share practical approaches and experiences of working with ECVET and network with other participants. The presentation of the Project was performed by Mrs. Yianna Orphanidou from Intercollege. More information about the event can be found here <http://www.ecvet-secretariat.eu/en/training-and-events/11-october-2016-ecvet-annual-forum>



The ECVET PERMIT was featured in the ECVET Magazine published in October 2016.

The ECVET Magazine is published twice a year by the ECVET Secretariat. You can read the ECVET Permit article here

<http://www.ecvet-secretariat.eu/en/system/files/magazines/en/ECVET%20Magazine%20Issue%2026%20-%20October%202016.pdf>



Project News

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

IDEC and IIEK DELTA presented the ECVET PERMIT project in a conference in Athens on Tuesday 5th of July 2016. The conference was organized by IDEC and tackled quality assurance issues of vocational education and training, the link between occupational profiles and training curricula, transnational mobility, credit transfer systems and work-based learning. The participants of the conference were: VET stakeholders, training organizations, and companies that provide work-based opportunities, in total around 80 persons.



Opening of a Community of Practice for ECVET

IDEC has initiated a Community of Practice titled “ECVET – European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System”. The group is for people that are working on ECVET projects and want to exchange their experience, practices and methodologies. Here you can initiate discussions on the different aspects of ECVET implementation, e.g. definition of qualifications and learning outcomes, how to develop units of learning outcomes, how to write learning outcomes, assessment of learning outcomes, allocation of ECVET points, ECVET partnerships, ECVET documents.

<http://www.discuss-community.eu/community/groups/viewgroup/35-ecvet-european-credit-transfer-and-accumulation-system.html>

Presentation of the project in Athens EQF and ECVET training course

IDEC organized a series of the training course “European Qualification Framework and ECVET”, in Piraeus on 17-21/10/2016, that was attended by eight representatives of NAVET – the National Agency of VET in Bulgaria. The course instructor was Mrs Natassa Kazantzidou. During the course, the ECVET Permit project was presented as a case study and the ECVET Permit trainers’ manual was distributed to the participants and was used as a reference book. NAVET representatives also visited EOPPEP, the Greek National Organisation for Qualifications and Vocational Guidance and exchange experience on the state of play of the two countries, regarding EQF and ECVET. The participants were very enthusiastic of the training, as they had the chance to explore ECVET from the point of view of the trainers and the development of training programmes, which is very useful for their work in the development of national qualifications.



Maria Herzner and 12 others have joined the group [ECVET European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#)





Testimonials from Partners Regarding the ECVET PERMIT Implementation

Cyprus

After many years of experience dealing with the development of the ECVET tool, both at European level as a member of the ECVET User Group and at national level as a member of the ECVET Experts Team, I am fully convinced of the multiple benefits of ECVET for the modernization and advancement of the VET area. The learning process has clearly demonstrated the benefits from the use of the ECVET principles but also the need to “re-polish” the role of ECVET in relation to all other European Tools and Instruments. At the same time, it is important to note that ECVET cannot be fully operational unless Member States move swiftly in implementing the following necessary measures and conditions:

1. Development of the NQF
2. Implement quality assurance measures for all forms of education (Formal, non-formal and informal)
3. Development of the mechanism for the validation of formal and informal learning
4. Description of qualification in term of Learning Outcomes
5. Implementation of procedures and the legal framework for flexible pathways.

Dr. Stylianos Mavromoustakos

*Executive Director Intercollege
Vice President of the European forum for Technical Education and Training (EFVET)*

Based on the experience and lessons learned through ECVET PERMIT, and recognizing the benefits of the implementation of ECVET, the management of the Cyprus Productivity Centre has decided to proceed with the conversion of all of its vocational training programmes according to the learning outcomes structure. This process is expected to start and to be completed in 2017.

Dr. George Horattas

*Productivity Officer A
Coordinator of Technical Vocational Training Sector
Cyprus Productivity Centre
Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance*

My participation in the ECVET PERMIT project marks my first experience, and hopefully not my last, in such projects. It has been an incredible experience, both in terms of learning and gaining knowhow on such important issues

and mostly in terms of cooperating and collaborating with wonderful people with ambition, knowledge and drive to succeed in producing results that will have a positive impact on a European level. Acknowledging the importance of such European tools as ECVET, in terms of transferability and mobility, HRDA will proceed in reviewing existing and developing new Standards of Vocational Qualifications based on learning outcomes and ECVET methodology and I will gladly participate in working towards this change.

Stella Philippou, *B.A (Econ), M.Sc (Monetary and Financial Economics)
Human Resource Officer, HRDA*

Malta

Stimulating! Challenging! Creative!

Such three words have coined my ECVET experience; an enticing project steered by a group of partners stemming from across Europe. The diversified backgrounds of the participants mirrored the challenge of facilitating the process of permeability and transferability of learning units throughout cross-border vocational education and training studies.

The determination to create possible mechanisms to facilitate this process proved to be as good a bonding moment as was the Mediterranean flair in our blood, which manifested itself to be more than a natural ice-breaker. The pro-active discussions and structured criticisms ensured that hurdles requiring addressing were identified, as were recommendations to encourage policy-makers to spearhead credits attached to VET programmes with the main aim being the implementation of ECVET.

Emanating from a robustly-structured MCAST's Quality Assurance and Curriculum Departments whose study programmes (levels 1 to 7) are all accredited, I felt comfortable to give my fair share to the discussions in question as well as to find ways and means to acknowledge all lifelong learning experiences and facilitate mobility for the learner.

Veronica Sultana, *B.Sc., M.Sc., PGCE
National ECVET Expert
MCAST Vocational Teacher Training Unit Coordinator*



Serving as the project administrator for the Malta team has allowed me to take a first look at how ECVET can be introduced and implemented within two different countries. Certainly the positive end results achieved couldn't have been possible without the excellent team work involved, not only from the local team but from all of the professionals involved in this project. It has been a rewarding experience out of which I will uptake the networking for further learning opportunities with the partners involved.

Joshua Bugeja, *B.Sc., M.Sc., PGC in VET*
Subject Coordinator (IT)
MCAST Institute of Engineering and Transport (IET)

Participating in this collaborative project made me more aware of the complexities involved in getting different educational institutions' procedures in line with some common goals. Having primarily a technical background it was definitely a learning experience for me as this discussion and collaboration at administrative level was all new. As time progressed I could see that ideas started to converge and at the very end all the partners had a very good feel of what were the blocking factors that still required addressing towards developing mechanisms to facilitate ECVET permeability and transferability of units of learning outcomes. The challenges made me further appreciate the ECVET system we have in place at our college.

Ing Jeremy Scerri, *B. Eng. (Hons.), M. Eng. (Comm.)*
Senior Lecturer & Coordinator of Part Time Programmes
MCAST Institute of Engineering and Transport

When approached to work on the ECVET PERMIT project, I had no previous experience in working with international partners. Within our Maltese context, the system of developing units of learning in a learning outcome based system is already in place and I had already written units in this format. However this experience gave me the opportunity to see a wider picture of the ECVET system using learning outcomes. At the same time the training held within this project and the details discussed helped me improve my skills.

This project has also given me the opportunity to work with

understand their environment of work. I hope that the benefits of the outcomes of this project will be diffused not only in all the partners' institutions but also in other vocational educational and training institutions for the benefit of students.

Marjohn Demanuele
MCAST Lecturer

Greece

The ECVET team of Delta Vocational Training Institute has been highly challenged through this project. The cooperation between different parties was very fruitful. With the aid of professional associations and industry providers, a common understanding has been achieved regarding the value of the ECVET methodology. The lack of ECVET methodology for Vocational Training Institutes in Greece gave us the opportunity to develop ECVET material making Delta a pioneer organization for VET studies in Greece. The reengineered study programs have been presented to a conference of the Ministry of Education, where a great interest has been shown. These new programs with the enhanced quality and relevance will be used in our institution from now on.

Dr. Konstantinos N. Kiouis
Academic Director
Vocational Training Institute (IIEK) Delta

I have worked on ECVET for many years, in different projects. ECVET Permit gave me the opportunity to go in depth and face challenges in transfer of learning outcomes from non-formal to formal VET. It has been a wonderful learning journey, with great partners. I am looking forward to the next challenge.

Natassa Kazantzidou, *MEng, MSc,*
ECVET expert
IDEC SA



Upcoming project activities

Greek National Workshop

IDEC will organize the Greek national workshop on December 6th and 7th 2016. This will be a two-day event consisting of a 1-hour webinar on the 6th of December and a workshop on the 7th of December.

The webinar will take place, using the dlearn.eu platform, in English language and it is open to every person interested in ECVET. The objective of the webinar is to present the ECVET Permit project and framework and the basic principles of ECVET. The video of the webinar will remain available online.

The workshop will gather 10 participants, trainers and teachers from IEKs and KEKs (post-secondary VET and adult education). Its objectives are to present ECVET Permit methodology for credit transfer between non-formal and formal learning context, to practice conversion of study programmes into ECVET units of learning outcomes and to simulate methodology of transfer and accumulation of LOs. Mrs Natassa Kazantzidou will be the instructor in both learning activities.

Malta National Workshop

MCAST took the opportunity offered by the ECVET PERMIT national workshops in order to further analyse and train staff in the specialised areas of assessment and quality assurance in relation to units specified by the MQF, EQF and ECVET.

The meeting delved into the role of the verifier, assessment writing and accessibility as well as verification documentation and procedures. During the workshops the members committed time to develop a verification checklist, discuss the use of rubrics, level of standardisation and also what further training is required for future sessions.

Participation in 2-day ECVET Seminar in Nicosia, Cyprus

ECVET Seminar "From unit based qualification to training programmes using ECVET principles".

The ECVET Permit project will be presented in the ECVET seminar that will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus on 07 & 08 of December 2016. The 2-day seminar is being organized by the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes (ΙΔΕΠ), and is a continuation of last year's seminar with the title «How to design qualifications with units of Learning Outcomes, according to ECVET principles». The ECVET Permit project will be presented as follows:

The key steps of the ECVET Permit Methodology: How to implement ECVET for permeability and transferability between the non-formal and formal VET providers. (Louiza Papaloizou, Intercollege)

Examples of creating the necessary conditions for permeability and transferability within the formal and non-formal VET sector:

- A case study in Automotive Engineering (Dr. Andreas Loizou, Intercollege & Philippos Philippou, CPC)
- A case study in Plumbing (George Philippides, Intercollege & Dimitris Kitsios, CPC)

In addition to the presentations the ECVET Permit instructor, Ms Yianna Orphanidou will be one of the facilitators at the seminar, assisting with the workshops.