

# Influences of the EU strategy on national VET developments

## – overview of ECVET implementation




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# Key messages



1. EU strategy for LLL
  2. National VET developments
  3. VET and work based learning (apprenticeship)
  4. Influences of ECVET at national level
  5. Overview of ECVET implementation:  
Where are we now? Where are we going?
- 

# EU strategy

- Is to create the appropriate environment for lifelong learning
- Directions of actions and plan of conducting those actions designed to achieve long-term or overall aims
- This is expressed in EU recommendations and enabled by different tools



# EU strategy



ECVET

EQF

EQAVET

ECTS

VNIL

# European Qualifications Framework

EQF

- „Translation instrument”
- Promoting workers' and learners' mobility and facilitating LLL
- Recommendation of **2008** on the establishment of EQF for LLL
- Updated by Council Recommendation of 22 May **2017**

# Implementation of EQF



EQF

By April 2018, 35 countries had formally linked ("referenced") their national qualifications frameworks to the EQF

# European Credit Transfer System

ECTS

- credit system designed to make it easier for students to move between different universities, countries
- central tool in the Bologna Process, which aims to make national systems more compatible

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- European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (2009)
  - Instrument designed to encourage labour mobility by helping countries to promote and monitor improvements in their VET systems
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- Validation of non-formal and informal learning
  - Council Recommendation of 2012
- 



**Validation**



Learning  
outcomes



**Certification**





# European Credit System for VET

ECVET

1. Easier acquisition of vocational qualifications
2. Increasing the flexibility of learning pathways
3. Avoiding the re-verification of already verified knowledge, skills and competences

# European Credit System for VET

ECVET

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4. Increasing awareness of the gained competences
  5. Supporting educational and labour mobility across levels, sectors and countries
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# National VET



- National traditions, contexts, practices and experiences are bases and should be appreciated

However...



# Challenges that VET faces and has to cope with



- Technological changes (LLL)
- Changes in the economy structure and character  
(sectors, occupations, job positions -> qualifications&LOs)
- Globalisation (mobility)








# National VET developments – not the idea but necessity




# National VET has to:



1. react to the global and technological changes  
(be adjusted to the labour market needs)
  2. react quickly (be constantly up-to-date)
  3. remember about national/regional/local traditions  
(be adequate to the needs and context)
- 


# National VET has to:



4. support mobility
  5. support recognition and transfer of learning outcomes
  6. cooperate with representatives of labour market
- 

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# Work based learning (apprenticeship)



Many countries – similar challenges:

- Necessity to respond to mentioned challenges
- Validation, recognition and transfer of learning outcomes
- Nationally and internationally
- European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships



Supported by ECVET



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# Influences of ECVET at national level



1. The principles are widely used  
(especially units and LOs; role of NQFs)
2. The tools are widely used (documents: MoU, LA)
3. Increasing mutual trust
4. Developing partnerships



# Influences of ECVET at national level




- 5. Higher quality of VET mobilities
- 6. Supporting upskilling, re-qualification, employability
- 7. Used by some countries within VET reforms  
(including national credit systems)





# Influences of ECVET - areas



- Erasmus+ mobilities
  - Domestic apprenticeships
  - IVET and CVET
  - Non-formal vocational education
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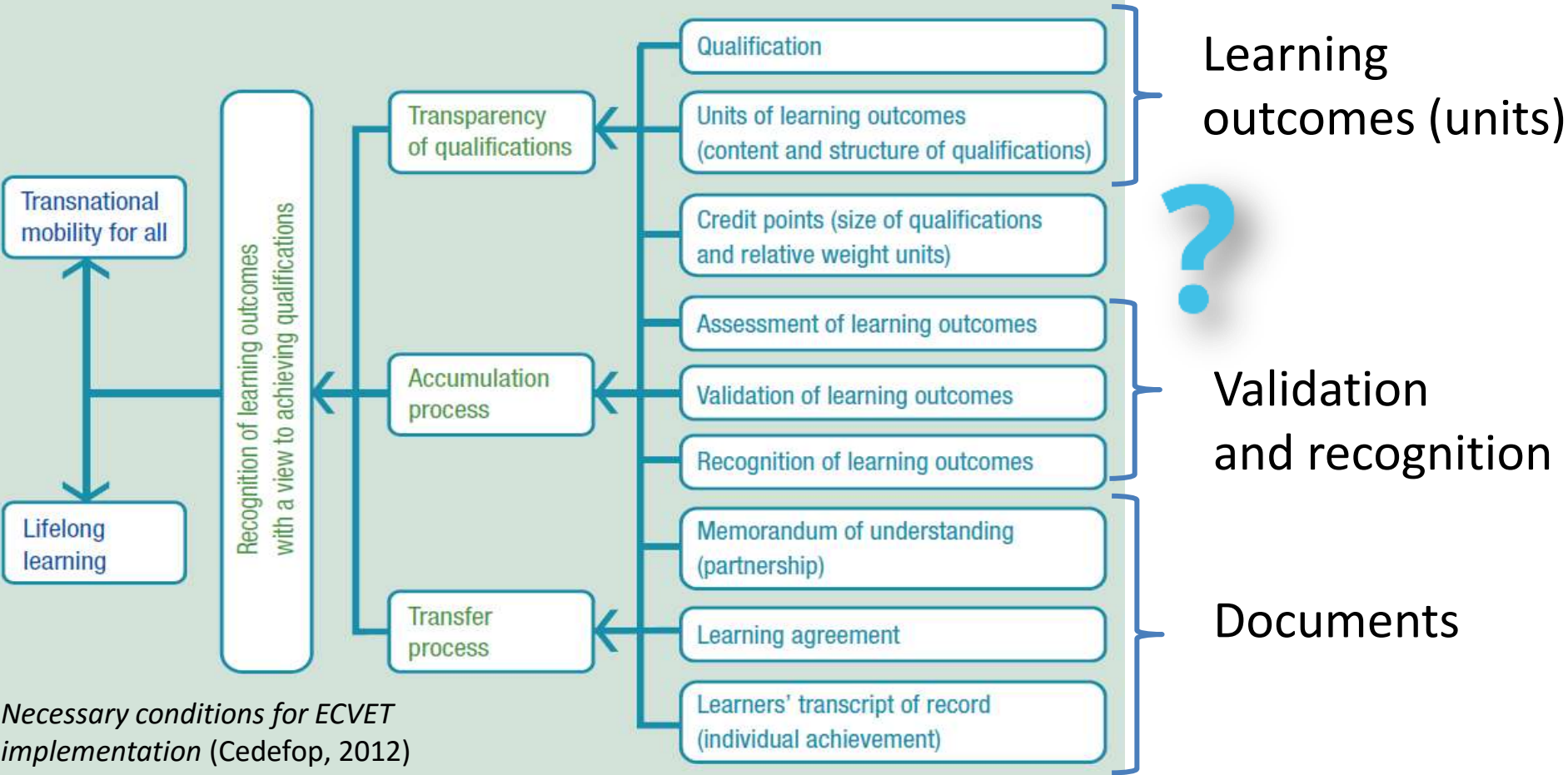
# What does it mean „implementation” of ECVET?



What are the general objectives of ECVET?

How does ECVET contribute to mobility and lifelong learning?

ECVET technical components



Necessary conditions for ECVET implementation (Cedefop, 2012)

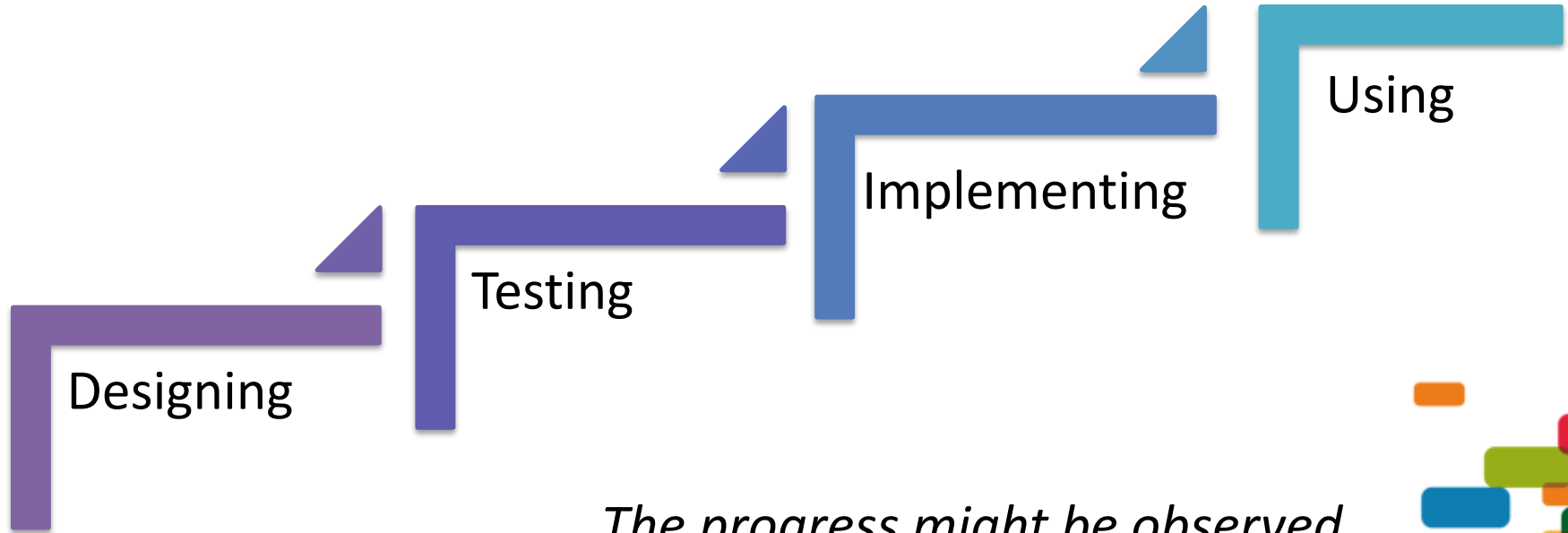


*„Expressing credit of learning outcomes in terms of credit points has proven either too challenging or not useful enough to many of the VET providers that use ECVET, so that **at this stage credit points appear as a “secondary and marginal element’ of the implementation ECVET”***

European Commission's Note to the members  
of the ECVET Users Group (2014)



# Implementing ECVET principles



*The progress might be observed*



# Implementing ECVET - overview



Group 1: countries that have credit systems compatible with ECVET [15]

(in all these countries IVET qualifications are designed in units of LO, while ECVET points exist only in six)

# Implementing ECVET - overview



Group 2: countries that are working towards ECVET-compatible systems [14] – developing/testing

Group 3: countries without credit systems and without system-level ECVET initiatives [7]



# Progress is visible



- Organising **LOs in units** (related also to NQF and LOs-approach)
- **Validation and recognition** of units of LOs  
(better understanding of different contexts of learning and need of validating gained knowledge, skills and competences)
- **Documents** - MoU, LA, transcript (are well used)




# Factors of positive influence on implementation of ECVET principles



- Implementation of NQF  
and learning-outcomes-based approach
- Providing information and guidance



# Factors of **negative** influence on implementation of ECVET principles (obstacles)



- Lack of clear procedures
- Lack of needed capacities and resources to implement ECVET
- Limited understanding of ECVET, caused by:
  - Limited promotion and information (low level of awareness)
  - Low level of clarity of ECVET concept





# Where we are going?

## What is our goal?

## And how to reach it?



# Future of ECVET



Should ECVET be kept?

If yes, how it should be supported (promotion, funds)?

Should ECVET be evaluated?

If yes, what should be measured (procedures, principles, credits, technical aspects, effectiveness)?




# Future of ECVET

Should ECVET be renamed?

- *European **Credit** System for Vocational Education and Training*
- *European Credit **System** for Vocational Education and Training*

# Key messages – summary



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Thank you for attention  
and wish fruitfull discussions!

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