

PART III - NETWORKS

1. ECVET

1. If relevant for the National Agency, please provide **an overview of all the activities** implemented by the national ECVET during the year 2017.

Free text (max 3 pages)

The National Agency has a monitoring and supporting role in the implementation of ECVET by providing the platform for discussion on the learning outcome based approach. Following our workplan, our three main objectives were successfully accomplished: I.) coordination of the National Team of ECVET experts by PLAs; II.) raising awareness amongst our mobility promoters, and qualification designers by providing trainings; III.) raising awareness of VET experts and other stakeholders by workshops/PLA-s.

I. Coordination of the National Team of ECVET experts by PLAs

There are some changes concerning **the Hungarian ECVET expert team**: the number remained 12 from various stakeholder groups.

From January 2018 the so called Sectorial Competence Councils will start work, due to the Parliament Decision (December 2017). <http://www.parlament.hu/irom40/18309/18309.pdf> These Sectorial Competence Councils will be responsible for the development of VET, and better communication of the training offer and the labour market needs. The Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will coordinate the work of these Sectorial Councils. Thus we **renewed the membership of the team in 2017 and managed to involve a member of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry responsible for VET** as one person retired at the end of 2016. **Involving the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was one major task for 2017.**

With the retirement of another expert during 2017 the Substitute (non- governmental) Representative of the ECVET users' group who used to be regular guest to our meetings, became official ECVET expert in 2017.

The ECVET Expert team's work was coordinated under the Erasmus+ KA1 Mobility team by one full time NA staff (member of the ECVET users' group), together with the head of unit (part time). Furthermore an external EQAVET+ expert attended our meetings and seminars providing quality assurance on our work.

A smaller circle of ECVET experts approved and gave us feedback on the theme of the ECVET Expert PLAs, and also tailor made the training material for the seminars for VET qualification designers, and updated the training material for VET project promoters. After updating the different types of training material they held the consecutive seminars.

PLAs for the National ECVET expert team – were focussed on assessment and evaluation of LOs this year. ECVET implementation was part of the NQF/VET development. The HU-QF Referencing report was accepted in Brussels on 3-4 February 2015, and it **will be June 2018 when the NQF level is first registered in the certificate of VET students**. This determined our focus on assessment and evaluation.

Also we sense that the European communication puts emphasis more on the learning outcome approach rather than ECVET as a system. (Revision of the ECVET recommendation in 2017). The LO approach (ECVET) definitely channelled VET reform into one direction, which is one major benefit of the ECVET implementation.

By seeking synergies we invited guests from other stakeholders groups to the ECVET expert meetings.

- Thus a representative of the Ministry of Human Capacities (representing the EQF contact point, responsible for school education and HE) was a regular guest to our PLAs.
- A representative of the National Association of Entrepreneurs attended one of our PLA-s.

Three PLAs of the National Team of ECVET experts as it follows:

21. April 2017. – Agenda: ECVET Calendar of the European Commission for 2017/ Accepting the work programme of the National Team of ECVET experts for 2017. Exploring the opportunities and challenges of ErasmusPro.

26. September 2017. – Agenda: Workplan for 2018. Discussion and planning the pilot tripartite PLA involving stakeholders responsible for dual training of IVET: employers, trainers, Chambers of commerce. The aim of the PLA: **“ Enhancing the role of workplaces in the preparation and implementation of international E+ mobility and compulsory dual training at national level.”**

13. December 2017. – Agenda: 20th PLA of the ECVET Experts: Short Summary of the past 6 years: 2012-17. Messages from the ECVET Forum. Findings of the tripartite PLA **“ Enhancing the role of workplaces in the preparation and implementation of international E+ mobility and compulsory dual training at national level.”**

The ECVET expert advisory network was established according to our workplan. Personal consultation was available on LOs for project promoters after the ECVET beginner seminar in December. The timeframe given was not efficient for pre-sent material. They might not have been ready yet with their workplans by the end of the December for the 2018 project round. 3 institutions' 5 workplan in different sectors arrived by the agreed deadline. We overestimated the budget for this activity – it is a factor which is difficult to foresee.

Regarding our international activities the expert team actively participated in European meetings and events on ECVET. The ECVET users' group member of TPF regularly attended the users group meetings or was substituted when she was not available. On the annual ECVET Forum we facilitated workshops.

In 2017 Slovakia organized the 4th informal meeting of the National Agencies: of the so called “Extended Visegrad 4 countries” where ECVET experts and coordinators share practical know-how on ECVET implementation. The Hungarian NA will carry on with this task in 2018.

II. Raising awareness amongst our mobility promoters, and qualification designers by providing trainings

4 seminars were held according to our workplan (compared to 3 seminars in the previous year):

1. seminar for ECVET advanced project promoters on „Assessment of learning outcomes of the mobility projects” - 9 May 2017 (with 24 participants) This seminar followed the project management seminar KA1. The training material focused on assessment criteria and methodology.

2. seminar for ECVET beginner project promoters on „How to design the workplan of the mobility projects in Learning outcomes” – 5 December 2017 (with 38 participants) The high turn out shows that while project promoters were working towards their application deadline they got a substantial help for designing their workplan in learning outcomes.

3. regional seminar for VET Qualification designers – 24-25 April 2017. Vác (19 participants)

4. regional seminar for VET Qualification designers - 27-28 April 2017. Karcag (37 participants)

In comparison with 2016 **we held 2 two-day-seminars for VET Qualification designers in 2017.** The number of participants was high on the seminars for VET qualification designers. **On the regional seminars for VET qualification designers** the participants designed LOs on the two day seminars as well as elaborated on the assessment methods and assessment criterias. The topic of the regional seminars is broader than the ECVET beginner and advanced seminars. **The participants are not only mobility promoters but qualification designers. Thus the focus is on where LO approach can be applied in formal and non-formal learning :** regarding legislative, methodological approaches starting from the implementation of the NQF through designing a training material, a lesson plan, a practical exam in LOs. **Another characteristic of the regional seminars is that they are sectorial and designed for the sectorial needs of the region.** We tailor made the training material in 3- 4 VET sectors according to the main profile at the Training Centre. Although it means that **we have to redesign our training material for each regional seminar for qualification designers,** but we believe that they can benefit the most from their own sectorial approach (rather than showing them good practices from other sectors).

We organize this type of seminars where we are invited to by the Training Centres – and there are more and more invitations. Unfortunately due to limited number of staff for implementing ECVET at the NA we are unable to organize more seminars during a year. We believe in seminars at the NA– supported of course by handbooks and other written materials – where participants can have clarifying questions and where during the hand on practice one can see whether the participants have the same comprehension.

Monitoring and evaluation were integral parts of the seminars. The analysis of the participants’ evaluation forms shows top satisfaction in case of all seminars. One reason for this is the carefully designed and hand on practice training material, the other is definitely the trainers themselves.

Regarding our **promotional activities** the bellow listed studies and publications were disseminated at 3 levels:

1.the TPF website and the regular newsletters (**project promoters level**) Naturally we use the regular forms of dissemination for raising ECVET awareness amongst mobility promoters on the website of TPF, and in electronic newsletters. **Four articles of the autumn issue of the Magazine of TPF were dedicated to ECVET.** <http://www.tka.hu/kiadvanyok/1/kategoria/palyazati-pavilon>

2.via our VET policy news letter sent electronically every other month to decision makers.(**VET experts level**)

3.**Erasmus+ colleagues level at the TPF.** By sharing knowledge within Erasmus+ we gave a brief introduction on LO approach at the VET working group of the TPF. The aim of the VET working group is to inaugurate mutual thinking within Erasmus + regarding VET issues. (Since ECVET issues fall under the tasks of the KA1 Mobility team at TPF, a VET working group was introduced for VET policy issues. The VET working group serves also as a horizontal forum, where colleagues of KA1 and KA2, the

communication department and colleagues of the knowledge centre can exchange ideas regarding VET issues.)

Trainings, presentations took place for the Communication department of the TPF, for SE working group, and for the KA1 department of the TPF. This last was due to the development of the new TPF database called HIPO where we assess the final reports of the projects. In this HIPO database we put 4 clarifying questions regarding the quality design and assessment of LO-s.

The planned studies were duly written:

Synthesis report on ECVET development at international level based on the foreign mission reports of the members of the National ECVET Team. This report provided a proposal for further development at national level, what we will take into consideration in 2018. Some Proposals for developing ECVET in Hungary for further discussion: To maintain and integrate the ongoing ECVET trainings, a modular training package might be developed./ Units of learning outcomes should be communicated to students in order to engage them in their training. /Inclusion of employers is an area where ECVET can be further developed. Emphasis should be put on improving quality of apprenticeship./The assessment and evaluation culture needs to be developed so that the assessment of "soft skills" is documented./In case of the Erasmus Pro program, new transversal competences are being highlighted (eg independent living, integration, cultural adaptation, independent foreign language communication). At the same time, the follow-up of student's activities, professional evaluation is a new challenge. To this end, the ECVET tools used so far need to be further developed. Possible directions: to involve key players in identifying LOs (eg Sectorial Councils). /Regarding Erasmus Pro good practices to date should be disseminated. /An international TCA might develop and recommend methods and tools that could be used in implementation of Erasmus Pro.

ECVET and EQAVET + bridge in the quality development of domestic and foreign apprenticeship

It is clearly possible to trace a path of development that is indicated by ECVET. The emphasis on institutional work focusing on the former, primarily the mobility elements (travel organization, preparation, dissemination) seems to be shifting. Instead of "during mobility", the "pre-mobility" section becomes the focus. At present, design is the most important element. Instead of the existing operational elements, emphasis is placed on content-development: a more careful planning of the work program, the formulation of learning outcomes, the evaluation and measurement of the LOs are included in this process. New concepts emerge: strategy, internationalization, evaluation, which - slowly - begin to establish a coherent unity in ECVET (and thus internationalization). It is apparent that candidates tend to think about the benefits and the linkage of these tools with the added value of their connection, while complying with the requirements of the tenderer's proposal. There is a professional discourse on this in schools, which is being catalyzed by the Erasmus +, ECVET and internationalization.

Assessment and evaluation manual: Assessment and evaluation of LOs in VET mobility

Publishing of this essential manual is budgeted for 2018.

http://www.tka.hu/docs/palyazatok/meres_ertekeles_kezikonyv_farkas_eva_1122.pdf

III. Raising awareness of VET experts and other stakeholders by workshops/PLA-s

We carried on with the success story of year 2016 a **tripartite PLA** involving stakeholders responsible for dual training of IVET: employers, trainers, Chambers of commerce. In 2016 the focus of the PLA

was on „**Quality assurance of work based learning by learning outcomes**” and the PLA’s main question was **how to apply the LO based workplan of Erasmus+ mobility projects to the organization of dual training** resulting in quality improvement of apprenticeships.

In year 2017 we made a step further. The focus of the PLA in 2017 was “ **Enhancing the role of workplaces in the preparation and implementation of international E+ mobility and compulsory dual training at national level.**”

39 participants attended the PLA (compared to 26 in 2016): 22 VET institutions; 9 representatives of companies, where dual training/work based learning takes place; 6 representatives of Chambers of Commerce; 1 representative of Government office; 1 representative of the Ministry for National Economy.

The summary of the PLA can be found on the website of the TPF. **The participants of the PLA drafted the Scope of activities regarding the apprenticeship in the dual system.** The employers, trainers, Chambers of commerce responsible for the dual training in Hungary made the Scope of their own activities focusing on apprenticeship from their own angles. They discussed their own tasks and responsibilities while preparing, organizing assessing apprenticeship. The outcome of the PLA, the Scope of activities have been circulated amongst the participants and can be further used on other trainings of the TPF regarding work based learning.

Published material:

A Guide for VET institutions was written in 2016 on how to design their dual training/work based learning in LO-s. **In 2017 the Guide got published.** This Guide helps VET schools to design the students’ apprenticeships at companies/SME-s in learning outcomes. The aim is to enhance quality in Erasmus+ mobility and quality in apprenticeship with the help of LOs. This activity was not planned or budgeted beforehand, but there was a great interest in it.

<http://www.tka.hu/kiadvanyok/2/kategoria/disszeminacios-fuzetek>

All in all we consider 2017 a successful year with its popular trainings which is proved by the turnout of participants, with the tripartite PLA involving employers (although this is still our most difficult task to trigger their interest) with the high quality Manual on Assessment: **Assessment and evaluation of LOs in VET mobility** and last but not least with the **unplanned publishing of the Guide for VET institutions** on how to design their mobilities and student apprenticeships in LO-s.