

## EDITO

### ASSET STEP BY STEP

*This second newsletter is an opportunity for me to give you an update on the progress we have made so far. This project, which was now launched 18 months ago, is already showing its first results : we can already draw our first conclusions from the job done on the building of the units and the pre-test of mobility.*

*The second phase of this project will be to finalise the partnership agreements. This new phase, led by the competent institutions, is crucial. However knowing how determined each partner is to see this project succeed, we have no doubt that the necessary solutions allowing this experiment to succeed will be found.*

THIERRY JOSEPH  
PROJECT COORDINATOR



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## ASSET news !

### Building the Units

As you all know, the ASSET project is based on a partnership between training centres, competent authorities and representatives of the economic world from four different countries. **The common objective for all of the partners was to test ECVET through periods of learning in one of the other partner countries based around units of learning outcomes.**

In order to identify and build these units, we first had to identify what we had in common : a product, the car, sold by manufacturers throughout Europe and whose technological advances require identical competences in all of its workshops.

From there, we questioned representatives of the economic world as to which competences are necessary in its workshops. It rapidly became apparent that the automobile industry was looking for technicians possessing both mechanical and electrical competences and capable of working on systems using relatively standard techniques.

This analysis allowed us to write a job profile from which we could then identify the corresponding qualifications in the four countries working on the project. Despite the very varied training systems, we were easily able to identify several areas common to each of the qualifications in relation to the job profile previously identified.

**Once the job profile established, we identified units of learning outcomes compatible with each training system** and therefore acceptable by all the partners in the project.

Following this, we chose only those units which could be compatible with an ECVET test. The main criteria for the choice of these units was that they would need to be completed during a period of mobility - in this case, three weeks.

**The writing of these units was done in the following way:**

- . First, by choosing a title for each unit which was precise enough to limit its

boundaries.

- . Then by identifying within each unit the list of learning outcomes to be acquired. We considered these learning outcomes not only as a final outcome for a defined training period but also as a list of competences required by companies for a given professional situation. This list was established after consultation with the professionals working on the project. The collaboration between these professionals and the training centres quickly led to a list of competences to be included in each unit. We ensured that this list was coherent with each training centre and therefore acceptable by each of the partners in the project.



March 2009 :  
Work Package 2 team starting to work on the units !

We then had to link these competences (C) with the skills required (S) and the knowledge needed (K) in order to finally define the procedures and criteria for assessing the learning outcomes of each unit.

**Four units were successfully produced. They can be downloaded on the project's website at : [www.assetecvet.eu](http://www.assetecvet.eu)**

This pragmatic approach reflects the reality : when a partnership between two training centres is established with the intention of an exchange, the first step consists of choosing a « job » and identifying areas common to both partners in order to set up periods of mobility. **ECVET is a tool which does not affect the basis of this approach but which gives us the guidelines for structuring the exchange and leading to a more successful period of mobility.**

## ASSET PROJECT FROM 2009 TO 2011

WORK DONE	WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE THE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE IN ROMANIA (December 2010)
<p><u>Work Package 2 : Curricula</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Common Reference Units of Learning Outcome for the "Electro-Mechanic" job profile were identified.</li> <li>4 units corresponding to ECVET technical specifications were written together.</li> </ul> <p><u>Work Package 3 : Mutual Trust</u> Production was started on tools and methods for implementing Mutual Trust according to ECVET specifications.</p> <p><u>Work Package 5 : Mobility</u> Two mobility pre-tests completed.</p> <p><u>Work Package 7 : Dissemination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different tools were produced for internal communication (webplatform) and for potential users – i.e. institutions, professionals – (website, newsletter, leaflet) on ASSET.</li> <li>Each partner began dissemination on the ASSET project in its own country, aiming at all types of stakeholders. : Public Authorities (central and regional administrations), Companies, Chamber of commerce and of craft, Training Centres, ...</li> </ul> <p><u>Work Package 8 : Quality Assurance</u> A quality assurance process concerning the management of the project has been implemented.</p>	<p><u>Work Package 3 : Mutual Trust</u> Memorandum of Understanding and learning agreement to be written.</p> <p><u>Work Package 4 : Credit points</u> Credit points corresponding to the ASSET project to be allocated to reference units produced.</p> <p><u>Work Package 6 : ECVET test</u> Next ECVET mobility tests to be prepared.</p> <p><u>Work Package 7 : Dissemination</u> Third newsletter to be written.</p>

## ASSET mobility !

### First ASSET Mobility : testimonies

***At the beginning of the 2010, the 4 schools and training centres involved in ASSET experimented the first mobility tests. This involved the evaluation of one of the 4 units included in the Car Electrician Electronic profile. Here teachers and students give us a brief glance into their experience.***

#### From Hungary to Helsinki (4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of January 2010)

I think our time in Finland from 4-15 January was very successful. Both the cultural and the professional parts were very well organised. One of the teachers from the Finnish school- Kari Koskela – was there to help us and he was really friendly and helpful. The food was delicious and substantial. The accommodation was comfortable. We had exciting sightseeing tours. The professional training was interesting. We liked being treated with trust and respect. I was really happy to take part in the programme.

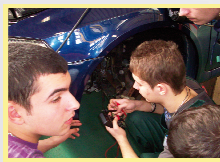
**Bosznai Miklós/Student.**

I was very happy to participate in the programme and improve my language skills. I was able to have a glance at the life and culture of a foreign country that I didn't know before. All the members of the host institution were very nice from the start, they really did their best to make us feel at home. By visiting different services we got a first impression on the job of the Finnish car-mechanics. During the training they trusted our skills and competences and by the test we all

obtained the necessary conditions.  
**Szabó Tamás/Student.**

In the framework of ECVET ASSET programme we studied the "Vehicle stability management system" in the biggest institution in Finland where Kimi Raikonen studied too. We were able to become familiar with the Finnish car-mechanic system in the workshops of our host institution. The Hungarian students were the first to get maximum points in the 0-3 rate scale worked out by the experts.

**Tábori Dániel/Student.**



*Learning by sharing !*

#### From Helsinki to Hungary (8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of February 2010)

We had a very warm welcome in Túrkeve. The first night we had dinner with the administration of the school and the city mayor. It was a big honour to have this kind of delegation at the welcoming ceremony. During the exchange, we had the chance to see the Hungarian culture and way of living. Interesting trips and excursions were held to local automotive industry companies. Visits to a local spa with exotic thermal baths were very impressive.

Water temperature in the baths was nearly 40 degrees. During the exchange, there was a local festival that we were lucky enough to visit. There we saw some of the old Túrkeve culture. The methods of teaching are quite different compared to Finland. For example, teaching at the workshop is more like doing different prearranged tasks. In Omnia's car department we have more activities like at real a garage and we deal with the customers quite a lot. In Túrkeve we saw a lot of equipment that we don't have in our school, for example a tester for common-rail injectors. During this period I saw that the students had very good skills. The teachers were very motivated and professional. This is one reason why the students have good skills and knowledge. We were hosted very well and it was a very good experience.

**Kenneth Nordström/Accompany teacher.**

I am very happy that I could participate the ASSET exchange. I had the pleasure of discovering the Hungarian culture and beautiful sights. All our host' were very kind and helpful from the first day to the last. If we needed something we got it instantly. It was exciting to see how they studied in Túrkeve and how different it is if we compare it to Finland. The food was very delicious, better than what we have in our school. Working in the workshops was very interesting because we learnt a lot of things we don't learn in Finland. The thermal baths were amazing because I had never been to a thermal bath and now I have, so I am very happy for that. In my opinion the whole trip went well and was very well organized.

**Sami Hoffman/Student.**



**Results of the Pre-test :  
The Hungarians, Romanians,  
Finnish, French,  
all succeed  
their assessment !**



### **From Romania to France (22<sup>nd</sup> of February-5<sup>th</sup> of March 2010)**

Between February 22 and March 5 2010, a group of eight students accompanied by two teachers from the School Cluster "George Bibescu" Craiova, Romania, participated in testing Unit 1 – Vehicle Stability Management Systems that was written during the ASSET project for the "car electrician electronics technician" job profile in Bourgoin Jallieu, France.

The students were informed about the opportunities the project provides for them and they were delighted to take part in the mobility.

The students that participated in this experiment were Gruia Flavius, Rada Ciprian, Medelete Teofil, Medelete Marian, Ispas Alexandru, Maria Ionut, Girleanu Ovidiu, Parăia Robert. They were accompanied by their teachers Georgeta Țuică and Carmen Marcu.

During their mobility to EFMA, the Romanian students acquired specific competences in the qualification of "car electrician electronics technician" and gained professional experience through theoretical and practical activities carried out in teams with the French students as well as through visits to ANFA and GNFA Lyon.

Mobility in France enabled the Romanian students to have a cultural experience through visits and meetings with local authorities in Bourgoin-Jallieu and visits to Lyon (Automobile Museum) which broadened their socio-cultural extent.

One of the students, Flavius Gruia testifies about his participation in the mobility programme to see how French students are preparing to obtain a professional qualification. "It was for me an invaluable personal and professional experience. I was very impressed with

how we were greeted and treated. Although there are differences between the training methods carried out in the two countries, I was able to adapt due to good learning conditions and the teachers who trained us (Pascal Ulmann was a very good teacher, I learned a lot from him)."

**Georgeta Țuica. Accompany teacher of George Bibescu.**

### **From France to Romania (23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> of April 2010)**

We spent 8 days in Romania instead of 15 as we were supposed to ... so we didn't waste any time! We were taught the theoretical part of the front wheel-axle unit in our own country, and did the practical and the evaluation in the Romanian garages. Everything went pretty well.

We had a very good relationship with the Renault and Fiat garage teams, and also with George Bibescu's teachers. Our Romanian partners gave us a very warm reception, especially Georgeta Țuică and Carmen Marcu who always accompanied us and helped us discover their wonderful country.

It was extremely rewarding for young people to learn how to work and live differently. It is so important for their professional apprenticeship and their personal life.

**Pascal Ulmann, EFMA Accompany teacher.**

I want to thank Petre Cauc and all his team so much for the wonderful reception we had during the whole week. Georgeta, Carmen, everybody was so kind and available.

The apprentices will keep an excellent memory of this mobility. They experimented a different way of learning, they communicated in a different language, they had to adapt to different situations — essential to learn to be more open-minded.

**Michel Yvrard, EFMA Head of Automobile Sector.**

We worked in pairs on the front wheel-axle unit. The evaluation was OK. We learnt about a new way of working in the Romanian garages. The Romanians gave us a warm reception, they were so friendly! We had the opportunity to discover Craiova and the Danube river! A football match was organised between our group and George Bibescu's teachers...we had a great time!

*My Romanian experience :*

- 1 word (in english) : Different (from France).
- 1 word (in Romanian) : Mulțumesc (Thank You).
- 1 dish : A doughnut with a dairy and red fruits sauce 1 place : Craiova.
- 1 colour : Grey.
- 1 memory : the Romanian's reception.

**Rémi Duplessy/Student.**

As we say in France « We had a prince's reception » ! As soon as we arrived, the Romanians took us to discover their country! We went to the mountains, to the South and we visited parks, discovered hot sources and saw the Danube River!

Our house was comfortable, and we tasted new flavours!

We all passed the evaluation!

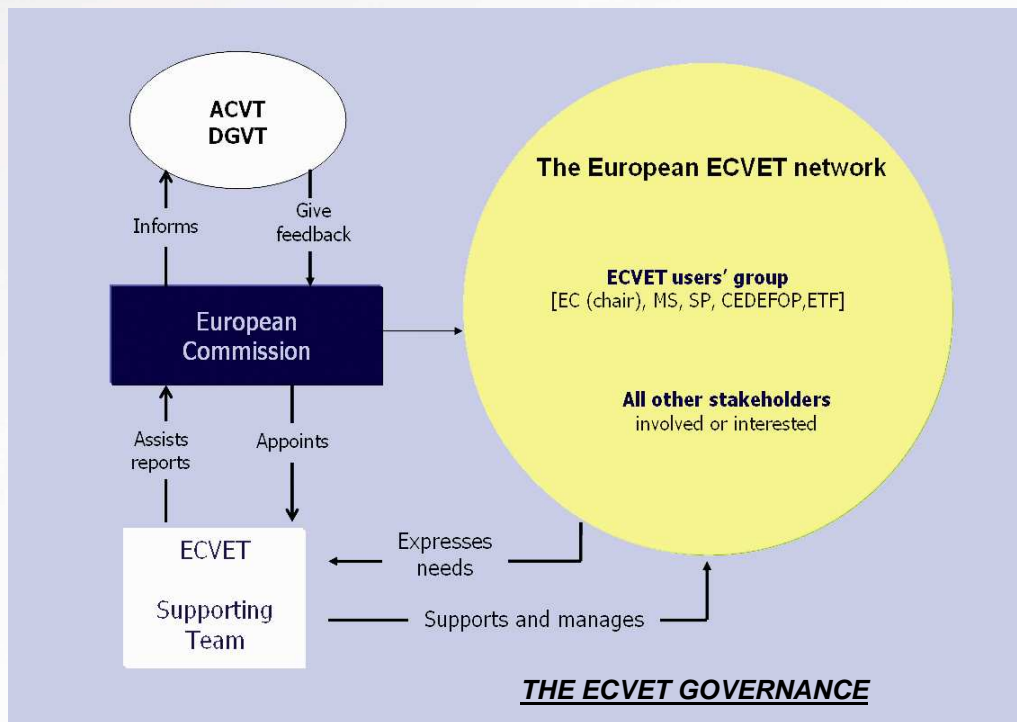
It was a unique experience! I will always remember how kind the Romanians were! And perhaps I will go back one day to visit the country even more!

*My Romanian experience :*

- 1 word (in english) : Enriching.
- 1 word (in Romanian) : Poftă bună ("Bon Appétit").
- 1 dish : Traditional sausages.
- 1 colour : Blue.
- 1 memory : The football match atmosphere (the same anywhere!)

**Florent Zaffarano/Student.**

# ECVET in Europe !



## European ECVET Network

According to the recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), "the European Parliament and the Council endorse [notably] the commission's intention to promote and participate together with the Member States in a European ECVET network involving relevant VET stakeholders and national competent institutions for the purpose of disseminating and supporting ECVET within Member States and establishing a sustainable platform for the exchange of information and experience between Member States".

**The European ECVET Network will gather actors of the European VET community.** It will comprise :

- a users group (ex officio member) : two representatives of Member State actively involved in the promotion and the implementation of ECVET, the social partners at European level, the

European Commission, the LLP national agencies, Cedefop and ETF.

- regular members (subscribers becoming members following a process of declaration of interest based on their effective commitment in the development of ECVET at national, regional, local or sectoral level) : representatives of VET providers, competent institutions, sectoral organisations, VET networks, etc, actors involved in the implementation of ECVET.

**The European ECVET Network constitutes a platform for cooperation between members** : enabling exchange of information and practices, networking, promotion and dissemination and giving advices to European Commission concerning activities to be developed.

## Supporting Team of European ECVET Network

In order to support and organise some activities within the network and to contribute to the users group, a **Supporting Team (Secretariat) has been set**

## up by the European Commission.

The consortium in charge of the Secretariat is formed by the ANFA (automobile services branch in France), the French Ministry of Education and the Chamber of Commerce of Paris.

## The Supporting Team's missions are, amongst others:

- Running the network : members' register management, organising the annual forum of the European ECVET Network, participation in specific events, etc.
- Providing services for the members of the network : providing training cycles dedicated to ECVET for promoters, regular members and specific groups. A training cycle (promoter and standard offer) consists of 3 modules of 2 days or 2 modules of 3 days. According to the contract, the Secretary will provide the following service:

Year	Promoters	Standard	Customized
2010	2 cycles	1 cycle	2 modules
2011	2 cycles	2 cycles	5 modules
2012	2 cycles	3 cycles	10 modules

The support provided will also include a study.

- Supplying information and communication : Creation of an ECVET corporate identity / Setting up a website and platform dedicated to ECVET and its European Network and available in 3 languages (DE, EN and FR). This web site will be a crucial tool for communication on ECVET: network agenda, resources centre about ECVET, a cooperation forum for the network's members, useful links, .../ Provision of a newsletter available in 3 languages (DE, EN and FR) on the web site, on a leaflet or on a small poster for promotion.

**The first meeting of the European ECVET Networks was held on 27th and 28th of May in Brussels, the 1st forum will be held on 24th and 25th June in Paris.**



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