Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

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EDITO

ASSET : Three Major Assets : Expertise, Experience & a Common Desire

This first newsletter for the ASSET (Automobile Service Sector ECVET Test) project gives me the opportunity to remind everyone of the aims and objectives of this project as well as its strong points. We all know what the objectives are : today ECVET (European Credit for Vocational and Educational Training) system is ready to move from the concept stage to the test stage, now ECVET ASSET Project is putting theory into practice in a sector, that of the automobile, which has been actively involved in European projects for many years and that today no longer considers mobility as a possibility or a vague recommendation but as a necessity.

It is therefore not surprising to find the different actors of the automobile services sector working together on a project such as ours whose aim is to set up exchanges for those in training, allowing the tools and procedures that we have built together to be tested.

Our project has several ASSETS which will help us rise to the challenge, the main one being that of the quality and diversity of the different partners involved in the project. The common desire has been to mobilise the Expertise and Experience necessary for the success of such a project, based around four different countries representing the different training systems in Europe.
The expertise necessary is guaranteed by the different competent authorities already actively involved in similar projects. The experience relative to mobility is provided by the training centres that also have a long experience of projects with a European dimension.

ASSET is now well underway and has been running for six months. During this time, we have been able to confirm that its major ASSETS are the quality and the complementarity of the different partners involved in this adventure and who have clearly stated their common desire for mobility, all this contributing to the success of this project.

Thierry JOSEPH
Project Coordinator

ECVET ASSET
Building a brighter future

ECVET and mobility in Europe !

ECVET is officially launched

"It is becoming more and more obvious that education plays a key role in our competitiveness. International cooperation to improve the match between supply and demand for vocational training also facilitates access to lifelong learning and mobility. We are interested in increasing the competitiveness of graduates of vocational secondary and post-secondary schools. In the present economic situation this approach is of key importance and we cannot limit expenses in this area" stated Czech Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Miroslava Kopicová at the launching conference on "New Tools for Vocational Education and Training (VET): ECVET, EQARF (European Quality Assurance Framework)", organised by the Czech Presidency of the EU in Prague on 20 May 2009.
ECVET recommendation was adopted by the European Council on the 12th of May and the event in Prague provided an opportunity to discuss the best way to implement the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), and the EQARF, for instance, how they relate to the learning outcomes approach and to what extent they support flexible learning pathways.

ECVET is at the same time:
- A practical and concrete mechanism aimed at facilitating the transfer and the accumulation of learning outcomes of a person moving from one training context to another one and/or from one certification system to another one.
- A process which enables to write certification in units of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) wit associated credit points.

For example, ECVET will allow a learner participating in European mobility programme to get the learning outcomes gained during the mobility recognised once back to his/her country. Thus ECVET contributes toward the creation of international as well as national mobility within individual countries.

Foto z konference

From the left : E. Arnold (French Minister for Education), J. Delgado (EC), Miroslav (Czech Minister for Education), M. Durr (Czech Vice-Minister for Education), Bulgarelli

Several stakeholders at all levels participated at the conference and the UEAPME (European Association of Craft, small and medium-sized enterprises) was represented by its Education and Training Director, Liliane Volozinskis. She focused on the importance of ECVET in order to respond to SMES needs "through its innovative approach based on learning outcomes, transparency of qualifications, permeability of education systems as well as accumulation and transfer of acquired competences". L. Volozinskis also recommended to keep ECVET as simple as possible, so to be easier acceptable by employers, avoiding heavy bureaucratic procedures. Moreover, intermediary bodies, professional organisations, branches and craft chambers should be fully involved in the dissemination activities for the development of mutual trust, otherwise "crafts and SMES could be reluctant to put ECVET into practice, which would be a huge missed opportunity".

Aviana Bulgarelli, CEDEFOP (The European Center for the Development of Vocational Training) Director, was one of conference key speakers and she stressed that issues like quality assurance, accreditation, and the dynamics of the qualifications provided by VET systems are at the crossroads between training and the labour market. CEDEFOP has been much involved in developing the ECVET and EQARF, taking on a pioneering role in assessing their possible uses, and participating in their definition and design.
As far as the implementation of ECVET is concerned, this will involve several actors at all level and – as stated by Mrs Bulgarelli, "their ultimate success must be considered from the viewpoint of the learners".

"ASSET partners-ASSET Kick-off-Bourgoin-Jallieu (France)-March 2009"

ASSET news !

Automobile Technician studies in Hungary, Romania, Finland & France

ECVET Bridge-Head in Túrkeve

Car technicien training was started in Ványai Ambrus Secondary Grammar and Secondary Technical School of Information Technology and Transport Engineering in Túrkeve in 1971.
Thanks to the innovative educational work, since then young students have been able to study in technical car trades.
To widen our field of cooperation, our school joined the ECVET programme in car mechanic and car electronic mechanic training in 2008.

This school year we have 21 car mechanic and 8 car electronic mechanic students who are acquiring their profession in the framework of a two year long modular training course. All of them already have their Final state exam certificate and some of them have other qualifications too.

Their practical training takes place in the school's workshops which satisfy even the European standards and level.
In their second year they have the possibility of finding personal educational contracts – in accordance with the current legislative conditions - with a company in order to do their professional training there.

After a successful final exam, the car mechanics can study further for the position of car technician. The car-electronic mechanics also have this possibility if they pass a special final modular exam.
After finishing their studies they can get a job in garages, other private car repair companies or even start their own company.

Car Electrician Electronics Technician

Car electrician electronics technician is a level 3 qualification in the National system for professional education and is targeted for the students between 18 – 21 years old.
The qualification is achieved after two years of training and the students obtain 24,5 credits.
Composition of studies in the vocational qualification is as follows:
- vocational studies – 13,5 credits.
- practical training – 5,5 credits.
- local curriculum – 5,5 credits.

The training is performed on the theoretical level in classes and our school technical laboratories.

The practical training is carried on in training garages due to the partnerships agreed with the economical world. This practical training take place throughout both two years and is focused on the national curricula. It aims at providing students the competences that are specified in the Professional Training Standards.

Assessment is a continuous and summing process and it is in accordance with the training standards mentioned above. Theory assessment is made by teacher, while the assessment of the skills and abilities is made by on-the-job instructor.

The students obtain a range of knowledge, competences and abilities that helps them integrate in their working environment, but also offers them the easiness for further mobility and the chance to continue their education in a lifelong learning process.
A two-year level 3 qualification provides students a qualification certificate. After graduating they can continue their studies at multidisciplinary universities, polytechnics, universities of technology. They can obtain their Bachelor Degree in Engineering or other subjects.

Vehicle Mechanics qualify from the Study Programme in Vehicle Technology

Vehicle Mechanics qualify is mainly targeted for students less than 25 years of age. The scope of the study programme is three years or 120 Finnish credits (one credit is equivalent to 40 hours of a student's work). Education is arranged as traditional classroom instruction, practical work in training garage or independent distance learning.

Composition of studies in the vocational qualifications :
-Vocational studies 90 credits (includes 20 credits (minimum) of on-the-job learning)
- Core subjects 20 credits
- Free-choice studies 10 credits.

Qualification includes also on-the-job learning periods of at least 20 credits. These are carried out at the workplace. On-the-job learning is focused and supervised study and it based on the curriculum. Student is not an employee during on-the-job learning periods. Assessment in the periods is made by student – on-the-job instructor – teacher.
Vocational skill demonstrations take place throughout the training and are given for all vocational student modules. Skills demonstrations are arranged primarily at workplaces during an on-the-job learning period that allows students to demonstrate their competence by using practical skills in genuine work environments.
The demonstration place can also be the work premises of the school.

A three-year qualification provides general eligibility for further study at polytechnics, universities of technology and multidisciplinary universities. Typical degrees completed in further studies include Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Science in Engineering. Advanced vocational qualifications include several further and specialist vocational qualifications.

The Electrician Electronics Technician certificate at EFMA.

This vocational training is dedicated to the 16 to 25 years old, who want to become an Automobile Electrician Electronics Technician. The applicants have to pass a level 4 vocational and professional certificate or to have reached this level.

The students complete a one year training course, alternating between college and work :
- They essentially learn vocational training at EFMA. During the year, they spend 550 hours in the training center.
- The rest of the time, they learn in a real context when they are in garage.

The students have a salaried status: they sign an alternating vocational training contrat and earn a salary.

At the end of the training course they pass a special certificate, which is delivered by the Automobile Service Sector and credited by its crediting body.
The aim of this certificate is that youngsters find a job very quickly : that's why most of them who succeeded their vocational training are employed immediately after the exam, and most of the time by the company in which they trained.

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