



E-letter 3 – May 2015

## Modularisation and Recognition of basic VET via ECVET and EQF

<http://www.egfmeetsecvet.eu>

### Last Phase of “EQF meets ECVET” Has Started!

One way to ease access and re-entering to (basic) VET can be done by offering VET programmes consisting of particular units, which are officially recognised. This allows step by step learning, gives value to all learning outcomes - even if they are attained at different competence levels - and offers a more individual learning path. Additionally the learners' special strengths can be shown by offering assessment of learning outcomes on different levels.

All these aspects are encompassed in the project “EQF meets ECVET”. Partners from AT, BE, DE, IT, LT and SI work together to develop a model to define learning outcomes units of basic VET programmes by applying the ECVET system. Additionally they are working on a model for assignment and recognition of VET units via National Qualification Frameworks.

At this stage, the definition of learning outcomes units for four basic VET programmes has been already completed. The model for assignment and recognition of these units to NQFs has been also drafted and will be tested before summer. Developing this model was quite a challenge as the partner countries' approaches for recognition of non-formal learning differ very much. There are also differences in terms of the approval of the idea/the need for giving official recognition to basic VET. There is much scepticism whether labour market needs these basic vocational competences and if it is necessary to recognise them – without considering the need of persons with learning disabilities and their right to lifelong learning.

Therefore a lot of lobbying for this target group of learners and the project's aims has to be done. Some of these activities are presented in this newsletter.

**Additionally we would like to invite our readers to the final events in the partner countries (more detailed information will be published at [www.egfmeetsecvet.eu](http://www.egfmeetsecvet.eu) by the end of May):**

<b>16 September 2015, Maribor, SI:</b>	<b>Final National Conference</b>
<b>End of September 2015, Traunreut, DE:</b>	<b>Final National Event</b>
<b>End of September 2015, Florence, IT:</b>	<b>Final National Event</b>
<b>October 2015, Kaunas, LT:</b>	<b>Final National Event</b>
<b>22-23 October 2015, Salzburg, AT:</b>	<b>EASPD Conference &amp; final project conference</b>

We hope you enjoy reading this actual project information!

Looking forward to meeting you at one of our project closing events,

- **Marion Bock**, Project Coordinator, Chance B – Holding GmbH

## “EQF meets ECVET” Project Holds Fourth Partnership Meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania

“EQF meets ECVET” project partners met on April 9-10, 2015 in Kaunas, Lithuania to discuss the progress on project implementation.



The meeting, which was hosted by the Centre for Vocational Education and Research at the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, allowed training partners to work together to develop an optimized common version of the Assignment Model, as well as to discuss the testing and evaluation of the model in the context of national regulations and requirements. Meeting participants shared their experiences in developing learning outcome units and discussed challenges and opportunities they have faced.

- *Asel Kadyrbaeva, EASPD*

## Project Presentation “EQF meets ECVET”: Assignment of Non-formal Education to DQR Levels 1 & 2

### Werkstätten:Messe 2015 (Trade fair for vocational rehabilitation and exhibition of workshops for persons with disabilities)

Werkstätten:Messe in Nuremberg, which takes place once a year, is Germany’s most attended social care & training exhibition. Customers find a varied display of products and services as well as numerous practice-oriented lectures about projects, initiatives and new solutions for workshops.

Werkstätten:Messe 2015 took place from 12th to 15th March. Marlies Krumböhmer and Melanie Biertempfel, both Chiemgau-Lebenshilfe-Werkstätten GmbH, and Marion Bock, Chance B – Holding GmbH, presented the European funded project “EQF meets ECVET”.

Ms Bock informed about the project and its aims by referring to European and National (German) Qualifications Framework and ECVET.





Ms Krumböhrer presented the non-formal VET programme for "Industrial Seamster/Seamstress" for persons with disabilities, which she developed on behalf of the German project partner and which is described by modules and learning outcomes. She also informed about current results of the project, experiences of the project partners and challenges in transferring the projects' objectives into the German education system.

Ms Biertempfel, who is currently participating in a non-formal training at Chiemgau-Lebenshilfe-Werkstätten GmbH, proudly informed about her training progress and showed a lot of pictures illustrating the learning outcomes she already obtained.

- **Marlies Krumböhrer**,  
Chiemgau-Lebenshilfe-Werkstätten GmbH

## 1st and 2nd National Expert Circle Meetings in Maribor (11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015)



In the month of March 2015, VDC POLŽ Maribor organized two meetings of the **"EQF meets ECVET" national expert circles**. The national expert circle composes of: Mrs. Urška Marentič from Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje, Mrs. Marija Toure from Srednja šola za oblikovanje Maribor, Mrs. Valerija Bužan Sc.D. Director Center za usposabljanje, delo in varstvo Dolfke Boštjančič, Draga, Mrs. Jana Petje from Center za usposabljanje, delo in varstvo Dolfke Boštjančič, Draga, Mrs. Jasmina Breznik M.Sc. Director VDC POLŽ Maribor, Mrs. Tanja Berlot, Mrs. Katja Greif, Mrs. Mateja Bukvič and Mrs. Aleška Knaflič Cijan from VDC POLŽ Maribor.

Project activities were presented to the experts, who then discussed the learning outcomes for the assistant waiter on levels 1 and 2.

**On September 16<sup>th</sup> 2015** VDC POLŽ Maribor will organize the **final national conference "EQF meets ECVET"** in Maribor, where the results of the project will be presented.

- **Aleška Knaflič Cijan**, VDC POLŽ Maribor



## Explaining the Connection between Education (EQF ) and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

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There is a very close relationship between the EQF and the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health for Children and Youth) frameworks. This article aims to explain what these two frameworks have in common.

In terms of education, the Lisbon Conference and the Recommendation of the EU Parliament and the Council of December 18, 2006 expressed specific needs such as building a training environment that can be connected to the Labour market and building a training platform focused on the development of skills that combine the knowledge and ability necessary to perform a service that is useful to the community and the labour market.

In the case of people with disabilities, objectives of this type must produce specific tools and techniques. We remind the Key competences for long-term learning that are a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to the context. There are eight key competences that describe the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes related to each:

- communication in the mother tongue;
- communication in foreign languages;
- mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology;
- digital competence;
- learning to learn;
- social and civic competences;
- sense of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- cultural awareness and expression.

At the same time, ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health for Children and Youth) is essentially a classification developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) of health and health-related domains. The framework measures health and disability at both individual and population levels, and was officially endorsed in 2001 by all 191 WHO Member States as the international standard to describe and measure health and disability.

It is clear that the ICF system, the frameworks and the recommendations proposed by the European Council have an interesting point in common. Through a series of recommendations and models, the European Council identified the need to improve the transparency of the objectives of training systems in European countries, and to switch from developing the ability to produce performances regarding to the "ability to do" at the workplace, to developing solutions that allow for the validation of skills acquired in any context (formal, non-formal and informal). The European Council, particularly through the EQF reference framework, proposes a system of reference levels that take into account the degree of skill awareness, the ability to use skills at work.

The ICF as well as EQF identifies essential functions that form the basis of these fundamental elements necessary to be included in work and society. In the previously-mentioned Recommendation of the EU Parliament and Council, the Council indicated the essential elements that should be part of any training system, and that should enable people to become aware and involved in the European context which includes work and even social inclusion through it. The ICF not only shares these principles but also complements them in a certain sense. It aims to switch the evaluation of models and designs, from the simple identification of deficiencies of the "handicap" of the individual to an assessment of the level of wellbeing and participation in the above-mentioned fields.



Also proposed, with the most classic clinical terminology, is to focus on specific areas, dependent on the development of what the Council has called "basic skills". It is useful to evaluate and work on areas proposed by the ICF in order to develop basic skills possessed by individuals. The ICF integrates and provides elements that are useful for developing the Council's recommendations, encouraging them to take into account the context of individuals and the interaction between individual and context. It is clear that education and EQF system are very connected to ICF and it is a very useful tool for the training of persons with disabilities.

- *Patrizia Giorio, FormAzione Co&So Network - Consorzio scs*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### EQF meets ECVET Final Conference

On **October 22-23, 2015**, EQF meets ECVET will showcase its best practices in inclusive teaching programmes as part of an EASPD Conference, **"Inclusive Teaching Programmes: Let's develop it Together,"** in Salzburg, Austria. The event is expected to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss best practices presented by several projects dealing with teaching programmes for people with disabilities. This conference will be a great opportunity to assess where inclusive education stands in Europe. Participants will be able to select the elements that would fit best and enrich their own learning environment. EQF meets ECVET project partners are expected to participate in a panel discussion and organize several workshops. They will present the project and make practical demonstrations together with users and trainers.

#### SAVE THE DATE:

**EASPD Conference "Inclusive Teaching Programmes: Let's develop it Together"**

**DATE: October 22-23, 2015**

**VENUE: St-Virgil Conference Centre, Salzburg, Austria**



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