

ECVET system for no borders in the Green Economy sector

supporting Employability, Adaptability and European Mobility in VET systems and Labour Market



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Newsletter

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English Version

Welcome

to the third issue of the official newsletter of Ecovet Project.

The scope of this newsletter is to keep project partners and stakeholders updated on the latest endeavor of the consortium: with the third and the fourth transnational meetings in Madrid (Spain) and Vienna (Austria) the project has gone through its most delicate and challenging phase which has required a deep involvement of each partner.

What are the most important results achieved by the consortium?

What will be the main challenges for the final phase of the project?

The newsletter will also be available on the project website at www.ecovetproject.eu



3rd Transnational Meeting - Madrid (Spain)

From 12 to 13 February 2015 the Spanish partner CECE hosted the third transnational meeting

From 12 to 13 February 2015 the Spanish partner CECE hosted the third transnational meeting. This was the occasion to make a report on the progress of Ecovet project, after the submission of interim report to Italian national agency and to plan the next activities.

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The initial part of the meeting was dedicated to illustrate the achievements related to each work package underlining the results of the first year of project. Particular attention was paid to the WP 3 and 4 which represent the basis for the following project development (analysis of national contests and description of professional profiles related to the Italian one).

After a presentation of the state of the art of the project, according to the meeting agenda, the consortium discussed about the results of the field analysis realized in the 6 countries (IT, AT, EL, ES, RO, SI). The field analysis is composed of a semi-structured interview which also serves as a check list for the direct confrontation with experts of the field/sector.



A round table discussion about interview's results allowed to:

- make the identification and analysis of the positioning of the national professional profiles selected by the partners within the labour market;
- make a description and study of the activities, of the competence required, of the educational qualifications/ specific training pathways of the professional profiles being considered.
- highlight eventual relevant changes
- analyze the types of certification awarded for the specific profiles
- encourage a first comparison with the Italian referring professional profile in order to lay the groundwork for the actions to be developed in WP6 (Experimentation/ testing and Transfer of Innovation).

The last part of the first day of meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the transnational comparative Matrix and of the first proposal for adaptation. After the analysis of the first attempt to match Italian profile and its macro competences with the competences of the other European profiles, the consortium decided to dedicate to this crucial phase of the project much more time, giving to each partner the task to complete themselves the grids of the matrix with the contribution of their experts in order to share with them the results of our analysis.

The second day was dedicated to transversal issues (project management, administrative and financial management, monitoring and evaluation, dissemination) and to recap the most important aspects emerged during the meeting in order to plan next project steps.

4th Transnational Meeting - Vienna (Austria)

From 06 to 07 July 2015 the Austrian partner IBW hosted the fourth transnational meeting

The fourth transnational meeting was held in Vienna (Austria) on 6th July where the Consortium was greeted by IBW, the Austrian partner who oversaw the organization of the event.

The meeting was a very important occasion to verify project results, in view of the final phase of the project (30 September).

The first part of the meeting was focused on transversal Work Packages (project management, monitoring and evaluation and dissemination). The meeting has represented a very important moment to monitor project results and timetable and to plan next deadlines in view of submission of final report.



The meeting was also the occasion to share the final version of the comparative matrix as a final proposal of adaptation to be validated by the partnership: after the selection and the deep analysis of each national profile, each partner has identified their macro competences, on the basis of a common shared framework.

In ECoVET project the partnership decided to use the term macro-competence instead of Learning Unit to emphasize the link to the Unit of Learning Outcomes and to find a compromise on language and meanings carried by the Tuscan Regional System (SRC) based on a concept of (unit) Competence a little different:

Unit of Competence (UC) referring to SRC = Set of knowledge and skills deemed necessary for the proper conduct of a professional task.

The knowledge are divided into "general knowledge", generally shared by a large number of figures and low level of specification, and "professional knowledge", characteristics of the Figure and are characterized by a



high degree of specification. The skills are divided into "professional technical skills", "Organizational skills", "interpersonal skills" and "diagnostic and cognitive abilities."

The SRC framework interpreted as including the dimension of the competence of the two dimensions knowledge and skills, dimensions however also present in the definition of competence in the European framework KSC (the proven ability to use knowledge, skills and personal, social and / or methodological abilities, in work or study situations and in professional and / or personal development) and then immediately brought back the power to Unit of Competence.

Each UC is then associated with an Area of Activity (ADA), the definition of which is based on a categorization of Italian National Agency: "ADA Indicates a set of tasks for homogeneous type of process or product made. The Area of Activity allows to decompose the Professional profile indicating the fundamental professional dimensions. In reference to the Area of Activity, professional competences are then identified as characteristics of the Profile"

In ECoVET we therefore assumed

ADA = Macro-Competence

in a first period without further correspondence ADA to UC, that was assumed in progress.

In a final step, each macro-competence was described in terms of knowledge, skills and competence (Framework KSC), according to the technical specifications annexed to the ECVET-Recommendation which defines learning outcomes as statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do upon completion of a learning process and which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence. [...]

[... 4th Transnational Meeting - Vienna (Austria)]

It is obvious that not all learning outcomes summarized in a unit and defined in the KSC matrix, were always present in the respective qualification as offered in the six countries.

Since it was not the objective of the project to draw up new and more similar qualifications, this meant that in the next experimentation phase only the acquired knowledge, skills and competences foreseen in the respective qualification pathway could be assessed and validated.

In conclusion our final matrix of comparison tried to connect the SRC Unit of Competence to the concept of

Unit of Learning Outcomes according to the following equivalence:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\textbf{Unit of Competence SRC} \\
 &= \\
 &\textbf{ECoVET Macro-Competence} \\
 &= \\
 &\textbf{ECVET Unit of Learning Outcomes}
 \end{aligned}$$

The last part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of WP 6 related to experimentation in order to define and share within the partnership how to realize this fundamental and final phase of the project.

Dissemination seminar in Vienna (Austria)

ECoVET Partnership shared project results with Green Economy sector experts from different countries

Austrian transnational meeting ended with a dissemination seminar where experts of green economy sector were invited from each country involved in the project in order to share with the partnerships Ecovet results.

In particular the Consortium was interested to share with experts the final matrix of comparison and the 4 grids in order to validate with them ECoVET framework and products.

In the previous months each partner had proceed to select one (or more) expert according to the specific aims of Ecovet project: each of them had later received specific guidelines in order to advance them some general information about the project and about the focus of the round table confrontation the Consortium would like to realize during the



dissemination seminar in order to define the contribute we expected from them.



These are the main issues we posed in advance in order to stimulate debate and discussion:

- Starting from the different national system and from experts' experiences, which are the knowledge, skills and competences framework, areas of activities and tasks of the selected profiles, identified in the comparative matrix, which are actually required and recognized in the labour market of each country?
- Are the correspondences that have been identified between the Italian starting profile and the professional profiles of the other partner countries, plausible and
- can they be applied in the context of mobility of people (study mobility and/or labour mobility)?
- What kind of further professional development can we foresee for the selected professional profiles?
- What are the opportunities for the Italian professional profile in the labour market of the Partner Countries?

The seminar represented a very interesting and important occasion to test ECoVET toolkit, confirming the validity of the work done by the partnership.

The contribution of Austrian experts

For the dissemination seminar in Vienna (7th July 2015) the Austrian partner (ibw) invited four national experts to discuss the competence matrix of the ECoVET project. Two of them were staff members of IBW and technical experts to give feedback from a technical point of view, another two were external experts from other VET research institutes that were invited to bring in theoretical issues.



Monika Auzinger, Project Manager at 3s research laboratory

Works as project manager at 3s in the field of education, training and the labour market – currently focusing on VET and higher education. She works for various national and European research and consulting projects, with particular focus on European transparency tools (EQF, ECVET). Two of her current research assignments include a study on quality assurance of certification in vocational education and training, and an analysis of higher vocational education and training in the EU-28. She also coordinated the EQUAL-CLASS project (Lifelong Learning Programme – LdV), a multinational project comparing VET qualifications in engineering, which has recently been finalized.



Johanna Bachmair, Project Employee at ibw Austria - Research & Development in VET

She graduated in machine and biomedical engineering and is staff member of ibw since 2015. Her work focuses on ensuring the quality of the Austrian apprenticeship training within projects concerning the final examination, training materials as well as training guidelines for trainers. ECoVET is the first international project she has been working in.



Roland Loeffler, Project Manager at Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training (oeibf)

He graduated in history science and has been working in the field of research in VET since 1984. For the last five years he has been staff member of oeibf. His main task is doing research and impact analyses concerning the labour market and training programs, monitoring and evaluation of educational programs. He also has been involved in several European R & D projects in the area of VET, EQF and ECVET.



Alexandra Poetsch, Project Employee at ibw Austria - Research & Development in VET

She has finished three apprenticeship trainings, one in hairdressing, one in mechatronics and one in electrical engineering specializing in plant and industrial engineering. She entered ibw at 2012. Her main task is to ensure the quality of the Austrian apprenticeship training within projects concerning the final examination, training materials as well as training guidelines for trainers. She has also been working in international projects with focus on technical issues.

The Spanish experience

During the workshop held in Vienna the 7 of July, two teachers participated from EFA ORETANA in Spain (www.efaoretana.org), **Adrian Santos Pradana** (Agricultural engineer and Technical in Forestry Management and Environmental Conservation) and **Juan Ignacio de Arce** (Graduated in Sciences and Post graduated in Science and Environmental Technology).

Due to the importance of renewable energy in the Spanish sector, the proportion of energy produced in wind farms is approximately 4% and the proportion of photovoltaic is 0.6% of the total of renewable energy generated in Spain that is actually 14,2% of the primary energy generated. On the other hand we are the second European country in production of these kinds of energies, more than Italy, Greece and Portugal for example, which they are the same Mediterranean climate than Spain.

In Spain, students can achieve the Diploma in Higher Technician in Renewable Energy Sources which the correspondence of the International Standard Classification of Education (SCED5b) is Level 5b.

ECOVET project is very interesting because members can know the differences and similarities in relation of the skills and competences about the Diploma of Higher Technician in Renewable Sources of each one of the countries.



Interview to Mrs. Firuta Tacea, expert from Romania



The dissemination seminar in Vienna gave the possibility of examining in depth project contents with **Mrs. Firuta Tacea**, Romanian expert in VET. These are the main issues posed:

Ecovet staff: What is your opinion regarding the usefulness of the EcoVET project for the evolution of labor mobility at the European level in the next period?

Firuta TACEA (RO): At this moment, the labour mobility at the European level is useful in order to ensure diverse opportunities for human resources, but also to support local specific developments in different occupational fields. Developing coherent documents/ standards like those from EcoVET we co-create premises useful for labor mobility, but this is not enough, because there are necessary to cover the teacher training too, so that to implement appropriately this training offer. The assessment approach and tools are also important to contribute in this process of developing the labour mobility.

Ecovet staff: How was it developed and how it is appropriate the Romanian professional profile chosen for the comparative analysis to be done in the project?

Firuta TACEA (RO): The Romanian professional profile chosen for the comparative analysis was developed within the EFS project named The revised curriculum in TVET of Romanian educational system (ID 58832). At the beginning, the

[...]

[... Interview to Mrs. Firuta Tacea, expert from Romania]

project provided a curriculum framework for TVET able to guide the development of each vocational training standard, including 7 general competencies derived from the key competencies recommended at the European level, and accorded with the entire national curriculum framework. The vocational training standard for Technician operator of renewable power systems was selected to be developed as a new qualification included in TVET, during a serious negotiation between educational experts in the field of curriculum development for TVET and experts coming from labour market.

Ecovet staff: Are the correspondence that have been identified between the Italian starting profile and the Romanian professional profile plausible and can they be applied in the context of study/ labour mobility?

Firuta TACEA (RO): In my opinion the correspondence identified between the Italian starting profile and the Romanian vocational profile are plausible in theoretical terms, taking in to consideration the status of the standards as regular documents during the initial vocational training. To evaluate the authentic correspondence in relation with study/ labour mobility on the labour market is necessary to have an implementation period and some results obtained from a monitoring process in the countries participating in

this project. This issue could be fructified in a new project with new objectives.

Ecovet staff: What are your impressions about the discussions that took place between experts gathered in the dissemination seminar which took place in Vienna on July 7, 2015?

Firuta TACEA (RO): My impressions about the discussions between experts gathered in the dissemination seminar that took place in Vienna on July 7, 2015 are focused on the evaluation issue. I consider the evaluation approach described within the agreed standard the key for the implementation stage and also for labour mobility. In accordance with the evaluation issue I suggest to develop an entire "section" within the agreed standard containing the descriptions of different performance level for each learning result prescribed (I also proposed to consider competencies themselves learning results). Among these descriptors the most important is the descriptor associated with the minimal performance level. I think this effort is necessary because it makes assessment to become unitary. Otherwise the learning results without assessments "etalons" remain only a declarative aspect based on general statements, generating confusions in different educational contexts and creating barriers for labour mobility.

The contribution of Slovenian expert

For the dissemination seminar in Vienna the Slovenian partner (CPI) invited **Mr. Cveto Fendre**. He is a lecturer at the Higher Professional School at the School Centre Velenje in the field of automatization and is a head of Energetic Engineering at School.

Mr. Cveto Fendre holds internal and external lectures, seminars, consultations for issues related to RUE and RES for different target groups. Is responsible for maintaining a laboratory for RUE and RES and organizes various competitions in the area of RUE, RES and ecology at school on the national and European level.

His main tasks in the field of Rational Use of Energy – RUE and Renewable Energy Sources – RES are elaboration of energy analyses; research elaborates facilities audits, implementation and participation in national and international projects in the area of RUE, RES and ECO, energy consulting and accounting, preparation of public tenders, participation in projects for contractual provision of energy savings. He cooperates with the Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia for Education and Sports as a consultant for Rational Use of Energy – RUE in public institutions.

School Centre Velenje has a "sustainable polygon" with all the renewable energy sources and a passive house where students can



be trained in different aspects of RUE and RES. The school has finished the energy renovation of all the buildings that comprise the school. They have also introduced a smart build principle at the school.

He sees a challenge of ECOVET project to promote cooperation between schools and their teachers and students in participating countries in ECOVET project to build up skills in RUE and RES through summer camps or forming a "campus for RES".

NEXT

The final phase of ECOVET project