

# 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 fourth and final 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 fifth transnational meetings and the final conference in Siena (Italy) the project has lived its final phase.

What are the most important results achieved by the consortium?  
Has the partnership achieved the goals purposed?

What are the challenges that Ecovet project leaves open?

The newsletter will also be available on the project website at [www.ecovetproject.eu](http://www.ecovetproject.eu)

## 5th Transnational Meeting - Siena (Italy)

From 28 to 29 September 2015 the Italian partners Camera di Commercio and Eurobic Toscana Sud hosted the fifth and final transnational meeting

From 28 to 29 September 2015 the Italian partners partner hosted the fifth and final transnational meeting. The meeting was the last chance to meet with the Consortium, to discuss and share within it Ecovet project results. This event represented the opportunity to come full circle, after

two years work during which each partner has been deeply engaged with the project and its products.

The first part of the meeting was focused on transversal Work Packages (project management, monitoring and evaluation and dissemination) in order to sum up each partner's tasks in view of submission of final report.

The meeting continued with a focus on the experimentation realized in each country in order to discuss about the results and the functionality of the tool created on purpose.

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The experimentation plan of the ECVET system of "ECOVET" project contains detailed information on:

- the training pathways chosen for testing and their structuring in units and Learning Outcomes;
- the expected results;
- the organization (timing, resources, targets, etc.);
- the subjects (learners, students, structures, pathways, etc...) involved and their related roles;
- support activities;
- monitoring activities.

The partners' experts/researchers were the direct users of the experimentation plan and final users of the model used are VET institutions and operators, potential learners/students, learners/students involved in the experimentation, GREEN ECONOMY sector operators and institutions. [...]

*[...5th Transnational Meeting - Siena (Italy)]*

The model intends to offer experimentation instruments that allow each partner to carry out an action in conformity with his/her own institutional mission and with the effective areas and typologies of training processes existing in his/her own context.

This set up also allows the Consortium to offer, through experimental evidence, indications to the National Agency that monitors the work of the partnership, about:

- the possibility of different subjects which act differently in the sector of vocational education and training working in agreement under the ECVET system;
- the same system can provide – even within the differentiated VET processes already existing and in use in the reference countries – homogeneous forms of application, that are able to involve all the levels of actuation present to date.

This working document has been sent to each partner for having the tools to design and implement a virtual experimentation, as foreseen by the project, which could be based on interviewing managers/responsible staff of training pathways chosen for testing in coherence with the training profiles selected, and their structuring consistent with the framework of LOs and skills/Units already agreed on by the partners.

The observed experimentation process has provided also for collecting reference to the system of credit points starting with the scores established for the whole profile/pathway, and trying to assign credit points to single macro-competences and for an explanation of the verification and evaluation methods.

The presentation of experimentation in each country was followed by a roundtable discussion about the results from a methodological point of view and about contents.

After the presentation of experimentation’s results, the meeting continued with the presentation of the Format of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) and the Format of Learning Agreement (LA) in their final version, already shared with partners by email.



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)**

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) is an agreement between competent institutions which sets the framework for credit transfer and accumulation.

It formalises the ECVET partnership by stating the mutual acceptance of the status and procedures of competent institutions involved. It also establishes partnerships’ procedures for cooperation.

It can be stated that MoU should have these characteristic features:

- accept each others’ status as competent institution;
- accept each others’ quality assurance, assessment, validation and recognition criteria and procedures;
- agree on the comparability of qualifications concerned for the purpose of credit transfer using EQF to establish the reference level.

## **LEARNING AGREEMENT**

The learning agreement this is an individualised document which sets out the conditions for a specific mobility period.

It specifies, for a particular learner, what learning outcomes s/he should achieve and how they will be assessed, validated and recognised.

It can be stated that a Learning Agreement should have these characteristic features:

- distinguish between “home” and “hosting” competent institution;
- specify the particular conditions for a period of mobility such as the identity of the learner, the duration of the mobility period, learning outcomes expected to be achieved and the associated ECVET points.

## The Final Conference

*ECoVET Partnership shared project results with stakeholders: local institutions, schools, VET providers, enterprises*

The final conference was held in Siena (Italy) on 29th September 2015. This event gave the possibility of sharing Ecovet project and its results with the most important stakeholders in the territory of Siena.

This was a very important occasion to illustrate project activities but also to open a discussion about Ecovet tool and, in general, about the legislative framework evolution. Starting from Ecovet project experience and results, the most important actors in Siena VET system had the opportunity to know and appreciate the results of the project (its tools, its methodology) and then transfer these issues in a broader and general context where Ecovet themes were discussed in general terms, with the contribution of local, regional and national experts.

The conferences started with an introduction by Mrs Barbara Signorini, session chair and Ecovet project manager, director of Eurobic Toscana Sud (coordinator partner) and with a welcome speech by Mrs Massimo Guasconi, president of the applicant Camera di Commercio di Siena. The first part of the conference was dedicated to the presentation of the project, with particular attention to its results (toolkit and methodology) illustrated by Mrs Monica Pierucci from CONFAO e Mrs Donatella D'Agostino from Eurobic, Italian experts who have followed and lived every project phase.



The interventions of Italian partners were followed by a contribution of each European countries in order to share their opinion about Ecovet project, its results and its applicability in their learning contest.

After a first session strictly dedicated to the project, Ecovet themes were enlarged and treated in more general terms in order to widen the field of discussion about the recognition of competences.



The conference focused first of all on regional level thanks to the contribution of Mr Gabriele Grondoni, Director of Regional Vocational Training at Regione Toscana who described the developments of validation and certification services in light of the legislative framework evolution.

This speech was followed by a round table discussion about Ecovet tool as a key to dialogue between systems training / education / work in the logic of mobility of person and recognition of competences in the labour market were experts and institutional figures had the possibility of debating on Ecovet and its perspectives.

The conference was well attended: the audience, made up of schools, VET institutions and vocational training centers, businesses, trainers and professionals shared carefully the issues, though sometimes rather difficult and too much technical.

Anyway the participants were very interested in deeping their knowledge about the recognition of competences and its huge potential both for students and for the labour market.



## Final Conference Agenda

**9.30** Registration, Welcome Coffee

**10.00** Opening session

*Session chair*

**Barbara Signorini**, Director of Eurobic Toscana Sud

*Welcome speech*

**Massimo Guasconi**, President of Camera di Commercio di Siena

**10.15** The ECOVET project: results and applicability in learning contexts. Methodological reflections. Contributions by European partners

**Donatella D'Agostino**, Eurobic Toscana Sud

**Monica Pierucci**, CONFAO – Consorzio Nazionale per la Formazione, l'Aggiornamento e l'Orientamento

**Silvia Seyer-Weiß**, IBW - Research & Development in VET

**Xenia Chronopoulou**, IDEC S.A. - Consulting, High Technology Applications, Training

**Ignacio de Arce**, CECE - Spanish Confederation of Education and Training Centres

**Margareta Ivan**, ODIP – Asociația Observator pentru Dezvoltarea Inventarilor Permanente

**Barbara KunčičKrapež**, CPI - Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training

**11.40** The Regional System of Competencies in Tuscany: developments of validation and certification services in light of the legislative framework evolution

**Gabriele Grondoni**, Director of Regional Vocational Training at Regione Toscana

**12.00** Round Table discussion: The ECVET device as a key to dialogue between systems training / education / work in the logic of mobility of person and recognition of competences in the labour market

*Moderator:*

**Donatella D'Agostino**, Eurobic Toscana Sud

*Participants:*

**Miriana Bucalossi**, Head of VET Policies and European Project Management Unit at Provincia di Siena

**Gabriele Grondoni**, Director of Regional Vocational Training Department at Regione Toscana

**Marta Santanicchia**, Researcher at ISFOL – "Methods and Tools for Competences and Transitions" Unit

**12.45** Interventions

**13.15** Conclusions

**Cristina Grieco**, Councillor of Education and Vocational Training at Regione Toscana



## Ecovet project: to sum up

Europe is calling us "to contribute through lifelong learning to the development of the European Union as an advanced knowledge-based society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, while ensuring good protection of the environment for future generations" (see EU2020).

Also the vocational training sector has to play its part: it is necessary to "get involved and work in order to ensure the development of national qualifications frameworks based on the relevant learning outcomes and their link to the European Qualifications Framework" (see ET 2020)

Why? Because we are called to enhance the employability and adaptability of people, mobility of learners, periods of learning abroad.

At present, the lack of shared methods and common institutions for the assessment, transfer, validation and recognition of learning outcomes, and the lack of flexibility of training solutions, delay the full integration of the labour market and a lifelong development of human resources capital, hindering the development of career paths and the maximization of competences and skills gained in different contexts. **We believe that each citizen's learning does not have the borders of a classroom and of our region, but it transcends them.**

South Tuscany has invested both in mobility as a lever of growth for Europe and its citizens, and in sustainable development policies. Siena, in particular, has been promoting sustainable development and green economy as essential levers of the future, as well as training initiatives aimed at strengthening skills and qualifications that allow to local businesses to support sustainable energy choices, use of renewable energy, respect of environment and safety.

For this reason, the **Chamber of Commerce of Siena, Eurobic Toscana Sud, Province of Siena, CNA Siena** (National Confederation of Craft Sector and Small and Medium Enterprises), **CONFAO** for Italy, **CECE** for Spain, **IBW** for Austria, **IDEC** for Greece, **ODIP** for Romania and **CPI** for Slovenia, using the methodology developed by CST in the previous Leonardo project NETWORK, have chosen the professional profile of **"Technician for the design and development of energy-saving systems"** with its technical and professional skills, giving it greater transparency and recognition in order to in order to make them really a valuable support to people and workers that move, work and study in Europe.

We have discussed starting from our national and regional frameworks (NQF and RFQ), through professional profiles actually existing in our labor markets, and we built a common matrix in order to create a dialogue among Knowledge, Skills, Competences, necessary to workers in

energy saving sector in Spain, Austria, Greece, Italy / Tuscany, Romania and Slovenia.

There are no qualifications that match entirely because the European labour market is still very fragmented and our cultures lead us to read it in very different ways through the filters of bureaucracies and VET systems that sometimes follow conflicting logics and patterns.

**ECVET Recommendation has proved once again successful**, providing interpretative lens based on competences, or on comparing the performance of the worker that we find in the professional profiles of each country.

**We have established a Memorandum of Understanding / MoU ECVET** related to the professional profile of "Technician for the design and development of energy-saving systems " based on a comparative matrix that defines a common model for ECVET learning Agreements and for the attribution of credit points.

This will allow to recognize, in the context of the involved countries / regions, the validity of training paths, the attribution and application of credit points methods, related to LO (Learning Outcomes) expressed in recognizable learning units, because commissioning in transparency and compared, quantified and easily transferred in various national and transnational VET contexts.

So people will have easily recognized and validated their learning process, whatever the environment in which it was achieved, in view of certification.

The results of the project have the ambition to provide a valid technical support for students and workers who wish to undertake really European qualification pathways and to train in an integrated system school / labour. Companies can participate actively in the training of learners in the broadest sense and in the assessment of knowledge and skills necessary for the proper conduct of a professional task. In a labor "green" market increasingly fluid and dynamic, companies will be able to recognize, include and enhance the competences in the curricula of European workers because they will be more easily recognizable and comparable.

### Special thanks

*A special thanks to all partner's staff for their contribution which made Ecovet project possible*