



EUNEC seminar

4-6 February 2007

Conseil de l' Education et de la Formation
Brussels

'The consultation on the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training' (ECVET)

EUNEC is the **European Network of Education Councils**. Its members advise the governments of their countries on education and training. EUNEC aims to discuss the findings and recommendations of all European projects in education and training, to determine standpoints and to formulate statements on these issues. EUNEC wants to disseminate these statements pro-actively towards the European Commission, relevant DGs and other actors at European level, and to promote action by EUNEC's members and participants at national level. EUNEC also has the objective that the councils should put internationalisation, mobility and Europeanization high on the national agenda, that they should recommend and support a European policy in education and training towards all relevant stakeholders: ministry of education (and employment), sectoral and branch organisations, providers and other actors.

In 2007 EUNEC will be **subsidized** as a **European Association acting at European level in the field of education** (Call for proposals DG EAC NO. 26/06). This means that we will be able to work out an ambitious annual plan for 2007. Therefore EUNEC will hold, following on the ECVET seminar, an extensive meeting of its **General Assembly** on Tuesday February the 6th. At this meeting, all EUNEC members will be consulted on the content of and on their contribution to the EUNEC annual plan for 2007.

Theme of the seminar

The project entitled '**European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training**' (ECVET) is designed to facilitate the transfer, accumulation and recognition of people's learning outcomes.

In Europe, many people undertake learning activities outside their country. The appeal of this kind of mobility is nonetheless limited by various factors, in particular the absence of provisions for **the transfer, validation and recognition of learning outcomes** acquired abroad. The same applies to the transition from one system of vocational education and training to another, or from an informal learning situation to a formal training context.

What is therefore needed is a system whereby people can follow through the process of qualification while moving from one context to another. ECVET thus aspires to be an **information exchange tool** to help individuals take full advantage of learning acquired, in particular as a result of transnational mobility, whether the context was formal, non-formal or informal.

Within the European area, the disparate nature of vocational education and training, the large number and diversity of those involved and the differences in the national or sectoral systems of qualification, constitute one of the major challenges facing ECVET.

On 31 October 2006 the European Commission launched a working document on this issue. The **consultation document** outlines the main characteristics of ECVET. It consists of thematic headings (supplemented for public consultation with annexes and a slide show accessible on the European Commission's website) forming a coherent whole. These documents serve as the basis for the consultation, which involves, in particular, the policy-makers, the social partners, the stakeholders and experts in qualifications systems and vocational education and training in Europe.

The **consultation** at European level concerns all the European countries involved in the Copenhagen process, the European social partners and professional organisations. It will take place **until March 2007** with the aim of inviting all the players and experts to give their opinion what the objectives, principles and technical characteristics of the ECVET system could or should be. The different countries and social partner organisations will organise their own consultations at national level. The European social partner organisations, sectoral services and industrial associations, European networks for research on education and training for young people and business networks; all interested parties are invited to comment on the plan. You can download the consultation document and the slideshow on: http://ec.europa.eu/education/ecvt/index_en.html

The **results** of the consultation will be analysed with a view to creating a Community instrument. They are scheduled to be discussed at a major European conference to be held in June 2007 under the German Presidency. This conference will close the consultation process and open the approval process.

EUNEC will try to formulate some **elements of reflection** which member councils can use to participate in the national consultations. With this document, EUNEC will also send this document directly to the Commission.

On the next page, you will find the **programme** of the seminar.

Hotel

Hôtel du Congrès
Rue du congrès 42-44
B - 1000 Bruxelles
Tel: 02 217 18 90 Fax: 02 217 18 97
www.hotelducongres.be

Conference place

Conseil de l'Éducation et de la Formation (CEF)
Boulevard Léopold II 44
1080 Bruxelles
Tel: 0032 2 413 26 21 Fax: 0032 2 413 27 11

Programme

Sunday 4 February 2007

Venue of the participants - check-in in the hotel

- 17.00 EUNEC Executive Committee**
(only for full members of EUNEC)
- 20.00 Gathering with all the participants at the reception of the hotel**
- 20.15 Conference diner**

Monday 5 February 2007

- 09.30 Opening of the conference**
Simone Barthel, EUNEC president
- 09.50 The ECVET consultation**
Presentation of the Commission Staff Working Document
Michel Aribaud, European Commission
- 10.40 Coffee break**
- 11.00 Proposals for the implementation of ECVET**
Didier Gélibert, ECVET Connexion study
- 11.45 What is at stake in this consultation?**
What are the important issues for EUNEC?
Roos Herpelinck, EUNEC secretariat
Debate
- 12.15 Lunch**
- 13.45 Subgroup working**

Short presentation of the consultation process in the different countries
Discussion on the consultation document and on the main issues and challenges of ECVET.
- 15.30 Coffee break**
- 16.00 Plenum**
Presentation of the results of the subgroup working
Debate
Collection of the issues for the 'EUNEC elements of reflection'
- 17.30 End of the seminar**

Free evening in Brussels

Tuesday 6 February 2007

EUNEC General Assembly

- 09.30** **Editing of the EUNEC elements of reflection on the ECVET consultation**
- 11.00** **Coffee break**
- 11.15** **Presentation of the EUNEC annual report 2006
Statutory obligations**
- 11.30** **Presentation of the EUNEC annual plan 2007**
with discussion on the possible contributions of the EUNEC members
- 13.00** **Lunch**