

O2 “ENACT program and learning resources”

O2A2 “ENACT ECVET Definition”

Operative Plan

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DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

The present document represents an operative integration to the overall O2 “Operative plan”, specifically aimed at supporting the O2 ECVET definition (activity O2A2).

GOAL AND METHODOLOGY

According to the O1 evidences and profiles, O2 will define:

- ENACT Energy auditor professional profile (activities and competences),
- Curriculum and training program (ECVET based) and develop the relative learning resources, also including the adaptation, enrichment and integration of the available resources of partners.

Consistently with the ENACT profile and program defined previously (O2A1), the ENACT ECVET definition intends to build the ECVET system per each ENACT program module and to the overall system in order to allow a national/EU competences recognition and validation and, professional development, employability and mobility. The purpose of the activity is to ensure that the ENACT course complies with the ECVET methodology.

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) is a European instrument to support lifelong learning, the mobility of European learners and the flexibility of learning pathways to achieve qualifications. It is a common methodological framework that facilitates the accumulation and transfer of credits for learning outcomes from one qualification system to another. ECVET is similar to ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) and adopts a similar methodology, as it is based on learning outcomes and the work (in terms of hours) required to achieve those learning outcomes.

Allocation of ECVET points to a qualification is based on using a convention according to which 60 points are allocated to the learning outcomes expected to be achieved in a year of formal full time VET. However, one year of formal full time VET ranges from 800 to 1200 hours depending on the countries.

Therefore, within the framework of ENACT it is necessary to define a reference in terms of hours per year that can serve a basis for the allocating points to the ENACT course.

On the other hand, the ECVET methodology requires a description of a qualification in terms of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) organised in units. This format has already been adopted within O2 for the definition of the ENACT course.

Nevertheless, after all modules and respective units are finalised in terms of learning materials and contents, a description must be prepared for each learning unit, clearly describing the knowledge, skills and competences addressed by the unit, as well as a concise summary of the unit and methodology.

For further information about ECVET please see:

- Recommendation of the European Parliament and Council on the establishment of a European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32009H0708%2802%29>

- Information about the implementation of ECVET provided by CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/ecvet-european-credit-system-vocational-education-and-training>

- European ECVET Network (project about the implementation of ECVET)

<http://www.ecvet-team.eu/en>

ACTIVITIES

In order to apply the ECVET methodology to the ENACT course, several previous aspects must be completed and finalised in terms of activities, namely:

- The ENACT course structure (modules and learning units);
- Each unit's learning contents.

The ENACT ECVET definition will be composed of the following activities:

1) Adaptation of the modular learning contents to ECVET

The ENACT course structure defined within O2-A1 will be adapted to the ECVET methodology through the allocation of ECVET points to all ENACT course modules. This will take into consideration the fact that the allocation of ECVET points is based on the convention according to which 60 points are allocated to the learning outcomes expected to be achieved in a year of formal full time VET.

Nevertheless, a year of formal full time VET can range from 800 to 1200 hours depending on the country, which requires that within the framework of ENACT, we define a number of hours per year that will serve a basis to allocate points to the ENACT course.

Considering the number of hours of the ENACT course, the proposed reference is 800 hours per year. This would result in the allocation of a total of 6 ECVET points to the ENACT course (80 hours). The definition of the proposed reference was carried out by INCOMA in collaboration with AISFOR.

On the other hand, it is also necessary to allocate the defined 6 ECVET points to all the ENACT course modules. This will be done in ponderation scheme that will take into consideration the following aspects:

- 1) Duration of the module (number of hours);
- 2) Methodology used for the assessment (online, exercises, project work);
- 3) Level of difficulty.

INCOMA will prepare and present a draft version of the ECVET point allocation per module. This draft version will be reviewed by technical partners, in order to ensure its adequacy to the both the duration and difficulty level of learning contents.

2) Definition of each module's learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) and exit level requirements

Compliant with the ECVET methodology, the ENACT course should include a unit description that clearly states the learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) that students are expected to acquire when completing a specific learning unit. This description should also contain a concise summary of the unit and methodology applicable.

INCOMA has prepared a unit description template (annexed to this document) that will be applied to all learning units included in the ENACT course.

This unit description will include: the identification of the ENACT course module and unit, the number of ECVET points considered, a concise description of the unit contents, its didactic approach (teaching method(s) and assessment) and learning materials used, as well as the definition of the learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences that students are expected to acquire).

Considering the specificity of the course, technical partners will provide support by defining the learning outcomes for each unit. This will be based on the ENACT profile defined and also on the ENACT course structure and learning materials defined for each unit.

INCOMA will coordinate partners' efforts and ensure that the unit descriptions created (and related learning outcomes) are adequate to the learning materials and contents.

On the other hand, it is also important to define the ENACT course exit level requirements, in order to assess the possibility of validating students' previous knowledge and experience.

Whereas it is important to assess exit level competences, it is equally important the assessment of entry level competences of students, since this will allow a comparison between both of them and measure students' knowledge acquisition and contribute to validate a part of the tuition.

Indeed, according to the ECVET rationale, the definition of the entry level competences encompasses not only previous knowledge but also professional experience of students. Therefore, it is relevant and necessary to define an assessment strategy based according to these considerations.

3) Certification system

On a first stage, the certification system applicable to the ENACT course will include a certificate of attendance including the hours and contents of the training. However, it is expected that after the national pilot test in Italy it will be possible to provide students with a certificate containing the number of ECVET points and the learning outcomes attained.

Additionally, in order to properly adapt the ENACT course to the ECVET methodology, including the strategy to facilitate transnational mobility of learners, project partners will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is an agreement between competent institutions that sets the framework for credit transfer.

It formalises the ECVET partnership by stating the mutual acceptance of the status and procedures of competent institutions involved¹. Its content will be similar to the training plan and methodologies applicable to the ENACT course.

The MoU will facilitate the validation/recognition of ECVET points awarded through the completion of mobility periods among partners. On the other hand, it might allow the recognition of the ENACT course contents by competent national institutions.

Finally, another requirement will be the signature of a learning agreement, a document that defines the nature of the training period.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – proposed ENACT Unit Description template

¹ We are supposing partners are “competent institutions” to set the credit transfer system or validate the ECVET points. Since this is a pilot test of a prototype, we do have to do so. Afterwards, we will have to identify the local organizations that are able to be competent for that.

ANNEX 1 – proposed ENACT Unit Description template

ENACT COURSE NAME

Module: (name and number)

Unit: (name and number)

Duration (hours):

ECVET points:

Description:

A short paragraph about the unit contents

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

Skills:

Competences:

Didactic Approach:

Teaching method(s) and assessment

Learning Materials:

Description of the learning materials