



ECVET Implementation in Malta and at MCAST

Malta is considered one of the pioneers in the implementation of ECVET. Malta began testing ECVET in 2011, starting from the formal education sector in liaison with industry. ECVET did not stop there, in fact, ongoing developments reveal the recent extension of the scope of ECVET to the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Key developments in the area of ECVET implementation include:

- The development of the Maltese Qualifications Framework (MQF)
- The referencing of MQF to the EQF
- The implementation of ECVET in all study programmes at EQF levels 1-4
- The widespread use of ECVET documents such as Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Learning Agreement(LA), Europass templates such as Diploma Supplement and Learning Transcript by educational institutions.

For a quick overview on the recent development on ECVET implementation you may refer to the ECVET Magazine (30) http://www.ecvet-secretariat.eu/en/system/files/magazines/en/ecvet_mag_30.pdf

❖ When did MCAST pilot the ECVET system?

The Malta College of Arts and Science (MCAST) (<http://www.mcast.edu.mt/>) first piloted the ECVET system on EQF Level 1 to Level 4 programmes through ESF projects between 2011 and 2013. This system was then adopted across all programmes three



years ago, when home-grown courses were introduced. Now, all MCAST study programmes designed at levels 1-4 use ECVET, while programmes at level 5, and above, use ECTS.

❖ How does MCAST implement ECVET?

To implement ECVET, MCAST conducts functional mapping with industry as well as with vocational area experts to establish competences related to the area of study. Competences are also based on Occupational Standards where available. The competences are then grouped into learning outcomes in order to develop units - which form the basic structure of all programmes. Both programmes of study as well as their respective units, are written in terms of learning outcomes. These learning outcomes are then assessed through assessment criteria.

- To Review MCAST Course Outlines visit- <http://www.mcast.edu.mt/inst/1>

❖ How does MCAST calculate Credits (ECVET/ ECTS)?

MCAST uses 1 ECVET or ECTS to indicate that 25 hours of total learning is required. The total learning consists of guided hours in class/workshops/laboratories and self-study hours outside the college. The self-study hours include the hours dedicated to assessment and preparation for assessment.



❖ How does MCAST benefit from the introduction of ECVET in its programmes?

One of the benefits of ECVET is transparency. At the end of the qualification MCAST learners are provided with a transcript including the total number of credits together with the learning outcomes of the qualification, hence indicating the workload. This transcript is very useful since employers get a better understanding of the depth and breadth of the area studied by the learner. Learners who do not manage to successfully complete the qualification are still provided with a transcript indicating which units have been completed. Hence, any achievement made by the learner is recorded, and evidenced for prospective employers. This is very important to enhance lifelong learning and encourage learners to continue their studies, since every achievement is acknowledged.

Since the introduction of ECVET, MCAST learners were able to complete part of their qualification in another European institution, through geographical mobility. On the other hand, learners from European institutions were able to join MCAST for some of the units. This initiative is enabling learners to undertake enriching experiences abroad, where cultures and traditions are exchanged and the European identity enhanced.

Mobility experiences are possible through partnerships made with European education institutions making use of the ECVET framework. A Memorandum of Understanding, which is part of the eight key features of ECVET, facilitates such



partnerships and clarifies procedures to be adopted for cooperation. Learners involved in these mobility experiences are provided with a Learning Agreement setting out clearly the conditions during the duration of the mobility.

The introduction of ECVET at MCAST has been an important step where both learners and the institution has benefited from this framework. MCAST looks forward to expand its network of European education institutions using ECVET for more exciting collaborative opportunities in the future.

Website - <http://www.mcast.edu.mt/inst/1>

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