ECVET: After Mobility

This is the third of three factsheets which together explain what needs to be in place at the three core stages of mobility (Before, During and After) and which will be of use to organisations planning to implement one or more ECVET principles within a programme of geographical mobility.

Validating and recognizing learning achievement:

- Validation and recognition are the final steps in the mobility process, taking place only when a learner returns to the home institution and country;

- Validation requires that staff in the home institution reflect on assessment processes and results, ensuring that evidence of learning assessment and achievement is sufficient to meeting internal quality assurance processes at the home institutions and comparing targeted learning outcomes - as detailed in the Learning Agreement - to learning which has actually been achieved, assessed and evidenced. In the UK, validation is usually referred to as verification.

- Recognition is the formal process of attesting officially-achieved learning outcomes through the award of credit, units or qualifications.

Evaluating programme delivery:

- At the end of each cycle of mobility, it can be useful to reflect on programme delivery, confirming successes and challenges (before, during and after mobility) as well as areas for improvement - this is also in line with the EQAVET quality cycle (planning, implementation, evaluation, review);

- Programme evaluation should seek input from all involved actors, including: learners, employers, assessors and those responsible for programme design, development and delivery in the home and host institutions;

- In some cases, evaluation can lead to a review of mobility processes and/or international partners, ensuring future mobility cycles are fit-for-purpose;

- It is important to ensure that changes to the programme are also reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Points to note

Adequate preparation and a clear attribution of roles, tasks and responsibilities is important; without this validation and recognition might not be possible.

It is important to agree, in advance, on acceptable forms of assessment, documentation and evidence.

For UK qualifications, validation (verification) forms a part of the standard quality assurance processes required by the awarding body or organisation.

In cases where the documentation is not sufficient, or where there is insufficient evidence of learning achievement, there may be a need for the learner to repeat some learning activities.