ECVET: Guidance for AOs

This factsheet explains what Awarding Organisations (AOs) need to know when a Recognised Centre is planning to implement one or more ECVET Principles in an International Mobility Programme.

WHAT IS ECVET?

 The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training, known as ECVET, is an important European initiative which targets improved understanding of programmes, qualifications and learning recognition among those working to deliver international mobility.

 ECVET works on the basis of a set of principles that can be applied flexibly in different countries and educational contexts, relying heavily on the use of Units and Learning Outcomes.

 ECVET counts on a series of practical tools and templates, such as Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and Learning Agreements (LA).

 ECVET aims to facilitate the validation and recognition of learning acquired, assessed and/or evidenced in another country.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR AOs WORKING WITH ECVET:

 AOs remain accountable for the awards they make, even where learning takes place / evidence is generated outside the UK.

 It is the responsibility of the relevant AO to ensure that assessments which are to be used towards achievement of a UK qualification meet the needs and requirements of the AO.

 Recognised centres sending learners or students abroad (sending institutions) should immediately notify the AO of any expected variations in the assessment process, in case of consequences to the validation and recognition outcome.

 Recognised centres that wish to assess learning acquired, assessed and/or evidenced in another country should actively involve the AO in the planning process, where possible prior to agreement on/signature of the Memorandum of Understanding.

See also “What is ECVET” and “Key Components of ECVET”.

POINTS TO NOTE

It is ultimately the AO which determines the assessment strategy, the requirements for assessors and the context within which assessment takes place.

In many cases of international mobility, an assessor from the UK will accompany learners, undertaking assessments in the same way that they would do in the UK.

When working with new international mobility programmes, or partners, it can be useful to check and confirm the skills acquired, assessed and/or evidenced abroad, using a small test cohort of learners or students.

Where there is any tension or discord between the security of an award and a period international mobility, an AO must prioritise the security of the award.