

# Europe-wide mobility in painting and varnishing trade and floristry

The development of a European labour market necessarily requires transparency of professional skills acquired abroad. ECVET, the European credit system for vocational education and training, wants to create such transparency and thus facilitate the cross-border mobility of apprentices. Learning outcomes achieved abroad shall be integrated into the training. The LEONARDO DA VINCI transfer of innovation project ECVET Ma-Flo offers solutions for the creative professions of painting and varnishing trade and floristry. It exploits best practice in order to make the results of a learning process (learning outcomes) abroad visible, regardless of the respective vocational training system. At the same time, it establishes instruments and structures that facilitate the management of stays abroad for students. ECVET Ma-Flo makes the creative professions ready for the European labour market.

## Project goal: facilitate mobility in the creative professions

Internships abroad usually serve the goal of acquiring personal, social and intercultural skills. The potential of gaining professional expertise is largely unused, due to the missing comparability of professional qualifications in the different European systems. Differences can be

tremendous: In some countries university graduates perform activities that are run by skilled workers in others. At the same time certain professions do not exist in all states.

However, transparency with regard to the competences acquired abroad is a necessary requirement for increased mobility in vocational education and training. Therefore ECVET Ma-Flo has the aim to exploit the results and experiences of the European partners in the implementation of ECVET for painting and varnishing trade and floristry, creating the necessary transparency in these two sectors.

## Methodology: focus on the real world of work

To achieve this objective, the work of ECVET Ma-Flo was based on the proven methodology of the European pilot project CREDCHEM (Development and testing of a credit system to enhance mobility in the chemical sector, 2009–2012).

The learning outcomes (described as knowledge, skills and competencies and bundled to units) were derived from typ-

ical work tasks. Therefore the resulting units of learning outcomes relate to the world of work and not to the professional profiles existing in the partner countries. Results of learning processes – regardless of the system in which they took place – are made visible and comparable. The sum of the learning outcomes or units can be almost identical with a complete profession in one country, while individual units in other countries may represent only a part of a national job description or an additional qualification.

ECVET Ma-Flo units of learning outcomes, as the next step, become the subject of mobility measures. They are implemented on the basis of exemplary work tasks (learning scenarios or customer orders). The knowledge, skills and competencies, abstractly described in the units, are included in these tasks.

As a result of the project, apart from units of learning outcomes for the two qualifications, common implementation standards and a cooperation structure have been developed, allowing other interested parties to join the network without any problems in the future.

## Integrating the target groups

The consortium included vocational training institutions and professional associations, guaranteeing the project results to meet pedagogical requirements as well as those of the world of work. Thus from the outset ECVET Ma-Flo is characterised by the integration of the target groups into the project. This happened on two levels: On the one

### Einheiten von Lernergebnissen – Maler & Lackierer Units of learning outcomes – painters & varnishers

- 1 Vorbereitung  
Preparation
- 2 Untergrundbehandlung  
Substrate preparation
- 3 Beschichtungsaufbau  
Coating system
- 4 Tapezierarbeiten  
Wallpapering
- 5 Dekorative Gestaltungen  
Decorative techniques
- 6 Schutz- u. Spezialbeschichtungen  
Protective and special coatings