



ecvet

European Credit system for
Vocational Education & Training



ECVET Policy Update

9 October 2017, Bratislava

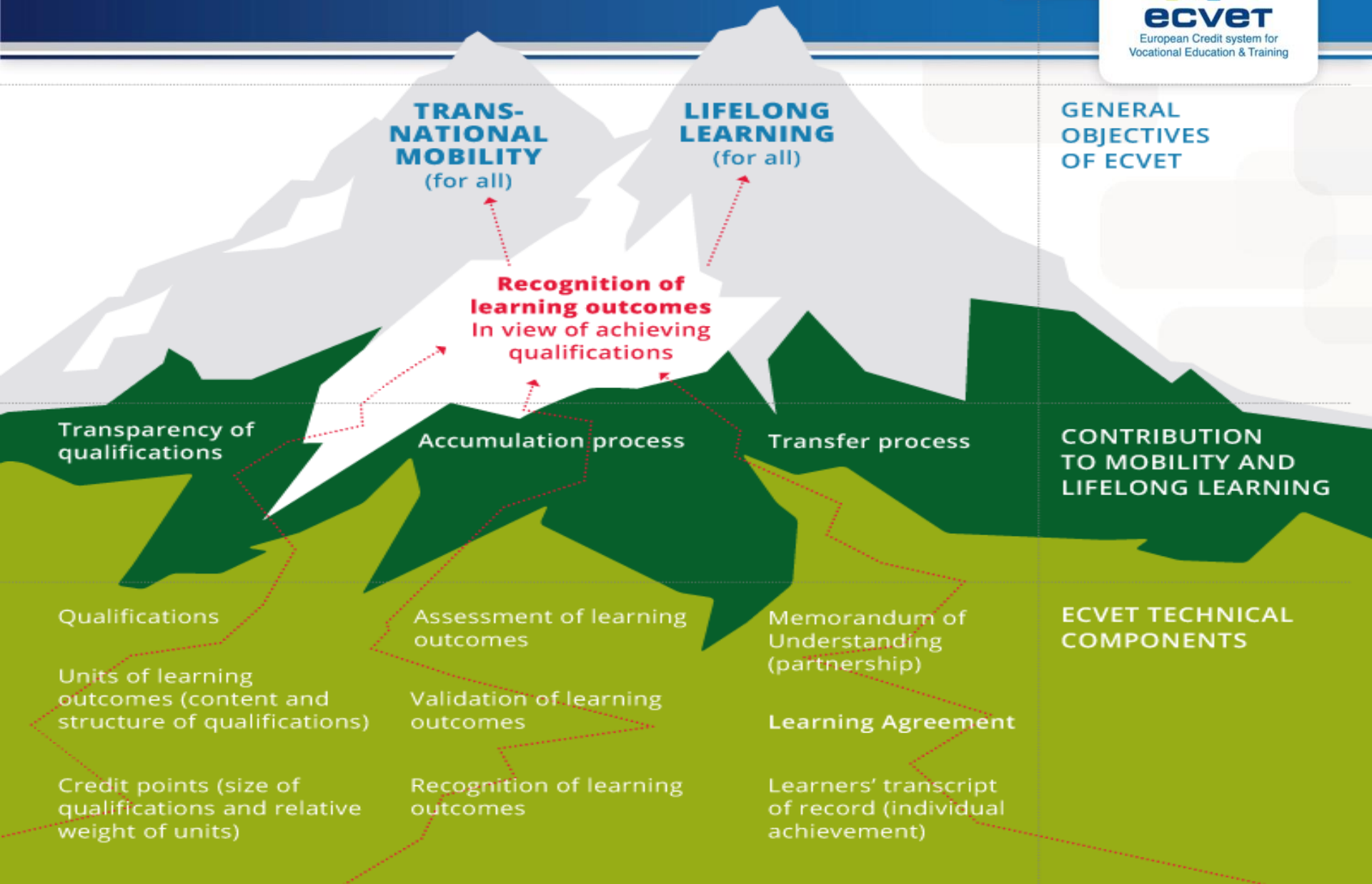
What is ECVET?



- ✦ ECVET is the European Credit System for VET.
- ✦ ECVET is a framework for the **transfer, recognition and accumulation** of acquired and assessed **learning outcomes** with a view to achieving a qualification.



Twin Peaks of ECVET



In summary:



ECVET can be used, alongside other recognition and transparency tools, instruments and frameworks, to facilitate:

- the *recognition of learning* acquired in non-formal and informal contexts ✓
- the *accreditation of prior learning* acquired in formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts ✓
- the *transfer, recognition and accumulation of learning outcomes* acquired (and assessed) during a period of geographical mobility ✓

Brief History of ECVET



2002

The Copenhagen Declaration and Process spoke of *improving transparency and recognising competences and qualifications*, including non-formal and informal learning (NFIL)

2009

Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council on *Establishment of a European Credit System for VET (ECVET)*

2009-2013

ECVET testing and development, countries creating the necessary conditions for ECVET implementation

Brief History of ECVET



2014

Evaluation and review of ECVET implementation, stating progress but also identifies a few issues especially with using ECVET in lifelong learning

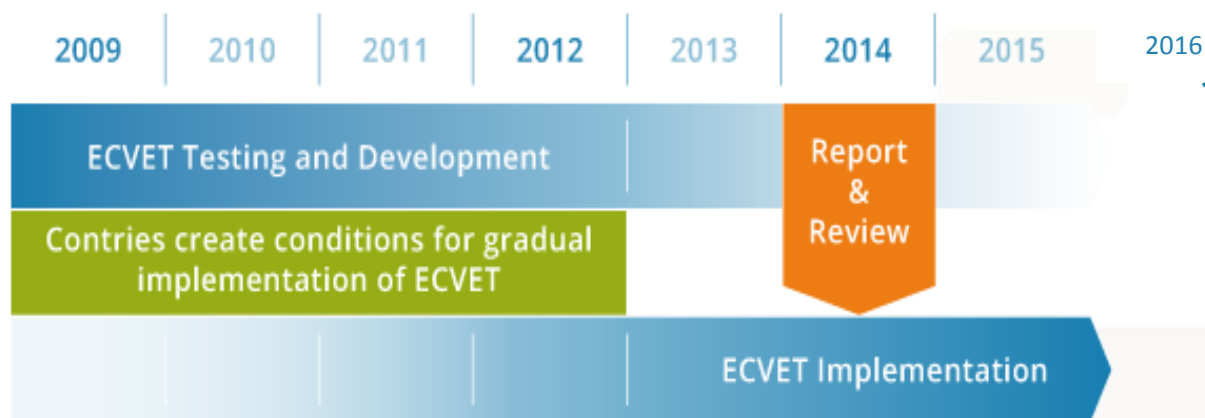
2013-today

Implementation on national level

2016

New Skills Agenda for Europe: Confirms the necessity of flexible VET pathways and the importance of the recognition and visibility of learning and skills.

ECVET roadmap



New Skills Agenda for Europe confirms importance of the recognition and visibility of learning and skills.

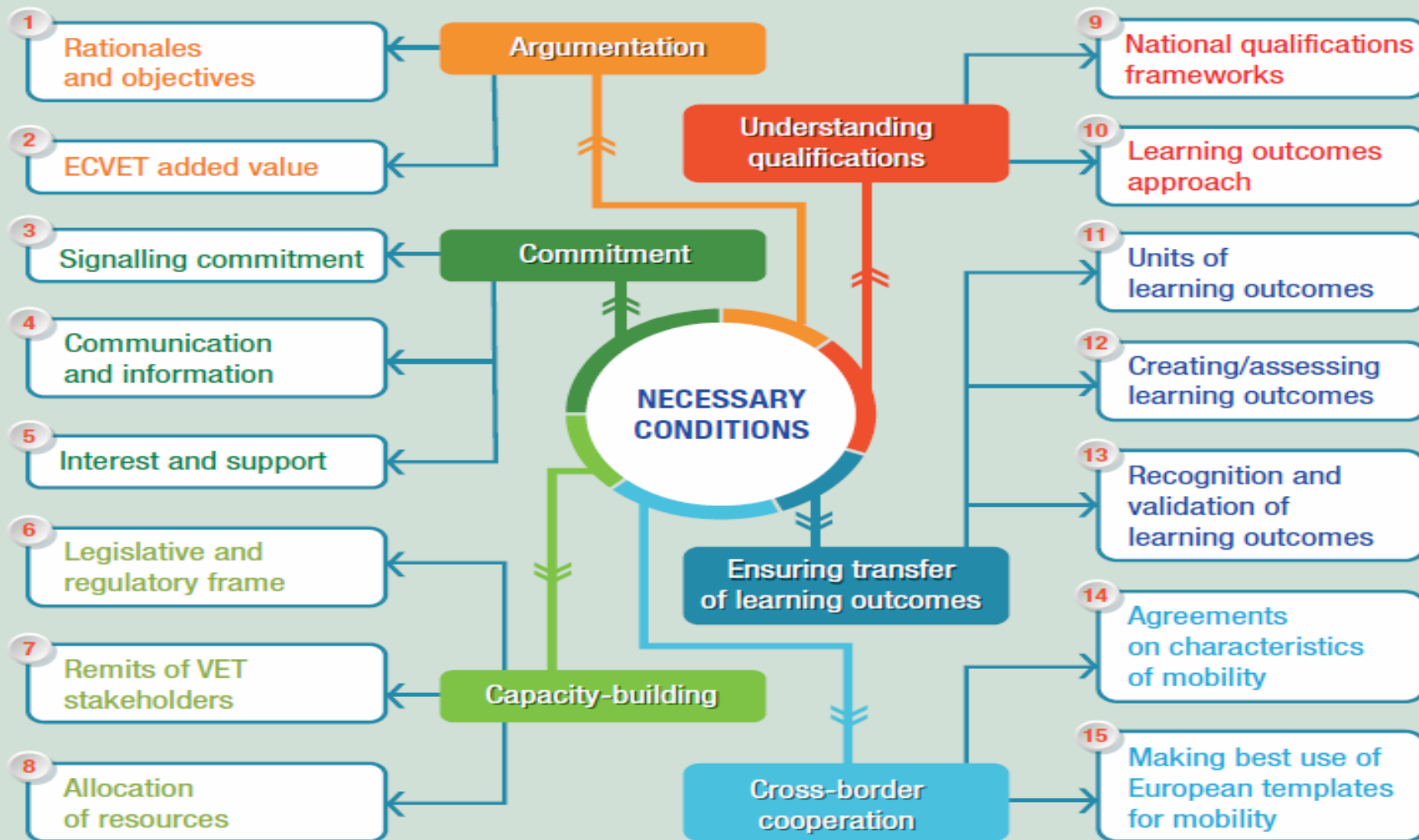
Necessary Conditions:



From the outset, the ECVET Recommendation invited Member States to *create the necessary conditions and adopt measures* so that *in accordance with national legislation and practice and on the basis of trials and testing*”, it would be possible for ECVET to be *gradually applied to VET qualifications at all levels*.

In 2012, Cedefop referred to 15 **necessary conditions** *[overleaf]* under 6 broader headings, confirming these as both *technical and political* in nature and citing a need to develop a *sense of ownership* among stakeholders.

Necessary Conditions:



Where is ECVET Used?



In 2015, in monitoring the use of ECVET in different European countries, it was concluded that there were three main groups of countries, namely:

- **Group 1:** Countries that have credit systems compatible with ECVET
- **Group 2:** Countries that are working towards ECVET-compatible systems [2a] or that are currently testing one or more ECVET technical components [2b]
- **Group 3:** Countries without credit systems and/or with no evidence of systems-level ECVET initiatives

Where is ECVET Used?



Group 1

Belgium-French Community
Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland,
Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta,
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,
UK-England, UK-Northern Ireland,
UK-Scotland, UK-Wales

Note 1: In some countries, there is only a partial focus on ECVET (i.e. mobility only)

Note 2: even in Group 3, pockets of interesting practice exist, yet with limited systems-level activity (at the time of reporting)

Group 2a

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus,
Czech Republic

Group 2b

Austria, Denmark, Italy, Latvia,
Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland,
Portugal, Norway, Romania

Group 3

Belgium-Flemish Community,
Germany, Greece, Hungary,
Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Switzerland

Source: ECVET in
Europe Monitoring
Report (Cedefop, 2015)

Range: EU-EEA-EFTA Countries



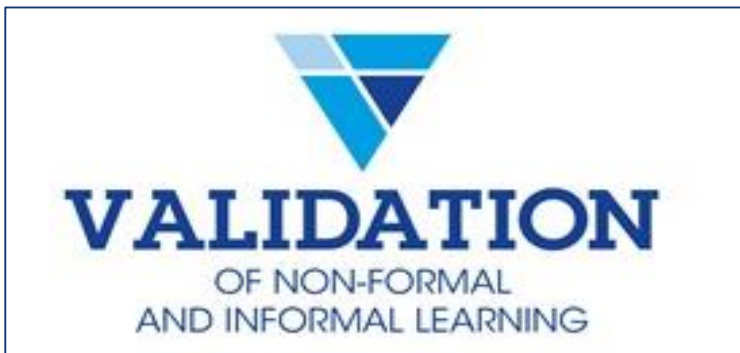
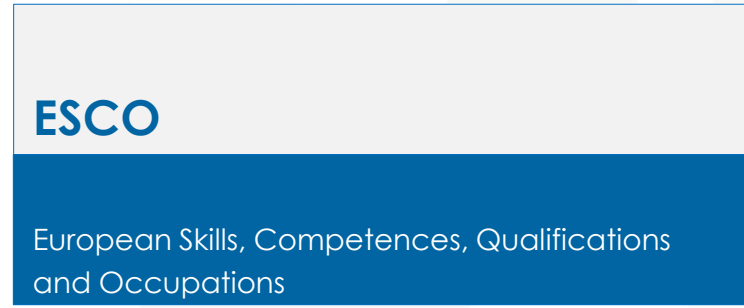
ECVET is part of a larger family of instruments which were launched as part of the Education and Training 2020 strategic framework.



In 2009, ET 2020 set four common EU objectives to address challenges in education and training systems by 2020:

- Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
- Promoting equity, social cohesion, and active citizenship
- Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training

Related Tools & Frameworks:



Recent developments



- Long-duration mobility activity ‘ErasmusPRO’ included in Erasmus + as of 2018 (mobility in apprenticeships)
- Upskilling Pathways Recommendation (addressing low-skilled adults)



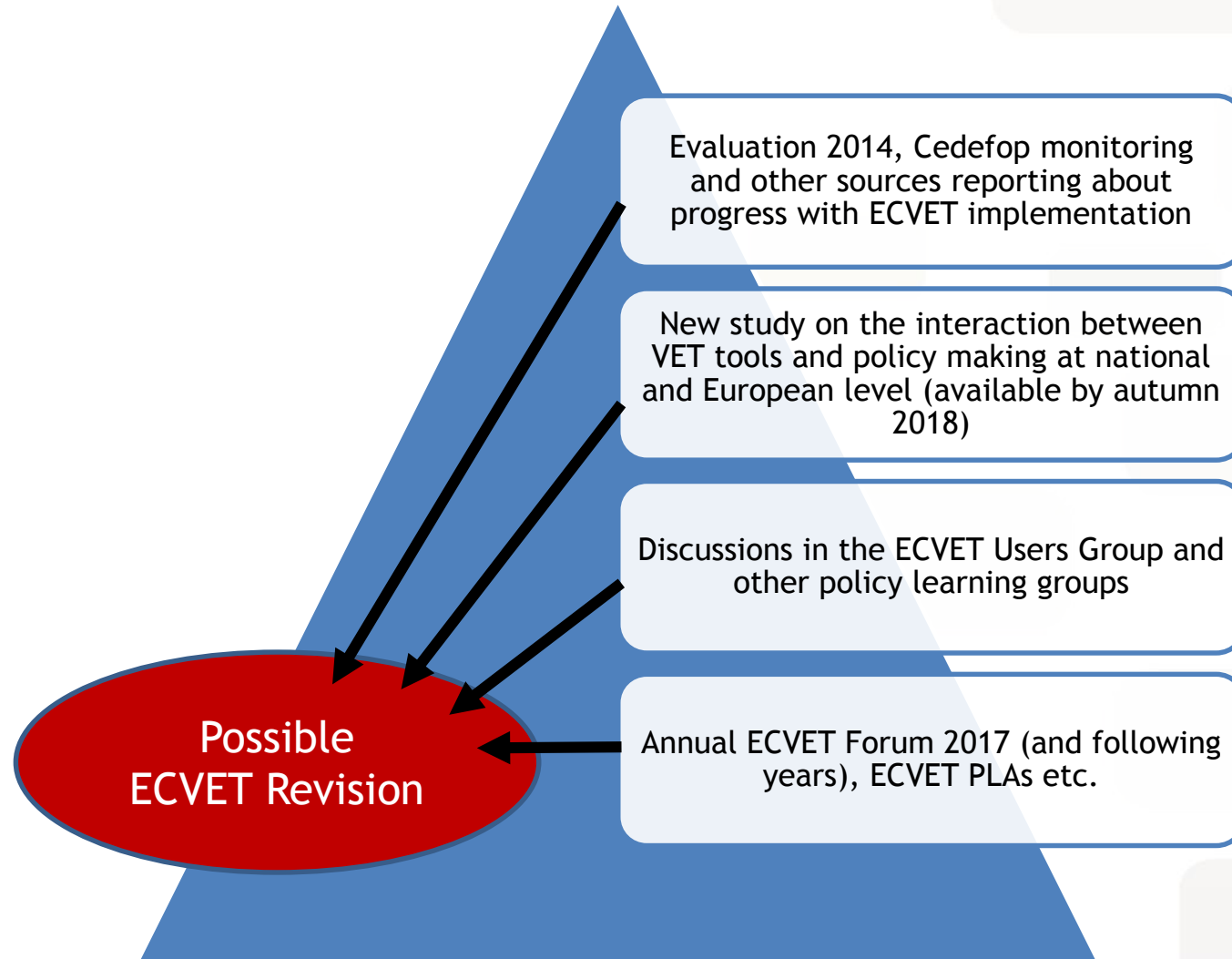
- 2020 is a milestone with regard to ET2020
 - It is also the end of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020
- ➔ The years 2018/2019 will be dedicated to reviewing the effectiveness of policies related to the ET 2020 Strategy and discussing revisions of instruments, where needed

Revision of the lifelong learning and mobility tools



- EQF revision adapted in 2017
- Europass revision still under debate
- EQAVET and ECVET revision: early stages of debate

Sources feeding into the debate about a revision of ECVET





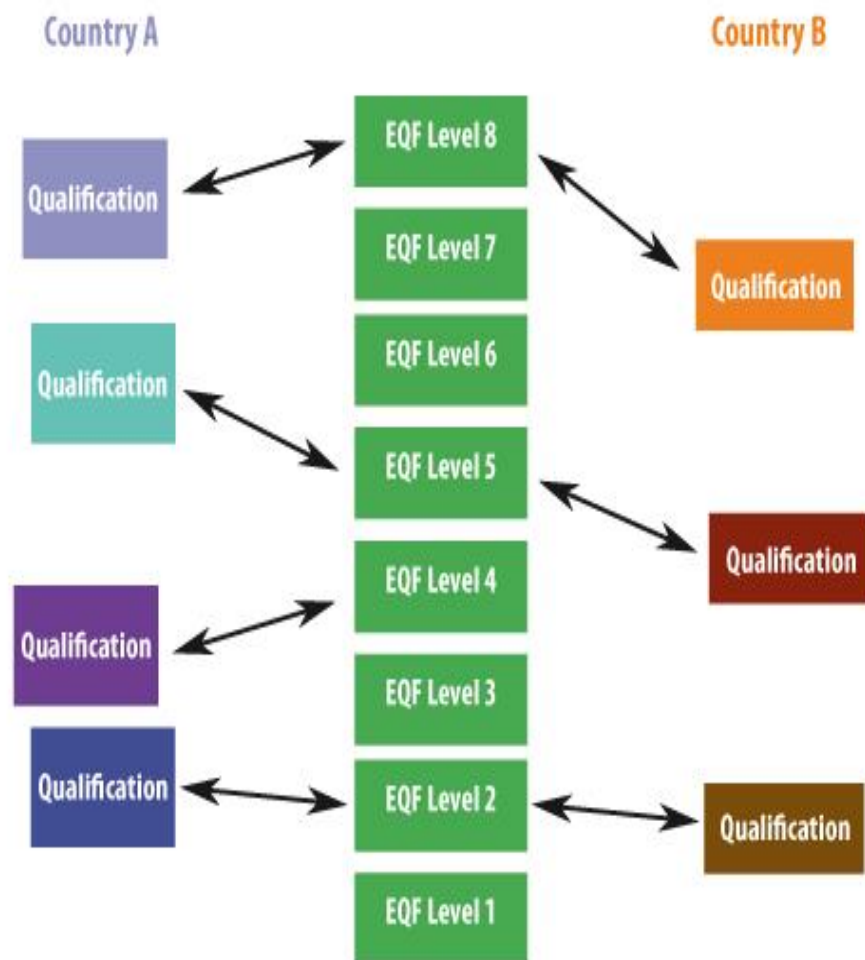
- No changes for 2018-2019
- There is still strong policy support for flexible learning pathways and validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired in different learning contexts
- Any review of policies will be based on Member States needs and experiences



Thank you for your attention
Any questions?



European Qualifications Framework



The **European Qualifications Framework, or EQF**, acts as a translation device to allow qualifications (and levels of qualifications) to be compared across countries.

European Quality Assurance in VET, or EQAVET, brings together Member States, the European Commission and Social Partners to develop and improve quality assurance in VET.

EQAVET relies on the **European Quality Assurance Reference Framework** which centres on a **four-step quality circle** and which actively promotes the use of quality management tools in VET.



The most well known of the Europass tools is the **Europass CV**: a common European CV template.

Beyond this, there is the **Europass Skills Passport**, comprising four distinct elements:

- **Europass Language Passport**: a self-assessment tool for language skills and qualifications;
- **Europass Mobility**: a tool for recording skills acquired during transnational mobility;
- **Certificate Supplement**: a description of the skills acquired by holders of VET certificates;
- **Diploma Supplement**: a description of the skills acquired by holders of HE degrees.



European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations, or ESCO, is a central European platform that uses **standard terminology**, in multiple EU languages, to describe:



ESCO aims to make it easier to recruit (employers) and to enter employment (jobseekers) by providing a **common language** for those developing programmes and qualifications.