

Introduction

This is a warm-up exercise to use when first starting to work with ECVET in your organisation or institution. It can also be used by those considering adapting an existing mobility partnership to one based on ECVET (for example, during a preparatory meeting). It allows for all opinions to be shared, and heard, but also pushes participants to question their own beliefs and to see things from somebody else's point-of-view.

Advance Preparation

Participants should receive some basic information on ECVET in advance, either as reading material or, preferably, in the form of a short face-to-face introduction or lecture. In-depth knowledge of ECVET is not required.

Step 1-Individual Brainstorming (10 minutes)

In Step 1, all participants receive a maximum of 5 green papers (post-it notes, or similar) and 5 red papers (post-it notes, or similar). Participants are asked to note down both the POSITIVE ASPECTS OF ECVET confirming the perceived added-value (green papers are used for this) and the NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF ECVET confirming possible obstacles to, or negative effects resulting from, ECVET implementation (red papers are used for this). Participants should ensure that only one thought or aspect is noted on each sheet allowing contributions to be subsequently sorted into groups. At this stage, participants should work alone, with no discussion allowed or encouraged.

Step 2-Sharing in Pairs (15 minutes)

In Step 2, participants should come together in pairs (where there is an odd number of participants, a single group of 3 participants is allowed) to share and discuss their positive and negative perceptions of ECVET. Each pair (or group) should then, through discussion and compromise, agree on a maximum of 5 green papers and 5 red papers that together represent their combined thoughts.

Step 3-Sharing with Another Pair (15 minutes)

In Step 3, each pair of participants should come together with another pair, forming a slightly larger participant group (where odd numbers of pairs, or participants, exist, a slightly larger group can be formed). In these larger groups, previously-grouped pairs should present their positive and negative perceptions to the other pair with the goal of, once again, reaching a consensus on a maximum of 5 green papers and 5 red papers that, together, represent their combined thoughts.

Step 4-Sharing with Everyone (20-30 minutes)

In Step 4, each group of participants is asked to share their outcomes with everyone else, taking turns until all opinions and inputs have been presented. As thoughts and perceptions on ECVET are presented they should be displayed to all participants (for example, use sticky tape to place them on the wall or onto separate flipcharts). The overall number of participants can dictate how long this exercise takes, but each small group (double-pair) should be given only 2-3 minutes for their feedback. Remaining participants should simply listen to the input from different groups, requesting clarification where needed, with discussion, criticism, or questions not encouraged or allowed at this stage.

Step 5-Discussion and Analysis (30-60 minutes)

In Step 5, when all groups have presented, and all results have positioned for all to see, different thoughts and perceptions can be grouped together by the leader of the session. This should be done interactively, involving the whole group, and should provoke discussion and analysis of the differing (positive and negative) inputs. Participants can also propose actions or solutions (for example, ways of dealing with negative perceptions, ways of promoting or enhancing positive perceptions), working together as a group. At the end of final session (step), newly-organised or newly-grouped results can either be photographed or noted down so that the results of the session can be sent to all participants to promote ongoing discussion.

Goal:	To consider the added-value of, or possible obstacles to, implementing ECVET in your institution or organisation.
Target Group:	Teachers, trainers and those responsible for planning education, training and mobility.
Time Required:	1-2 hours
Materials Needed:	Post-it notes (red), Post-it notes (green), sticky tape and flip-chart