

Consultation with Key European Stakeholders on the Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide

31 January 2014



Background information

The ECTS Users' Guide provides guidelines for implementation of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) - a tool that helps design, describe, and deliver programmes and award higher education qualifications. It is being revised to ensure that it serves the needs of a broad range of stakeholders, and to give practical guidance to higher education institutions to improve the design, application and assessment of learning outcomes, as asked by Ministers in Bucharest in 2012.

The ad-hoc Working Group on the revision of the ECTS Users' Guide was set up to achieve this task. The European Commission is facilitating the work of the group, which is composed of representatives from 14 countries: AM, BE-nl, DE, FR, HU, IT, LT, MD, NL, NO, SE, UA and UK as well as from 4 organisations: ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and share ideas related to the draft revised ECTS Users' Guide.

Specific aims of the meeting are the following:

- Share viewpoints on the draft Guide, ensuring that it fully reflects the state of on-going work since its previous revision in 2009 on student-centred learning, learning outcomes and curriculum design, lifelong learning, mobility and recognition, quality assurance, etc.
- Give feedback on the draft Guide, ensuring that it serves the needs of its stakeholders.
- Provide recommendations to the Commission on points to consider, so to ensure a smooth and effective implementation of the Guide.
- **You will receive a draft version of the revised ECTS Users' Guide in advance of the meeting (beginning of January). Please read it carefully before the meeting.**

Draft Programme

9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome, introduction and purpose of the meeting
10:00 – 11:15	Parallel sessions 1. ECTS for Accumulation 2. ECTS for Transfer
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:30	Feedback from parallel sessions
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:45	Parallel sessions 1. ECTS for Accumulation 2. ECTS for Transfer
14:45 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 15:45	Feedback from parallel sessions
15:45 – 16:30	Summary and follow-up
16:30	Close

Questions for discussion

- In the morning, participants will discuss specific aspects of the draft Guide in parallel workshops of approx. 20 people, switching workshops in the afternoon:

1. ECTS for Accumulation – this session will deal with ECTS in programme design, delivery and monitoring, teaching, learning and assessment, etc.

2. ECTS for Transfer – this session will deal with ECTS for mobility and recognition, preparation of the learning agreement, etc.

- Each workshop will ask the following questions:

1. Does the current draft fully take into consideration changes and trends affecting ECTS (e.g. shift towards student centred learning, focus on learning outcomes, developments in recognition of prior learning, changes in the student population, new technological advances, etc.)? Does it contain everything that is needed?

2. Does the current draft serve the needs of its stakeholders?

- Does it answer the questions concerning ECTS that seem to come up repeatedly, in conversations with others or in your own work?
- Does it present the information in an effective and usable way?
- Are more information / clarifications / guidelines necessary?
- Is it reaching those it really needs to reach?

3. What is needed to ensure quality in how ECTS is used within institutions?