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ECTS – The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System for Digital Inclusion

Increasing the opportunities for social inclusion of Adult Life-long learners

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ECTS Definition

- ▼ ECTS is a credit system designed to make it easier for students to move between different countries. Since they are based on the learning achievements and workload of a course, a student can transfer their ECTS credits from one university to another so they are added up to contribute to an individual's degree programme or training.
- ▼ ECTS helps to make learning more student-centred. It is a central tool in the [Bologna Process](#), which aims to make national systems more compatible.
- ▼ ECTS also helps with the planning, delivery and evaluation of study programmes, and makes them more transparent.

ECTS - a short history: “From credit transfer to credit accumulation”

- ▼ In 1989, ECTS was introduced as a pilot scheme in the ERASMUS programme.
- ▼ Objective: facilitate academic recognition for the ERASMUS students by providing instruments for increased transparency and comparability, to assist recognition and portability of credits obtained in partner institutions.
- ▼ In 1999, the signatory states in the Bologna process identified ECTS ‘as a proper means of promoting the most widespread student mobility’.
- ▼ At the 2002 EUA Zurich conference on Credit Transfer and Accumulation, the role of ECTS in transfer and accumulation was endorsed.

ECTS - a short history: “From credit transfer to credit accumulation”

- ▼ In 2003, at the Berlin conference, the Ministers stressed:
 - ▼ the important role played by ECTS in facilitating student mobility and international curriculum development; ...
 - ▼ They encourage further progress with the goal that the ECTS becomes not only a transfer but also an accumulation system, ...

- ▼ In 2005, at the Bergen conference, Ministers identified also ECTS as:
 - ▼ one of the key elements of the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area;
 - ▼ Implementing ECTS would also serve the implementation of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, notably as regards information provision for students and the use of learning outcomes and their associated student workload.

Principles of ECTS

- ▼ ECTS is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. It aims to support institutions in planning, delivery, evaluation, recognition and validation of qualifications and units of learning as well as student mobility.
- ▼ ECTS credits are based on:
 - ▼ Learning outcomes
 - ▼ Notional student workload need to achieve the learning outcomes

Use of ECTS

- ▼ Credits are allocated to entire qualifications or study programmes as well as to their educational components (such as modules, course units, dissertation work, work placements, laboratory work, etc.).
- ▼ The number of credits ascribed to each component is a reflection of the approximate quantity of work each component requires in relation to the completion of a full academic year of study in the programme
- ▼ It is common standard to allocate around 25-30 working hours per ECTS across European Universities

Use of ECTS

- ▼ Credits are awarded to individual learners (full time or part time) after completion of the learning activities required by a formal programme of study or by a single unit and the successful assessment of the expected learning outcomes.
- ▼ Credits may be accumulated in view of obtaining qualifications as decided by the degree awarding institution.
- ▼ Detailed arrangements for credit accumulation, including the use of notional workload, are determined at national and institutional level, within the parameters of ECTS.

Learning outcomes

- ▼ Statements of what a learner is expected to know, understand and/or be able to demonstrate at the end of a period of learning
- ▼ Defined as a mixture of knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and understanding
- ▼ Specific methodological approach for the expression and development of the curriculum
- ▼ Bridge between higher education and other educational sectors

Importance of learning outcomes

- ▼ Focus on the learner, not the teacher
- ▼ Positive impact on teaching-learning-assessment relationship
- ▼ Aid for quality assurance (external reference points)
- ▼ Provides information to the learner on expectations
- ▼ Ensures transparency to the outside world
- ▼ Helps international progression, transparency and recognition



Digital Inclusion – Suggested Modules

ECTS Outlines



Module Title	Basic Computer Skills			
Module Code				
Module Type	Compulsory			
Level	LifeLong Learning			
Lead Partner				
ECTS	1	Lectures / week	1	Laboratories / week
				NA
Course Purpose and Objectives	The Basic Computer Skills Module aims to illustrate the basic usage of computer handling. It begins with the basic steps on how to switch on a pc, work with windows environment and proceeds with basic knowledge - from installing and working using with different types of documents to geographical orientation in the local environment and communicating with relatives and institutions.			
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this Module you should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the basic elements of Hardware on computer, so if you need to change parts of it and to build it. • Install the required software and perform basic functions with it. • Perform basic Windows functions. • Recognize the basic types of peripheral devices and how to deal with them. • Use the internet to search for useful information. • Work with different types of documents. • Communicate via Skype. • Communicate via Facebook. • Translate content from the local language into your language through Google Translate. • Use Google maps to find addresses and to use public transportation 			
Prerequisites	NONE		Required	NONE

Module Title	Basic Language Skills				
Module Code					
Module Type	Compulsory				
Level	LifeLong Learning				
Lead Partner					
ECTS	1	Lectures / week	1	Laboratories / week	NA
Course Purpose and Objectives	The Module has been designed to support you in learning to use basic sentences of the native languages spoken in a few European countries. The aim is to be able to communicate successfully whenever you need to in order to carry out your daily activities.				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this Module you should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the English alphabet and sounds. • Greet formally and informally. • Confirm and correct information in different daily activities, such as renting a flat, applying for a job, invite someone, talk about your health, order at a restaurant. • Ask for instructions to get to a place. • Purchase products at a store. • Talk about yourself 				
Prerequisites	NONE		Required		NONE

Module Title	Practices for Entering the Labour Market				
Module Code					
Module Type	Compulsory				
Level	LifeLong Learning				
Lead Partner					
ECTS	1	Lectures / week	1	Laboratories / week	NA
Course Purpose and Objectives	The module is about the labour market in Europe and the fundamental things you need to know in order to enter it. You will learn what documents you need if you want to look for a job, how to write a CV, where to look for a job and how to manage a job interview.				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this Module you should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigate to the European portal Eures • Understand the main terms about labour market • Fill a Curriculum Vitae • Answer to simple questions likely to be asked during a job interview 				
Prerequisites	NONE		Required		NONE

Module Title	Learn your Laws				
Module Code					
Module Type	Compulsory				
Level	LifeLong Learning				
Lead Partner					
ECTS	1	Lectures / week	1	Laboratories / week	NA
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>The module “Know your laws” will describe the legal framework and the main laws, directives and regulations applied in the EU which can be a guideline for you when practicing your right to employment and social security as well as to education and healthcare. It includes basic legal texts explaining the way you can safeguard your rights and contribute to the social inclusion process in the host societies.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this Module you should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the legal context as well as the policies at European level regarding the access to employment and social security as well as the access to education and healthcare. • Familiarize with your basic rights and obligations as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who live in a European country. • Have a more active role and involvement in the societies you live in order to smoothly proceed to integration. • Understand the administrative procedures and interact with public authorities. 				
Prerequisites	NONE		Required		NONE

Module Title	Introduction to Entrepreneurship			
Module Code				
Module Type	Compulsory			
Level	LifeLong Learning			
Lead Partner				
ECTS	1	Lectures / week	1	Laboratories / week
				NA
Course Purpose and Objectives	The Module focuses on Entrepreneurship. The aim is to support the development of an understanding of the nature of entrepreneurship and to allow participants to determine whether they want to be an entrepreneur with their own businesses.			
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this Module you should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop personal entrepreneurial skills and behaviour to individually be able to establish a business Develop a business proposition to launch a new venture (start-up a new business venture) • Pitch business concept for relevant stakeholders to introduce the new venture into the market • Develop and justify a variety of business scenarios including an entrepreneurial development path from idea to established company • Reflect on one's own entrepreneurial knowledge, skills and behaviour, and learning process. 			
Prerequisites	NONE		Required	NONE

Questions, suggestions,
comments ...

are welcome

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