



Europass Certificate supplement - End-user survey 2016

Final report

Introduction

The Working Group on the Europass Certificate Supplement (ECS) has coordinated a European survey on the ECS among end-users within the span of February 2016 - May 2016 to December 2016.

The overall aim of the survey is to identify the use of the Europass Certificate Supplement in Europe. The survey aims to give insight to the use of the ECS in each participating country and provide an international comparison of the results. A mapping of the varied use in Europe can serve as inspiration and best practice examples across Europe. The results can also be used to tailor the promotion of the ECS according to the specific needs of the end users.

The survey consisted of **3 questions**

1. Which group do you belong to?
2. What are you using the ECS for?
3. In which country will you use the ECS?

The survey was conducted in **11 countries**

- Austria
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Spain

Total number of **respondents**: 2449



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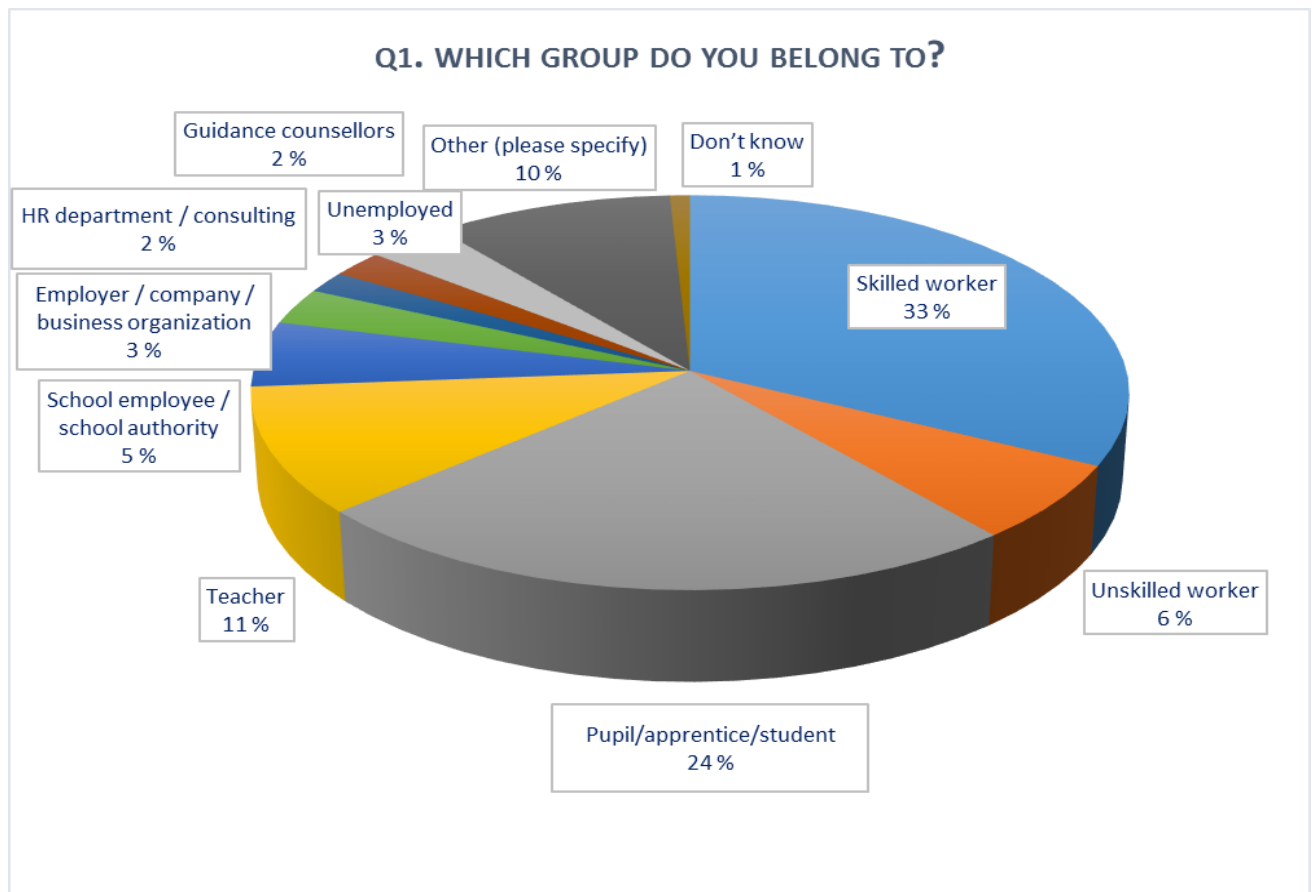
Results of the survey

Question 1

Which group do you belong to?

The respondents mainly represented three main groups:

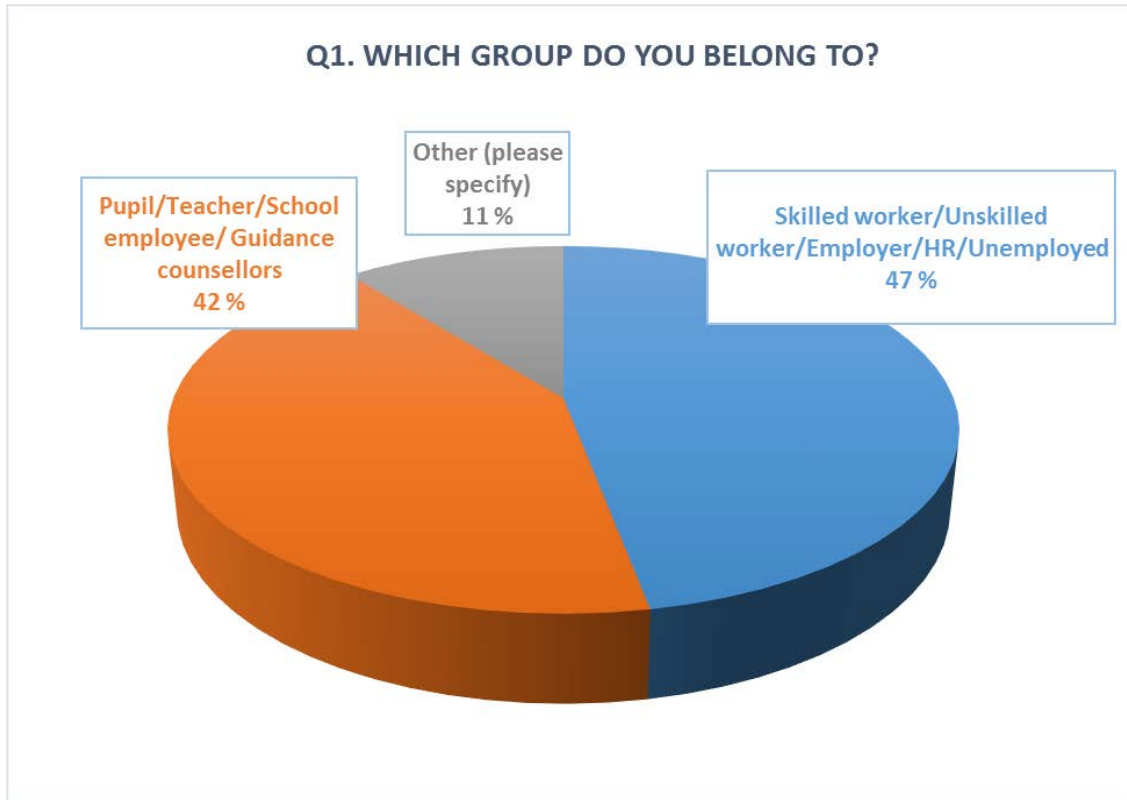
- skilled workers (33%)
- pupils/apprentices/students (24%) and
- teachers (11%).



The variety of types of respondents however shows that the ECS is not only used by end-users, but also by school employees, teachers, employers, HR departments etc.



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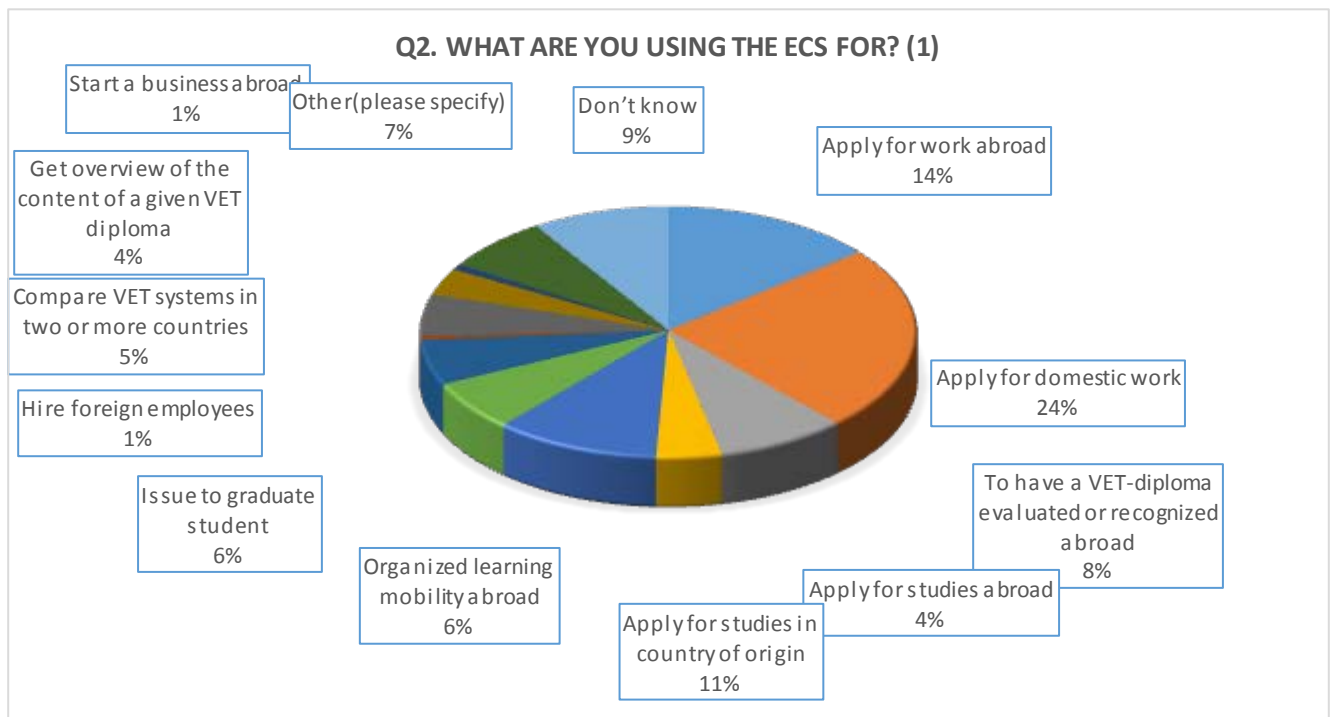
Users roughly belong to two groups: working life and school. When combining the different answer options into these two main categories, we see that the ECS is used almost equally by people in working life (47%) and school (42%).



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Question 2

What are you using the Certificate supplement for?

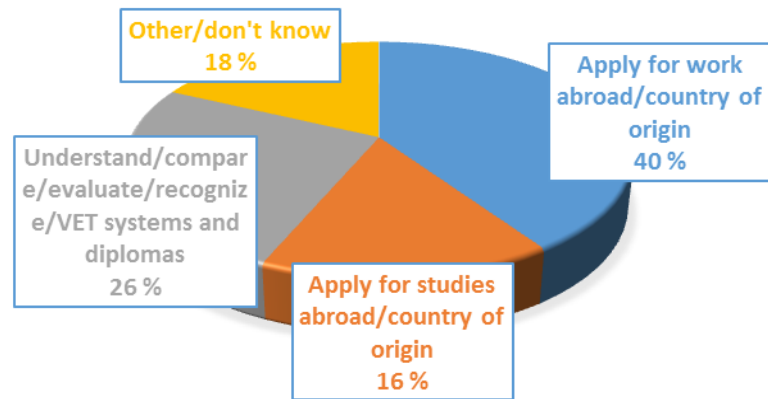


The responses to Q.2 show that the ECS is used for many different purposes, The respondents' main purpose of the ECS is applying for work in country of origin (24%). 14% of the respondents indicate that they use the ECS when applying for work abroad and 11% to apply for studies in country of origin.



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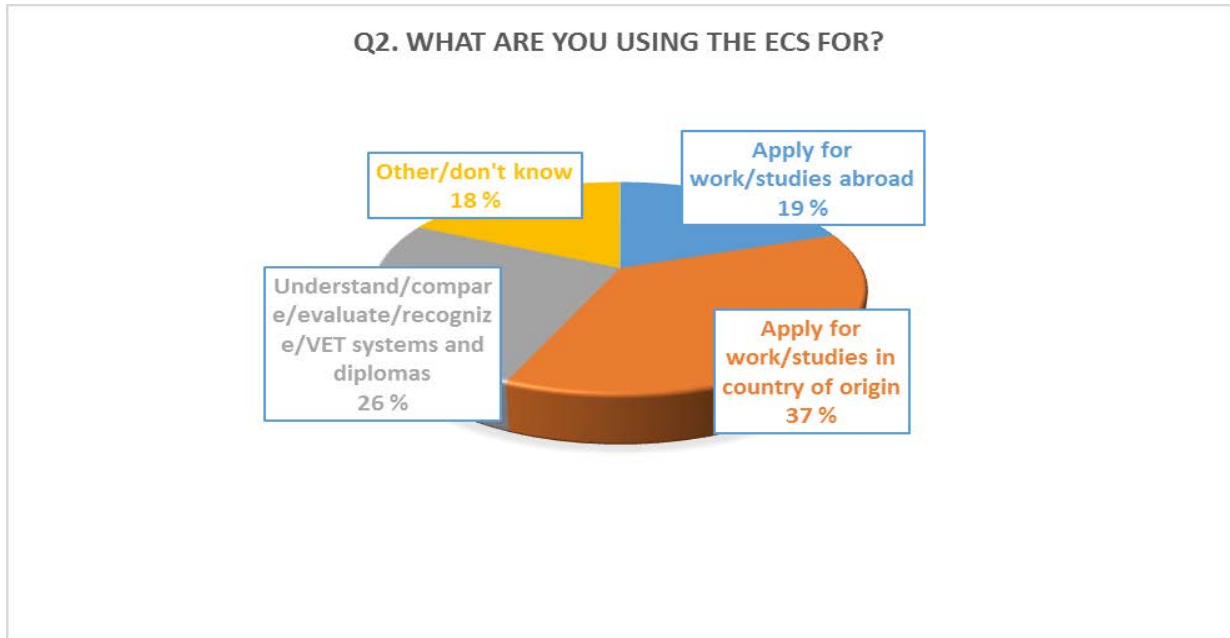
Q2. WHAT ARE YOU USING THE ECS FOR?



When combining the answer alternatives under Q.2 into 1.: Apply for work abroad/country of origin, 2.: Apply for studies abroad/country of origin and 3.: Use of the ECS on more system level to compare, get overview of VET system/diplomas, we learn that the ECS is used mostly as an attachment when applying for work. Secondly it is used to understand, compare, get overview of the content of a VET diploma on a more systematic level. It also shows that many of the respondents use the ECS to compare and get a systematic overview of VET programmes in Europe. It is used to a lesser as a supplement when applying for studies.



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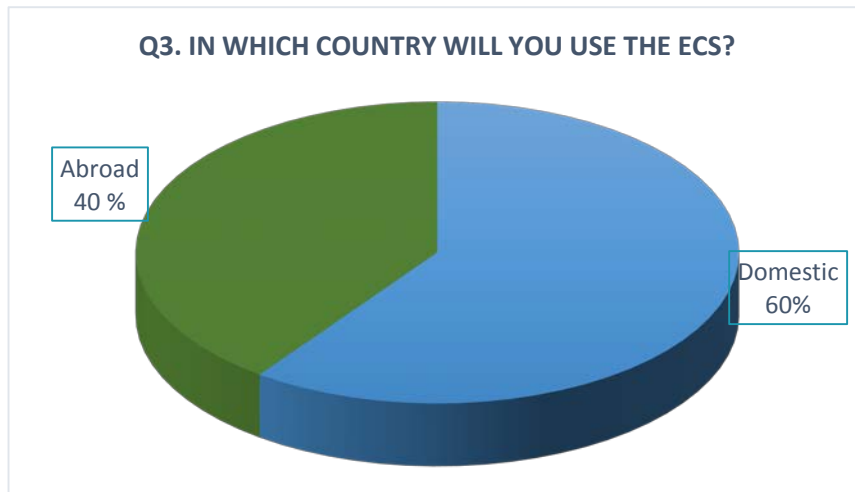
If we combine the answer alternatives a bit differently, we see that most of the respondents use the ECS to 1.: Apply for work/studies in country of origin (37%) and 2.: Understand /compare/evaluate/recognise VET systems/diplomas (26%). It is to a lesser extent (19%) used to apply for work/studies abroad. This is a significant trend given the fact that the ECS was created with the purpose of making VET degrees more easily understood abroad.



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Question 3

In which country will you use the Certificate supplement?



The data material for this question is mainly interesting for national purposes, but the international comparison show that 60% of the respondents use the ECS in their own country. This supports the tendency in the previous question showing that the respondents use the ECS mainly for domestic purposes.

Another noticeable trend on international level is that the international mobility is mostly focused on neighbouring countries or countries from the same lingual zone, followed by English-speaking countries.



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Conclusions of the survey

ECS is used by many different groups in many different ways

The results show that the ECS is used by a great variety of subgroups. The main part of the respondents are skilled workers, but the results also show that many of the respondents are pupils, apprentices/students, teachers/schools administrators/employers/HR etc. This points out that the ECS is not only used by VET certificates holders, but also during the educational path by pupils and teachers, etc.

ECS is mainly used domestically and to get systematic overview of VET programmes

The main finding of the survey is that the ECS is widely used by the respondents for domestic purposes. It is also interesting to see that the ECS is used widely by the respondents to understand and get overview of the content of VET systems/diplomas. We don't know the answer to this, but we know that the ECS provide a short and simple introduction to the VET programmes and that they together provide a unique overview of the European VET programmes. It is also somehow surprising that the ECS is used to a very little extent by the respondents to apply for work/studies abroad, which actually was the original purpose of the ECS.

Authors of the survey

Audronė Šileikytė (National Europass Centre, Lithuania)

Linda Van Gorp (National Europass Centre, Netherlands)

Kjersti Skjervheim (National Europass Centre, Norway)