



EUA

European University Association
Association Européenne de l'Université

ECTS Counselling and Site Visit Programme

The state of implementation of ECTS in Europe

**A short survey carried out by EUA
in co-operation with the ECTS/DS national coordinators**

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EUA Brussels Office — Rue de la Loi 42, B-1040 Bruxelles

tel: +32-2 230 55 44 – **fax:** +32-2 230 57 51

e-mail: info@eua.be

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Note:

This study outlines the preliminary results of an EUA survey on ECTS implementation in Europe prepared in the perspective of the EUA/Swiss Confederation Conference on Credit Transfer and Accumulation, Zurich, 11-12 October 2002. Information was collected from 30 ECTS/DS national coordinators (see list p. 19). No detailed analysis of the results of the questionnaire has yet been made. The national coordinators will provide further information at a meeting in November 2002.

The summary table (p. 2 - 4) should be read horizontally per country. A vertical reading could entail confusion as the information concerns both ECTS and other national credit systems.

Country	Credit system used	Based on Student workload	Based on contact hours	Used as an accumulation system	Number of credits per academic year	Conversion used between national and ECTS credits	Number of hours per year (if officially determined)	Credit system's implementation required by law
Austria	ECTS	yes	no	yes, but not systematically	60	N/A (not applicable)	1.500	yes
Belgium (Flanders)	ECTS	yes	no	no (but some elements of it are used by HEIs)	60	N/A	varies between 1.500 and 1.800	yes
Belgium (Frenchspeaking Community)	ECTS	yes (in principle)	–	no	60	N/A	1.600 usually (not officially determined)	no
Bulgaria	ECTS	yes	no	no	60	N/A	not officially determined	no
Czech Republic	no unified credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes only)	no	yes	no	60 but not officially determined	–	not officially determined	no
Cyprus	national credit system	no	yes	yes	30	1 national credit equals 2 ECTS credits	between 1.500 and 1.750 (not officially determined)	no
Denmark	ECTS	yes	no		60	N/A	1.650	yes
Estonia	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes only)	yes	no	yes	40	1 national credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits	1.600 (not officially determined)	yes
Finland	national credit system to be replaced by ECTS	yes	no	yes	40 on average	1 national credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits	1.600 (not officially determined)	yes
France	ECTS	yes	no	yes	60	N/A		yes
Germany	a system based on ECTS principles is being introduced	yes	no	yes	60		no more than 1.800	no
Greece	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	not systematically	yes	yes, but not systematically	–	–	–	yes

Country	Credit system used	Based on Student workload	Based on contact hours	Used as an accumulation system	Number of credits per academic year	Conversion used between the national and the ECTS credits	Number of hours per year (if officially determined)	Credit system's implementation required by law
Hungary	national credit system	yes	no	yes	60	–	–	yes
Iceland	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	yes	no	yes	30	1 national credit equals 2 ECTS credits	–	yes
Ireland	no specific credit system exists (ECTS is used for mobility purposes only)	–	–	–	–	–	–	no
Italy	ECTS	yes	no	yes	60	–	1.500 normally	yes
Latvia	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	yes	no	yes	40	1 national credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits	1.600	yes
Lithuania	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	yes	no	yes	40	1 national credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits	1.600	yes
Malta	the University of Malta uses its own credit system	yes	no	yes	30	–	1.500	–
The Netherlands	national credit system (a new system based on 60 credits per year is applicable from Sept. 2002)	yes	no	yes	60	10 national credits equal 15 ECTS credits	1.680	yes
Norway	the national credit system is being replaced by ECTS	yes	no	yes	60	N/A	not officially determined	yes

Country	Credit system used	Based on Student workload	Based on contact hours	Used as an accumulation system	Number of credits per academic year	Conversion used between the national and the ECTS credits	Number of hours per year (if officially determined)	Credit system's implementation required by law
Poland	ECTS	yes	no	yes, but not systematically	60	N/A	not officially determined	no
Portugal	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes only)	no	yes	yes	–	–	–	yes
Romania	ECTS, with minor specificities	yes, in principle	no	the system has some elements of accumulation	60	N/A	1.560 but not officially determined	yes
Slovak Republic	different credits systems are used in parallel with ECTS	–	–	ECTS is being introduced as an accumulation system in some HEIs	–	–	–	yes
Slovenia	ECTS	yes	no	–	–	N/A	–	no
Spain	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	no	yes	yes	can range from 60 to 85	–	not officially determined	a decree making ECTS the official credit system is being prepared
Sweden	national credit system (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	yes	no	yes	40	1 national credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits	1.600	yes
Switzerland	a national credit system is used in parallel with ECTS	yes, in principle	–	yes, but not systematically	60 generally		not officially determined	no
United Kingdom	a credit system called CATS is used in the UK (ECTS is used for mobility purposes)	yes	no	yes	120	–	1.200 for first cycle programmes	no

AUSTRIA

Credit system used:

There is no national credit system in Austria and ECTS itself is used. It is workload based and has 60 credits per academic year. An ECTS credit corresponds to approximately 25 hours of student workload. The university study act includes regulations that allow ECTS to be used as an accumulation system (comments in the new university law 2002).

Legal framework:

For universities and universities of Arts: Universitäts-Studiengesetz, Bundesgesetzblatt 48/1997 in the version in force and Universitätsgesetz 2002.

For Fachhochschulen: Bundesgesetz über Fachhochschul- Studiengänge (Fachhochschul-Studiengesetz FHStG), Bundesgesetzblatt 340/1993 in the version of BGBl. Nr.58/2002.

Degree of implementation:

It is estimated that about 50 percent of the institutions have implemented ECTS by now. Information on ECTS being used as an accumulation system is not available.

Further information: edlinger@zv.tu-graz.ac.at

BELGIUM (Flanders)

Credit system used:

The credit system used in Flanders is ECTS itself. Credits are calculated on the basis of student workload. The credit system has only been used so far for credit transfer. There are 60 credits per year. The total number of hours per year varies between 1.500 and 1.800.

Legal framework:

The law requiring the use of a credit system, as a tool for transfer of credits, has been in force since 1991 for universities and since 1994 for the non-university sector.

Degree of implementation:

ECTS is fully implemented as a tool for credit transfer and the allocation of credits to courses is common. The use of LA, ToR, and the ECTS grading scales does, however vary and depends on individual institutions. A new decree is expected to be issued next year and will introduce the principle of credit accumulation. Institutions, however already use some elements of the accumulation principle within the existing legal framework.

Further information: vliempt@uia.ua.ac.be

BELGIUM (Frenchspeaking Community)

Credit system used:

The French-speaking part of Belgium has never used a national credit system and has consequently adopted ECTS as the credit system in universities and "Hautes Ecoles". The system is based in principle on student workload, which is calculated taking into account the type of learning activity (theoretical course, seminars, laboratories, etc.). There are 60 credits per year. The academic year usually consists of 1600 hours of global student workload, which includes about 800 contact hours. These figures are an average. ECTS has so far been used only as a transfer system.

Legal framework:

Although it is not required by any law or decree the use of the ECTS as a transfer system is strongly encouraged by both the Ministry and the academic authorities for both sectors of Higher Education.

Degree of implementation:

ECTS is supposed to be extended to all universities and all subjects by September 2002, and to the "Hautes Ecoles" at the end of the year. A "liaison" Commission set up with members from the "Hautes Ecoles" and universities Councils should in collaboration with the ECTS national counsellors follow and facilitate the process of implementation.

Further information: czoller@admin.ulb.ac.be

BULGARIA

Credit system used:

The credit system used in Bulgaria is ECTS itself. It has been implemented within the Erasmus framework in 14 out of 42 Bulgarian universities. The American University in Bulgaria and the New Bulgarian University and use other credit systems although the latter institution is also implementing ECTS.

The credit system used is student workload based. It is not used as an accumulation system. It has 60 credits per year. The number of hours per year is not officially determined.

Legal framework:

The implementation of ECTS in Bulgaria is not required by law. It was first mentioned in the 1999 Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, and newly reinforced in the 2002 Plan.

Degree of implementation:

ECTS is being implemented, although not completely, as a transfer system in the 14 Bulgarian universities which introduced it. It is not implemented as an accumulation system.

Further information: ndchr@vmei.acad.bg

CYPRUS

Credit system used:

The University of Cyprus, the only institution with all degree levels accredited, has been using the national credit system for all programmes. The credit system is based on contact hours. It is used for transfer and accumulation within the University. There are 30 credits per year. The annual student workload ranges between 1.500-1.750 hours, but this is only an indication since the credits are currently based only on contact periods.

Legal framework:

Neither a law nor a decree makes the use of the national credit system compulsory. Internal regulations of the University of Cyprus have required the use of the national credit system in all departments and at all levels since 1992.

Degree of implementation:

It is expected that all higher education institutions will eventually adopt the credit system (1 UCy equals to 2 ECTS credits) upon the entry of the country to the EU.

Further information: admall@ucy.ac.cy

CZECH REPUBLIC

Credit system used:

Most Czech universities use their own credit system: there is no unified system at national level. Credit systems are less common in the non-university higher education institutions. No legal document requires institutions to introduce and use credit systems. In addition, there is no general rule as to how to allocate credits. Contact hours were the traditional means of measuring student workload. At present, contact hours and student workload are both taken into account. Credit systems are mostly used for transfer in the perspective of student mobility. Accumulation is hardly implemented.

There are 60 credits per year. The possibility of students learning more than 60 credits per year is still under discussion. It is possible for students who do extra work to obtain more credits in some schools. However, the extra credits granted cannot exceed more than 15-20 per year.

Legal framework:

None

Degree of implementation:

All universities use ECTS for transfer. Some non-university higher education institutions (colleges, polytechnics) also use ECTS for transfer. As a rule, institutions that wish to participate in the Socrates international mobility programmes have introduced ECTS for transfer.

Further information: honzik@fit.vutbr.cz

DENMARK

Credit system used:

ECTS is used in all transcripts and Diploma-Certificates issued after 1st September 2002 by all Danish institutions of higher education - universities as well as non-universities. The same applies to Diploma Supplements. The system is student workload based and has 60 credits per year (ECTS in traditional form).

Legal framework:

The legal framework is a Ministerial Order (BEK 1021 issued 20.11.2000) and can be found (in the original Danish version) through the website: www.fsk.dk of 'Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling' (The Ministry for Science, Technology and Development).

Degree of implementation:

The degree of implementation at institutions shows a great variety as illustrated by a survey for the non-university sector. All are using the ECTS credits (i.e. the numerical part of ECTS). Many are using the ECTS format for describing the content of programme (i.e. the qualitative part of ECTS). Only a few have fully integrated the individual forms for application, agreement and transcripts in the mobility procedure (i.e. the dynamic part of ECTS). The marking scale is not used. A similar survey has been planned for the university sector during the Fall 2002. It should also be said that ECTS is used in a rapidly growing number of institutions to describe the content of the classical educational programmes. The

existence of ECTS has not yet allowed the implementation of new generations of educational structures.

Further information: pb@adm.au.dk

ESTONIA

Credit system used:

The credit system in use in Estonia is a national one (CP), which is used in parallel with ECTS for mobility purposes - 1 national CP equals 1,5 ECTS credits. The credit system is based on student workload and corresponds to 40 working hours per week, 40 credits per year and 40 weeks in an academic year. This in turn amounts to 1.600 hours per year, although this has not been officially determined. The system is used for accumulation.

Existing legal framework:

The national academic credit points have been introduced according to the University Law and Standard for Higher Education, which has been applicable to the whole tertiary sector since 1995. ECTS credits and the diploma supplement are being implemented in the framework of the Socrates/Erasmus programme. These are voluntarily used by most of the Estonian higher education institutions joining the E/S programme.

Degree of implementation:

ECTS is used as a transfer system between Estonian and other European universities. Inside the country, the national credit system is used as a basis for transfer. Academic credits are used for accumulation: Bsc/BA degree requires 120 CP or 180 ECTS credits; Msc/MA requires +80 CP or +120 ECTS credits, PhD degree requires +160CP or +240 ECTS credits.

Further information: volli.kalm@ut.ee

FINLAND

Credit system used:

A national credit system is used in Finland. It is student workload based and used as an accumulation system. There are 40 credits per year on average. One credit has been officially determined to correspond to 40 hours. The annual student workload would thus correspond to 1600 hours (40 x 40), but this has not been officially decided.

Existing legal framework:

It is planned to replace the national credit system, introduced by law in the 70's, by ECTS. This is a point in the agenda of a national task force set up by the Ministry of Education. A decision is expected by Autumn 2002. Website to consult: www.minedu.fi/julkaisut/Hep2001/vailu.html#DESCRIPTION and http://www.minedu.fi/julkaisut/julkaisusarjat/39_02tutkintorak/39_02ku

Degree of implementation:

Nearly all higher education institutions in Finland use ECTS as a transfer system and in some of them the extent of all courses is automatically given both in domestic and ECTS credits on transcripts.

Further information: heikki.pekkari@uku.fi

FRANCE

Credit system used:

ECTS is applied to the whole tertiary sector for the first and second cycles. It is workload based and used as an accumulation system. There are 60 credits per academic year.

Existing legal framework:

ECTS implementation is required by the Ministerial decree of 11 April 2002 (see: www.cpu.fr). This decree applies to the institutions of higher education with the authorization to deliver national diplomas. In June 2002, the Grandes Ecoles decided to follow the Bologna Declaration and introduce the two cycle BA/MA structure.

Degree of implementation:

It is expected that all institutions will have adopted and implemented ECTS as a transfer and accumulation system by 2005.

Further information: m.froissart@esc-lille.fr

GERMANY

Credit system used:

A system based on ECTS principles is being introduced and is a must for all new study-programmes being accredited by accreditation committees in Germany. The system is student workload based and used for accumulation and transfer. It has 60 credits per year and no more than 1.800 hours in a year. Presently six networks subsidised by the federal government are developing ECTS compatible systems which are intended to be used at a later stage as models for "Good Practice", i.e. as benchmarks. The projects will run until 2004.

Existing legal framework:

Pilot schemes are developing which implement credit systems and follow the recommendations of the Bologna Action programme and are supposed to become "Best Practice" for all institutions of higher education (Fachhochschulen are part of this sector as "universities of applied sciences").

Degree of implementation:

The system is being introduced and implemented as an accumulation and transfer system in all institutions of higher education.

Further information: gehmllich@wi.fh-osnabrueck.de

GREECE

Credit system used:

A national credit system is applied to both cycles in Greek institutions of higher education. It is mainly based on contact hours but can be used in parallel with ECTS. Recently, some higher education institutions restructured their study programmes taking into consideration student workload, allocating 240 credits for a 4-year degree, according to ECTS rules. Internal credit accumulation is possible in many departments. Credit transfer can take place from one institution to another following a decision taken by the General Assembly of the Department in which the student applies for transfer.

Existing legal framework:

The use of the national credit system is required by a law (Nr 1268) that has been in force since 1982.

Degree of implementation:

Most departments provide academic recognition and intend to apply ECTS rules by allocating credits based on workload. The Rectors' Conference supports the implementation of ECTS. Many TEIs already apply ECTS rules. The National Educational System can be found on the internet at the web site of the Ministry of Education: www.ypepth.gr

Further information: galanaki@aueb.gr

HUNGARY

Credit system used:

The credit system used in Hungary is a national one and is in line with ECTS principles. It is student workload based and used as a transfer and accumulation system. It has 60 credits per academic year.

Existing legal framework:

The implementation of the national credit system is required by law (200/2000 Gov. Decree).

Degree of implementation:

The national credit system will be introduced as an accumulation and transfer system in all Hungarian higher education institutions from September 2002.

Further information: lkiss@tigris.klte.hu

ICELAND

Credit system used:

The credit system used in Iceland is a national one. One Icelandic credit equals to two ECTS credits. There are 30 credits per academic year. The system is based on student workload and used as an accumulation system.

Existing legal framework:

There is no legal framework directly related to the ECTS system, but the national credit system is required by framework law no. 136/1997 on universities.

Degree of implementation:

The state of implementation varies from one university to another. Most universities give their students information on the link between Icelandic credits and ECTS credits with their transcripts. At least one of the universities issues an ECTS guide with course descriptions and ECTS credits. In some disciplines professors translate national grades into ECTS grades for mobile students.

Further information: gf@hi.is

IRELAND

Credit system used:

No specific credit system exists in Ireland, though this is currently being looked at by a new body set up last year, the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) <http://www.nqai.ie>

Existing legal framework:

While there is no legal requirement with regard to the implementation and use of ECTS, a significant number of institutions within the Socrates-Erasmus Programme use ECTS.

Degree of implementation:

Statistics from final reports from Institutions to the National Agency in relation to Erasmus student mobility in 2000/2001 indicate that ECTS was applied to 71% of the outgoing students from Ireland.

Further information: tony.bradley@dcu.ie

ITALY

Credit system used:

In Italy, ECTS is used as a national system. It is student workload based and used as an accumulation system. It has 60 credits and 1500 hours per year. A 20% decrease/increase of hours can be allowed for stated reasons.

Existing legal framework:

The legal framework for the University system is provided by Ministerial Decree n° 509 of 3rd November 1999 "Regulation setting out the norms concerning the curricular autonomy of universities".

The legal framework for the non-University system is provided by Law n° 508 of 21st December 1999, concerning the reform of the art/music sector of higher education, and Ministerial Decree n° 38 of 10th January 2002 concerning the reform of the translation/interpretation sector of higher education.

Degree of implementation:

Most higher education institutions are using ECTS as a transfer system for international exchanges. Based on the legal framework mentioned above, all new programmes in higher education are designed in credits (60 per year), that can be accumulated in order to achieve a first degree (180 credits) or a second degree (300 credits). 360 credits are required for a degree in medicine. Some universities implemented the new programmes in the academic year 2000/01 on an experimental basis; all the others, with a few exceptions, implemented them in the academic year 2001/02. The non-university sector will start the implementation stage in the academic year 2002/2003; only a few Art institutions launched experimental programmes in 2001/02. Reference website: www.miur.it/normative1.htm

Further information: msticchi@mcLink.it

LATVIA

Credit system used:

The credit system used in Latvia is a national one and is applied to all study cycles in the whole tertiary sector. It is workload based and 1 credit corresponds to 40 hours of student work (one week of studies). Contact hours may not exceed 50% of the student workload. The system is used for accumulation and has 40 credits per year (not less than 1.600 hours per year). The conversion "1 national credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits" is applied.

Legal framework:

According to the Law of Higher Education Institutions, which has been in force since November 17, 1995 all study programmes must use the national credit system. This law states that 1 national credit corresponds to 40 academic hours (one week) of student work; that students in full time studies have to receive 40 credits per year, and that students must work not less than 1600 hours per year (not less than 40 academic hours per week). The use of the credit system is also an essential requirement for accreditation of the educational institution. Regulation No 2 of the Cabinet of Ministers (03.01.2002) on state standards of academic education established the length and volume of Bachelor's (6-8 semesters, 120-160 credits) and Master's (80 credits) study programmes. Another document related to the credit system are Regulation No 141 (20.03.2001) on state standard of 1st level professional higher education.

Degree of implementation:

During the last three years, 15 universities (out of 20 state funded and 14 private institutions) have implemented ECTS as a transfer and accumulation system in almost all study programmes. Website: www.apa.lv/Socrates/Erasmus/ECTS/

Further information: mara@ktf.rtu.lv

LITHUANIA

Credit system used:

Lithuania uses a national credit system. The Law on Higher Education adopted in March 2000 states that an average academic year of full-time studies corresponds to 40 credits (Law on Higher Education, chapter VI, paragraph 41). The national credit system is applied to Bachelor and Master cycles, and to non-university sector programmes. Doctoral programmes must also be allocated credits according to the Ministerial decree of June 2002. The use of the national credit system is an essential element for the accreditation and registration of study programmes.

The national credit system in Lithuania is based on student workload (contact hours, independent study, exercises, research and/or other assignments) and refers to a notional 40 hours of student workload per week. 1 Lithuanian credit equals one study week. One national credit is equal to 1,5 ECTS credits. One academic year equals 40 national credits, 1600 student work hours.

The new Law on Higher education adopted in 2000, foresees and allows for internal and external credit accumulation. Credit accumulation in the sphere of formal education already exists in Lithuania. Students may choose courses at other faculties or study programmes within their own institution or even at other establishments of higher education. The credits earned are recognized in accordance with the regulations adopted by each institution. Credits

earned from the non-formal sector of learning may also be recognized. The decision rests with the home institution of each particular student.

Legal framework:

The only legal framework for ETCS are two papers signed by the Ministry of Education: the agreement with the European Commission on Lithuania's participation in the SOCRATES programme and the Bologna declaration. The new Law on Higher Education does not mention ECTS.

Degree of implementation:

ECTS is used by the institutions on a voluntary basis as a transfer system for exchange purposes with institutions recognizing and using ECTS. The multiplying factor 1,5 is used to count correlation between national and ECTS credit. National credits are used for accumulation purposes.

Further information: raimonda.markeviciene@cr.vu.lt

MALTA

Credit system used:

The University of Malta first launched its own credit system in some undergraduate courses in 1975, and by 1990 the majority of courses had adopted it. It operates in all postgraduate and undergraduate degrees with the current exceptions of undergraduate Architecture, Medicine and Dental Surgery.

The University's credit system is an accumulation system and students who obtain the required number of credits are given the award they registered for. It is also used as a credit transfer system and the credits obtained in one course can be transferred to other courses within the University, depending on the relevance to the area of study chosen, if the student decides to change courses. The credits awarded by the University have also been accepted by other universities both in cases where students opted to move to another university after following part of their studies here, and when students sought admission to postgraduate courses in Europe and elsewhere.

The system is based on 50 hours of student workload (including 14 staff-student contact hours) for which 1 credit is awarded. 30 credits are obtainable during one academic year of full-time study.

Legal framework and degree of implementation:

The Senate approved, in June 2002, regulations (published as a Legal Notice, thus forming part of the law governing higher education in Malta) which replace the present credit system with the ECTS system for undergraduate courses (certificate, diploma, degree) commencing as from October 2003. The ECTS criteria are appended to the regulations and form an integral part of them. It is envisaged that the ECTS system will also be adopted for postgraduate courses. Reference websites: <http://socrates.um.edu.mt/index.html> and <http://socrates.um.edu.mt/erasmus.html>

Further information: veronica.grech@um.edu.mt

THE NETHERLANDS

Credit system used:

A national credit system, fully in line with the ECTS principles, has been used in the whole tertiary sector since the early 80's. The credit system is based on a workload of 42 credit points per year. In principle, the formula 2:3 is used (10 Dutch credits equal 15 ECTS credits).

Legal framework:

The credit system is a part of the new law on higher education issued in 2001. According to the new law, a new transfer and accumulation system based on 60 credits per year (although the name ECTS is not explicitly mentioned in the text) will be applicable starting September 2002.

Degree of implementation:

Higher education institutions are obliged to introduce the system before September 2004. It is expected that the new system will already be introduced by September 2003. The process of implementation of the new credit system is closely connected with the introduction of a bachelor-master structure in the whole tertiary sector. Website: www.vsnu.nl

Further information: r.wagenaar@let.rug.nl

NORWAY

Credit system used:

The previous national credit system (vekttal) is currently being replaced by ECTS. The credit systems, both original and ECTS, are student workload based and used for accumulation. The original system had 20 points (vekttal) per year and the new ECTS one has 60 credits per year. The number of hours of student workload is not officially determined.

Legal framework:

The implementation of the ECTS is required by the Governmental decision of June 12, 2001. Details of this may be found at the web addresses:

<http://odin.dep.no/ufd/norsk/000001-990799/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>

<http://odin.dep.no/ufd/engelsk/education/competence-reform/014061-990031/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>

Degree of implementation:

The degree of implementation is already about 50% with variation within and between institutions. The degree of implementation is probably higher in credit transfer than in accumulation. All institutions must by law complete the process by the end of 2003.

Further information: george.francis@kj.uib.no

POLAND

Credit system used:

There is no national credit system in Poland. Consequently, the only credit system being implemented is ECTS and it is used in the tertiary sector for both licenciate (bachelor) and master cycles. Credits are based on student workload and amount to 60 per year. The number of hours per year has as yet not been officially determined.

Legal framework:

There is no national law or decree in force requiring the use of the ECTS.

Degree of implementation:

The implementation and use of ECTS is one of the conditions for study programmes to be accredited at the traditional Polish universities. These traditional universities of which there are 17 are the most advanced in implementing and using the credit system. It has always been used as a transfer system but often too as an accumulation system. The majority of other public higher education institutions have used ECTS grants in order to introduce ECTS, which is often implemented at faculty or departmental level and sometimes at institutional level, although mostly for mobility (as a transfer system).

Some private institutions (over 200 in Poland) have only just started implementing ECTS.

Further information: mami@adm.uni.wroc.pl

PORTUGAL

Credit system used:

ECTS itself is used in Portugal by most public universities as well as some polytechnics and private institutions for mobility. Apart from that, a contact hour based ECTS non-compatible national system is used in public universities for accumulation. The national system has been used for both bachelor and master degrees since 1981.

Legal framework:

ECTS was adopted by consensual decision by most of higher education institutions taking part in Erasmus programmes. However, a proposal was presented to the Ministry by the Rectors Council in 2001 to change the law in order to adopt ECTS as a system for the accumulation of credit.

Degree of Implementation:

All public universities already use or are planning to use ECTS as a transfer system. Most public polytechnics are about to start the process of implementation of ECTS. A few private universities use ECTS for mobility. Others are at an early stage of implementation or simply at the point of awareness of the system.

Further information: eper@fis.ua.pt

ROMANIA

Credit system used:

The four classical universities in the UNIVERSITARIA consortium (Bucuresti, "Babes-Bolyai" of Cluj-Napoca, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" of Iasi and "Universitatea de Vest" - "The West University" of Timisoara) started to use ECTS in 1996. Soon after that, a consortium of Technical universities also started to implement ECTS.

The system is, in principle, based on student workload. There are, however, places where the student workload has been estimated on the basis of the number of contact hours.

The system has some elements of accumulation: for example, in some universities where the graduating examination is assigned credit, students who do not complete the examination in one year, retain the benefit of the credits already obtained for the next year(s).

The system has 60 credits per year and an approximate number of 1.560 hours per year, although this has not been officially determined.

Legal framework:

An order of the Ministry of Education (1998) enforces the use of the ECTS in Romanian universities. Except for the basic ECTS rules, universities can adjust such features as the minimum number of credits to be obtained in one academic year, a maximum interval (e.g. four semesters) for obtaining the credits for a given course, etc. The Ministry is now preparing the Law of Higher Education. Every effort will be made to ensure that ECTS basic rules are included.

Degree of Implementation:

The implementation of ECTS as a credit transfer system is completed in most universities (including all major universities). The formal implementation of the system as an accumulation one has not started yet.

Further information: hluchian@infoiasi.ro

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Credit system used:

The credit systems mostly used at present in the Slovak Republic are ECTS itself or other systems complying with ECTS principles. Some institutions are in the process of introducing ECTS as a credit accumulation system without having previously used any other system for this purpose. ECTS or other credit systems are largely used for the first two cycles and to a lesser extent at PhD level throughout the whole tertiary sector.

Legal framework:

The implementation of a credit system is required by law since April 2002 and details are set up in a special decree. According to the law, all higher education institutions are required to introduce a credit system based on ECTS principles by September 2004.

Degree of implementation:

ECTS itself has been used as a support tool for student mobility within the Socrates/Erasmus programmes. The other credit systems in use have been introduced in most, mainly traditional, universities.

Website: www.saaic.sk/socrates/index.html

Further information: staskova@unipo.sk

SLOVENIA

Credit system used:

ECTS itself is being used in Slovenia by the majority of institutions in the tertiary sector (universities) only at postgraduate level. The implementation of ECTS is to be applied to all cycles by the end of 2002 and it is at present being introduced to undergraduate programmes.

Legal framework:

The use of ECTS is not required by any legal instrument. However, the use of a credit system is recommended by the Law of Higher Education (No 67/93 and 99/99). ECTS is mentioned in the National Action Plan for Higher Education from 2002, as confirmed by the Parliament.

Degree of implementation:

The basic instruments of ECTS have already been used for three years under the Socrates/Erasmus programmes. Website: www.uni-lj.si www.uni-mb.si

Further information: zarjan.fabjancic@uni-lj.si

SPAIN***Credit system used:***

Two systems are being used simultaneously in Spain at the moment: ECTS for transfer and a national credit system for accumulation. The national credit system is related to contact hours and is used as an accumulation system. The number of credits per year differs depending on the university and the programme. It could range from 60 to 85. There is no rule relating to hours per year. The total number of credits is regulated, but the choice of how long the degree takes remains with the university concerned.

Legal framework:

Article 13 of the new Spanish Law of December 2001 mentions ECTS and gives an opening for further legal development. The Conference of Spanish Rectors took in December 2000 an unanimous decision in favour of the use of the ECTS as an accumulation system for Spain. At the moment, a decree is being prepared and this is expected to be out within a year. ECTS will become the official credit system for Spain by this decree.

Degree of implementation:

All the Spanish universities use the ECTS as a transfer system. The universities are making preparations and developing pilot projects for the implementation of the ECTS as an accumulation system as soon as the expected decree becomes official.

Reference websites: www.mec.es/consejou/erasmus/folletoerasmus/ECTS.htm
www.relint.deusto.es/rel/ingles/ECTS/001_ects.asp

Further information: jmgonzal@relint.deusto.es

SWEDEN***Credit system used:***

A national credit system is used in Sweden. It is based on student workload and is used as an accumulation system. A full academic year is equivalent to 40 national credit points. A national credit point is equivalent to 1.5 ECTS credits. A full student workload is equal to 1.600 hours per annum.

Legal framework:

The use of the national credit system is required by the 1977 law.

Degree of Implementation:

ECTS is implemented as a transfer as well as an accumulation system for incoming and outgoing students in the majority of institutions taking part in the Erasmus/Socrates student exchange.

Further information: jel@ipe.liu.se

SWITZERLAND

Credit system used:

ECTS itself is used officially in Switzerland. However, another system is also being implemented in some institutions. Switzerland is in a transitional period and the credit system is sometimes workload based and sometimes related to contact hours, but the aim is to obtain a credit system based on student workload. The system has 60 credits per academic year but in some cases students may be awarded more credits. This is still under discussion. The number of hours has not been officially determined, but the Rectors' Conference has recently proposed that 1 credit equals 30 hours which means 1.800 hours a year. Credits will be used for both transfer and accumulation as soon as the Bologna reform of the curricula is introduced.

Legal framework:

'Recommendations' available at <http://www.crus.ch/franz/lehre/bologna/index.htm>
These will be discussed in the universities during the academic year 2002-2003.

Degree of Implementation:

Credits are used for both transfer and accumulation in some cases, but the implementation is still under discussion and some institutions use credits only for transfer in connection with international mobility.

Further information: antoINETTE.charon@rect.unil.ch

UNITED KINGDOM

Credit system used:

The system of credits used in the UK commonly referred to as CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme) is based on 120 credits per academic year. In Scotland there is a national credit framework using 120 credits but there is no national system for the rest of the UK. There are, however, a number of large consortia covering the rest of the UK, all of which are essentially compatible and all of which use 120 credits. In principle, the credit system is used in all parts of the Higher Education sector and operates both at Bachelors and Masters level but not generally at doctoral level.

The credit system used is based on student workload. It is used as an accumulation system. It is based on 120 credits per year and, in so far as there is an official statement of hours, it is based on 1200 hours for first cycle programmes.

Legal framework:

There is no legal framework directly related to ECTS in the UK.

Degree of Implementation:

A significant number of institutions within the Erasmus programme use ECTS as a transfer system. The ECTS is not used as an accumulation system. However, the existence of the UK credit system as described above means that the implementation of ECTS as a credit accumulation system would be straightforward.

Further information: j.e.reilly@ukc.ac.uk

National ECTS/DS Coordinators' list

N°	Country	National ECTS/DS Coordinator	Institution
1	Austria	Edlinger, Maria	Technische Universität Graz
2	Belgium (Flanders)	Van Liempt, Karel	Universiteit Antwerpen
3	Belgium (Wallonia)	Zoller, Chantal	Université Libre de Bruxelles
4	Bulgaria	Christov, Nicolai	Technical University of Sofia
5	Cyprus	Malloupas, Andreas	University of Cyprus
6	Czech Republic	Honzik, Jan	Brno University of Technology
7	Denmark	Bonde, Poul	Aarhus Universitet
8	Estonia	Kalm, Volli	University of Tartu
9	Finland	Pekkarinen, Heikki	University of Kuopio
10	France	Froissart, Martine	Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Lille
11	Germany	Gehmlich, Volker	Fachhochschule Osnabrück
12	Greece	Galanaki-Spiliotopoulos, Katerina	Athens University of Economics and Business
13	Hungary	Kiss, Laszlo	University of Debrecen
14	Iceland	Fannberg, Gisli	University of Iceland
15	Ireland	Bradley, Tony	Dublin City University
16	Italy	Sticchi-Damiani, Maria	LUISS Guido Carli
17	Latvia	Jure, Mara	Riga Technical University
18	Lithuania	Markeviciene, Raimonda	Vilnius University
19	Malta	Grech, Veronica	University of Malta
20	The Netherlands	Wagenaar, Robert	University of Groningen
21	Norway	Francis, George	University of Bergen
22	Poland	Misiewicz, Maria	Uniwersytet Wroclawski
23	Portugal	Pereira, Estela	Universidade de Aveiro
24	Romania	Luchian, Henri	University "A.I. Cuza"
25	Slovak Republic	Staskova, Jaroslava	Prešovská Univerzita
26	Slovenia	Fabjančič, Zarjan	Univerza v Ljubljani
27	Spain	Gonzalez, Julia	Universidad de Deusto
28	Sweden	Lundquist, Janerik	Linköping Universitet
29	Switzerland	Charon, Antoinette	Université de Lausanne
30	United Kingdom	Reilly, John	University of Kent at Canterbury