

Volkswagen as ECDL Test Centre in Germany

Background to the Project

ECDL was introduced at Volkswagen (VW) in 2003 to:

- Create an international standard for the evaluation of ICT skills among apprentices/trainees within the VW multinational organisation
- Enable comparability in the job application process
- Cut IT support costs due to increased proficiency of ICT use by (future) employees
- Optimise business processes through less interruptions due to ICT issues

ECDL is offered at VW among a total of over 500 IT courses available from VW Coaching GmbH. ECDL Start is mainly being used as part of the apprenticeship programme (since 2003), where it is used as an option to complement the basic PC training provided, which takes place at the beginning of the apprenticeship programme. If required, ECDL Core can be achieved by the candidates as well. Since 2006, ECDL is being offered to all VW employees, on a voluntarily basis.

ECDL training is optional, as are all of the training and additional education opportunities offered at VW. As part of human resource development, the decision about the necessity of particular training is carried out in the cooperation of managers and their staff.

ECDL Training & Testing

The ECDL training and testing at VW is divided into three stages:

- 1)** 2.5-hour 'kick-off' presentation event, where candidates are being informed about ECDL and the related VW learning platform materials and receive the candidate's documentation package. Candidates also get the opportunity to do a sample test for the module of their choice
- 2)** Self learning phase of flexible duration, which starts upon taking the sample test and gives candidates the opportunity to learn on their own, revise the short and/or extended information materials available at the VW learning platform (these are created in accordance with the 7 ECDL modules) as well as request support from the tutors via email, telephone, through personal appointment or by attending special forums conducted by the tutors
- 3)** Test

Due to the flexible duration of the self learning phase and the e-learning opportunities available at VW, candidates are able to learn in their own pace and inline with their schedule. VW advises the study time of 3 hours per week in its ECDL information booklet.

ECDL Candidates

The minimum age for candidates to participate in the ECDL certification at VW is restricted to 16 years.

Upon the endorsement of ECDL Start in the VW apprenticeship programme in 2003, 75% of apprentices in 2003 received ECDL Start certificates.

Since the start of the project in 2003 a total number of about 800 candidates, including apprentices and employees, has been achieved to date (2009).

Sources:

1. Natascha Pilger, Arbeitsplatznahe IT-Qualifizierung über den ECDL (2006) - Interview with Theda Delikan, a representative of VW Coaching GmbH.
2. Der Europäische Computer Führerschein bei der Volkswagen Coaching GmbH – Information – VW Coaching GmbH ECDL information booklet (http://www.vwcg-slz.de/uploads/tx_abdownloads/files/handout_ecdl.pdf)