ETH Zurich's Grading System and ECTS Grades

The credit system of ETH Zurich is based on the European Credit Transfer Systems (ECTS). Credits are assigned to each learning unit according to the expected student workload. One Credit Point requires an average workload of 30 hours' of student work.

ETH Zurich does not use the ECTS Grading Scheme. The grading scale goes from 1.0 to 6.0 in quarter grade (0.25) steps. The pass grade is 4.0, the maximum grade is 6.0. The numerical grades correspond to the following predicates:

ETH Zurich Grades[1]	
6.0 – 5.75	excellent (ausgezeichnet)
5.5 – 5.25	very good (sehr gut)
5.0 – 4.75	good (gut)
4.5 – 4.25	satisfactory (befriedigend)
4.0	pass (genügend)
3.5	fail (ungenügend)
3.0	poor (schlecht)
2.5	very poor (schlecht bis sehr schlecht)
2.0	extremely poor (sehr schlecht)
1.0	not measurable (nicht messbar)

The above grades are not rigidly related to any distribution function and are not awarded according to predetermined percentages or numerical scores. A student's grade in a subject is more related to the student's mastery of the material than to the relative performance of his or her peers.

The ECTS uses a rank-based grading system. In such a "grading-on-the-curve" system, a student's grading is determined in comparison with the whole group's performance. ECTS grades are assigned among students in such a way that the best 10% of the students with a pass grade receive an A, the next 25% a B, etc.

ECTS Grades[2]		
A	excellent	best 10%
B	very good	next 25%
C	good	next 30%
D	satisfactory	next 25%
E	pass	last 10%
FX	fail – some more work required to pass	
F	fail – considerable further work required	

NOTE: Although a linear translation might be attempted between ETH Zurich and ECTS grades, any such translation must be interpreted with caution as an ETH Zurich grade does not imply a ranking in a specific percentile. The above tables can be used to translate the grades of individual courses but must not be used for grade-point averages. The ranking of each graduate of ETH Zurich within their cohort is indicated in their academic record in a separate ranking sheet, which indicates the student's grade-point average as well as the mean and standard deviation of the grade-point averages of the cohort.

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[1] Terminology according to ETH Zurich's Diploma Supplement.
[2] http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/ects/index_en.html