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EQAVET - Quality Assurance in VET

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EQAVET

**Recommendation of the European
Parliament and of the Council of 18
June 2009 on the establishment of
a European Quality Assurance
Reference Framework for
Vocational Education and Training**

Definition

Quality assurance
→ process to
ensure quality





EQAVET

European
Commission

THE QUALITY CYCLE

of the European Quality Assurance Reference
Framework for Vocational Education and Training

1. Purpose and Plan

Set up clear, appropriate and measurable goals and objectives in terms of policies, procedures, tasks and human resources.

2. Implementation

Establish procedures to ensure the achievement of goals and objectives (e.g. development of partnerships, involvement of stakeholders, allocation of resources, and organisational or operational procedures).



4. Review

Develop procedures in order to achieve the targeted outcomes and/or new objectives after processing feedback, key stakeholders conduct discussion and analysis in order to devise procedures for change.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Design mechanisms for the evaluation of achievements and outcomes by collecting and processing data in order to make informed assessment.



EQAVET list of indicators

Underlying objectives:

Better employability

Better match between training supply and demand

Better access to VET

- No 1 Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers
- No 2 Investment in training of teachers and trainers
- No 3 Participation rate in VET programmes
- No 4 Completion rate in VET programmes
- No 5 Placement rate in VET programmes
- No 6 Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace
- No 7 Unemployment rate
- No 8 Prevalence of vulnerable groups
- No 9 Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market
- No 10 Schemes used to promote better access to VET





Achievements

- National Reference points in each Member State
- Development of common principles, reference criteria, indicators, guidelines and tools for quality improvement in VET at national, regional and local level as appropriate
- Community of practice





Building blocks for VET providers

Building Blocks

The early analysis of approaches to quality assurance by VET providers across Europe, which are in line with the EQAVET Framework, has identified six interdependent building blocks. These six building blocks support and complement each other and build on the EQAVET indicative descriptors and indicators.

The building blocks provide guidance by identifying key activities which could be undertaken in order to improve quality assurance processes in line with the EQAVET Framework. All of the building blocks are supported by examples from European VET providers. You can find full details of these examples at: www.eqavet.eu/index2.html



The building blocks set out activities that would help VET providers to develop and support a quality assurance approach in line with the EQAVET Framework. They include:

- referring to the EQAVET quality assurance cycle
- a "call to action"
- identifying the key issues that should be considered and the factors for success
- referring to "lessons learnt" based on an analysis of recent experiences from European VET providers, which suggest new ways forward



Webtool

EU Quality Assurance in Vocational Education & Training. **Click below to enter**



- System and provider levels
- Similar structure for both
- Development of additional material

<http://www.eqavet.eu/gns/home.aspx>





EQAVET external evaluation 2013

- Analytical framework based on the 14 questions
- Mostly qualitative indicators due to the research methodology
- Desk research
- Interviews (78 interviews)
- Country fiches (34 (2 for BE)=(27+1)+ HR + FYROM + TR+ ICE + NO + LI) + 6 case studies (IT, FI, DE, RO, SK, EL)



Main findings

- EQAVET helped to improve the implementation of quality assurance in 2/3 of the EU countries
- The choice of the Recommendation as legal basis was a good one
- EQAVET is consistent and complementary to the other tools (ECVET, EQF) but does not cover certain aspects dealt with by ECVET and EQF (e.g. qualification design, certification process)



Main findings (2)

- The work at European level as well as in MS has speed up since the adoption of the Recommendation (agenda setting effect)...
- ... the evaluation notes a significant increase of nomination of NRPs just after the adoption of the Recommendation
- The material developed at European level is felt to be user friendly and useful but difficult to disseminate at national level because of the language issue
- NRPs - key role - seem to lack resources sometimes



Recommendations (1)

- Continue the cooperation work at European level
- Strengthen the qualification design, assessment and award dimension
- Develop Work based learning QA
- Consider translating the material developed
- Strengthen the NRPs



Recommendations (2)

If transparency of process is to be a stronger focus then more efforts should be made:

- **In terms of reporting on the national approach, a new way of reporting – more operational and prescriptive - should be elaborated**
- **Consider strengthening EQAVET to enable a greater transparency in between QA systems**
- **Involve more the stakeholders who have the greatest interest in transparency i.e. companies, students**



New developments

1. Restricted call for proposals for EQAVET National Reference Points (NRPs)
2. Complementing the EQAVET Framework
3. Reporting on QA developments to increase transparency
4. EQAVET governance and events





Restricted call for proposals for EQAVET National Reference Points (NRPs)

- Key role of NRPs in the EQAVET implementation
- NRPs often tend to lack sufficient financial resources to carry out their tasks
- Erasmus+ programme WP foresees 1,5 million for 2016 for EQAVET NRPs
- EACEA launched restricted call for proposals on 4 November 2015
- deadline for submission is 15 February 2016 and eligibility period from 1 April 2016 to 30 March 2017





Complementing the EQAVET Framework

- Several topics are not (sufficiently) addressed in EQAVET Recommendation, e.g. work based learning, learning outcomes, pedagogy, qualification design and certification
- EQAVET Annual Forum in June 2015 agreed to extend the current framework by developing new indicative descriptors and indicators covering the mission topics
- Working group to develop EQAVET+
- Aim to produce a guidance document to be approved by the EQAVET Network





Reporting on QA developments to increase transparency

- One of the EQAVET objectives is to contribute to increased transparency of VET policy developments and thereby promoting mutual trust
- Until now this dimension was underdeveloped
- EQAVET Annual Forum in June 2015 agreed to reinforce the transparency of QA by giving the task to the NRPs 1) to update yearly a short report on QA developments and 2) to reply to annual survey about the implementation of EQAVET





EQAVET governance and events

- No important changes foreseen regarding the governance
- EQAVET Annual Forum to be called EQAVET Annual Network meeting
- Annual EQAVET NRP meeting to be replaced by EQAVET large open meeting (to be called EQAVET Annual Forum)
- Continue EQAVET Peer learning activities and 1 or 2 working groups are scheduled in 2016 and 2017





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