



European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training

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

EQAVET - Supporting European quality assurance in Vocational Education and Training

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Quality assurance in VET

- Quality Assurance (QA) in Vocational Education and Training (VET) is a key instrument in supporting the transition to a knowledge based society, by **building trust across and within Member States, in order to strengthen mobility, permeability and flexibility of learning pathways**
- QA increases the effectiveness of VET outcomes in terms of **improving:**
 - **the match between demand and supply**
 - **employability of the workforce**
 - **access to training and life long learning, especially for vulnerable groups**

Copenhagen Process - 2002

The target set by the **Barcelona European Council in 2002** of making Europe's education and training systems a world quality reference by 2010 puts the quality issue at the heart of the community policy agenda in a relatively long timescale;

The Copenhagen Declaration set out as a main priority:

- *“Promoting cooperation in quality assurance with particular focus on exchange of models and methods, as well as common criteria and principles for quality in vocational education and training”*

The Maastricht (2004), Helsinki (2006), Bordeaux (2008) and the Bruges (2010) Communiqués reiterate the importance of QA in VET



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Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET Recommendation) - 2009



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EQAVET Recommendation (1)

EQAVET :

- **a reference instrument** to help Member States to promote and monitor continuous improvement of their VET systems based on common European references;
- comprises a **quality assurance and improvement cycle** of planning, implementation, evaluation/assessment and review/revision of VET, supported by **common quality criteria, indicative descriptors and indicators**;
- should be applied at the **VET-system, VET-provider and qualification-awarding levels**;
- should be used by Member States on a **voluntary basis**.

EQAVET Recommendation (2)

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 Recommendation (3)

RECOMMEND THAT MEMBER STATES:

- 1. use and further develop the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (the Framework), quality criteria, indicative descriptors and reference indicators as set out and further described in Annexes I and II, to further improve and develop their VET systems, support lifelong learning strategies and the implementation of the EQF and of the European Quality Charter for Mobility, and promote a culture of quality improvement and innovation at all levels. **Extra emphasis should be placed on the transition from VET to higher education;***



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EQAVET working programme 2013 – 2015 (1)

SUPPORT ACTIONS AT EU LEVEL CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL EU GOAL OF 'MAKING LLL AND MOBILITY A REALITY

- *The focus at this level is on quality assurance to boost VET mobility, which implies close cooperation with other education and training sub-sectors (in particular higher education -HE) and other EU initiatives (such as EQF and ECVET)*
- *More work is needed in order to explore the quality assurance approaches used in VET and higher education in order to promote greater permeability and transparency of qualifications and to enable learners to move more easily within and between systems*



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EQAVET working programme 2013 – 2015 (2)

A *Quality Assurance in VET and Higher education* seminar will be organised by EQAVET in conjunction with CEDEFOP in October 2013 in order to identify the priorities and establish appropriate partnerships to support an on-going cooperation on QA issues between VET and HE in order to promote mobility and permeability

The seminar:

- **aims to define future areas for an enhanced cooperation and joint work**
- **reflects on three topics of common interest:**
 - **quality assurance issues related with work based learning,**
 - **integrating the new forms of learning**
 - **accreditation**

The seminar focuses on what QA in VET and QA in HE SHARE, rather than what separates THEM

EQAVET and ESG for HE - commonalities – (1)

Common principles, in terms of:

- explicit and strong European dimension
- **subsidiarity - voluntar approach by the Member States**
- Focus on:
 - stakeholders' needs, especially on the needs of students and employers
 - **quality assurance mechanisms at providers' level**
 - QA developments on a LLL perspective

EQAVET and ESG for HE - commonalities – (2)

Common methodological approach at provider level, in terms of:

- Using self assessment as a pillar of the QA system
- Involving stakeholders across the whole QA cycle
- Developing evidence based QA mechanisms
- Focusing on the QA of students' learning outcomes
- Emphasizing the role of quality improvement

Rethinking education

- areas of mutual interest for VET and HE -

- **Promoting work based learning** including quality traineeships, apprenticeships and dual learning models to help the transition from learning to work
- **Promoting partnerships** between:
 - **public and private institutions** (to ensure appropriate curricula and skills provision)
 - **education, business and research**
- **Promoting mobility**

Rethinking education

- areas of mutual interest for VET and HE -

- **Create a European Area for Skills and Qualifications to promote a stronger convergence** between the EU transparency and recognition tools to ensure that skills and qualifications can be easily recognised across borders, based on on-going evaluations and pursuing the learning-outcomes approach
- **Funding Education for Growth** – analysis of the benefits of investment in different education and training sectors (**vocational training, adult learning, higher education**) and ways to increase the efficiency of spending



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Thank you for your attention!