



EQAVET

European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training

EQAVET FORUM
7 DECEMBER 2016



**DISCOVER
YOUR TALENT**

European Vocational Skills Week
2016

European Vocational Skills Week

The first European Vocational Skills Week is taking place from 5 to 9 December 2016 with events in Brussels and parallel activities in Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries at national, regional and local levels.

The Commission invites you and all relevant stakeholders to get involved and make it a success.



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Concept paper

The EQAVET Forum provides an opportunity for policy makers, VET practitioners, associations of **vocational education and training** (VET) providers, social partners and EQAVET users to meet and discuss their approaches and experience of working with quality assurance systems based on EQAVET. The Forum is designed for up to 100 participants from across Europe.

The Forum takes place during the European Vocational Skills week¹ which seeks to improve the **attractiveness and image of vocational education and training**. The Forum focuses on:

- developing and using VET graduate tracking systems;
- improving and monitoring the quality assurance of VET with an emphasis on work based learning and on self-assessment tools for VET providers.

These topics are identified in the New Skills Agenda² as important in strengthening human

capital, employability and competitiveness. They are therefore of particular importance in the ongoing work in EQAVET.

At the beginning of the Forum, there is an opportunity for representatives from the EQAVET National Reference Points to discuss the forthcoming Erasmus+ call for proposals.

Throughout the Forum there will be opportunities to work in small groups to discuss examples of good practice; identify the extent to which experiences from other countries can be adapted to new contexts; and work with colleagues who are addressing similar quality assurance questions. Each discussion group will be led by a member of the EQAVET Steering Committee and will be supported by an expert with a detailed understanding of how EQAVET can be applied in different countries.

The conclusions from the Forum will be used to develop and refine the work of the EQAVET network. We hope you can join us.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1125>

² http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/20160610-education-skills-factsheet_en

Agenda

Master of Ceremonies – Keith Brumfitt

08:15 – 09:00	Welcome coffee and registration
09:00 – 10:00	Parallel sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the forthcoming Erasmus+ restricted call for proposals (session for the EQAVET NRPs only) - <i>Lara Paoletti</i>, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency [Room: Copenhagen] • EQAVET for beginners – an introduction session on EQAVET (only for newcomers) - <i>Keith Brumfitt</i>, EQAVET Secretariat [Room: Budapest]
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome to the Forum and agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>João Santos</i>, Deputy Head of Unit Vocational Education and Adult Education, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - European Commission • <i>Sean Feerick</i>, Director, EQAVET Secretariat
10:30 – 11:00	Key role of National Reference Points (NRPs) in the implementation of EQAVET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romanian project on making VET more attractive and pathways to transition easier - <i>Dana Stroie</i>, National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development in Romania • Austrian project on VET teachers' involvement in quality management systems and QA procedures - <i>Franz Gramlinger</i>, ARQA-VET - Austrian National Reference Point for Quality Assurance in VET
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Tracking of VET graduates (Part I - presentation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction - <i>Koen Bois d'Enghien</i>, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion • Key messages on practices in EU countries regarding the tracking of VET graduates – <i>Arancha Oviedo</i>, Policy Officer, EQAVET Secretariat • Tracking students and graduates - <i>Thea van den Boom</i>, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands and <i>Alie Kamphuis</i>, CINOP, the Netherlands

12:00 – 12:45	Tracking of VET graduates (Part II – parallel workshops) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop A: Setting up and developing effective VET tracking systems • Workshop B: Using the results from VET graduate tracking systems
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Feedback from workshops
14:30 – 15:00	Improving the quality assurance and cost-effectiveness of apprenticeship training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards a shared vision of apprenticeship - joint presentation by ETUC and UEAPME - <i>Francesco Lauria</i>, ETUC and <i>Arnold de Boer</i>, UEAPME
15:00 – 15:30	Further developing quality assurance in VET (Part I - presentations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary presentation on QA in WBL - <i>Anja Lietzmann</i>, k.o.s GmbH, Germany • Plenary presentation on self-assessment procedures of VET providers - <i>Leena Koski</i>, Finnish National Board of Education, Finnish Reference Point for Quality Assurance in VET and <i>Jatta Herranen</i>, North Karelia Municipal Education and Training Consortium, Finland
15:30 – 16:15	Further developing quality assurance in VET (Part II – parallel workshops) ‘How to improve the quality assurance of work-based learning and self-assessment procedures of VET providers?’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop A: Quality assurance of work based learning • Workshop B: Self-assessment tools for VET providers
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:00	Feedback from workshops
17:00 – 17:15	Closing the Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>João Santos</i>, Deputy Head of Unit Vocational Education and Adult Education, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - European Commission



João Santos - Deputy Head of Unit in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion at the European Commission in Brussels. From 2009 to 2013 he was posted at the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia as a diplomatic Counsellor dealing with bilateral trade and investment issues. He had previously worked at the Directorate General for Employment & Social Affairs. As the coordinator of a geographical desk, he was involved in the negotiations on the EU structural policies supported by the European Social Fund. His responsibilities included the employment chapter of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, and the Strategy on Social Protection and Social Inclusion. In the same DG, he worked on international

relations covering the employment and social affairs dimension of EU bilateral cooperation with China, the USA, and Canada, as well as on multilateral cooperation within the United Nations framework, on issues related to the social dimension of globalisation and the Decent Work Agenda.

Koen Bois d'Enghien has been working for more than 10 years in the field of employment, labour law and vocational education and training policies for the European Commission as well as for CEDEFOP. He is currently a policy officer on quality assurance in vocational education and training in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion of the European Commission. He has a Master's Degree in Economics and one in Political Sciences.



Anja Lietzmann is a social researcher with a PhD in Social Science. Her work experience – gained in Germany and the UK – comprises academic evaluation and market research as well as implementation projects in the fields of education, employment and innovation. Within her professional career, she has managed various projects for private consultancy and research facilities as well as for the university. Since 2012, her focus has been on implementing European projects in VET.



Arnold de Boer has been working as an adviser in social affairs and training policies at UEAPME since March 2015. Since graduating in contemporary history of Central and Eastern Europe from the University of Groningen (the Netherlands), Arnold has worked in several international organisations in Berlin, the Netherlands and Brussels, among them the EU Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament. His main areas of expertise include social dialogue, migration and integration, welfare and equal opportunities, labour law, health & safety at work, economic governance, digitalisation, employability, VET and apprenticeship.

Dana Stroie - Head of Unit for Training Programmes and Quality Assurance in National Centre for TVET Development in Bucharest. Dana is also a member of the Steering Committee of EQAVET and founding member of the Romanian Quality Assurance Reference Point – the National Group for Quality Assurance in Education and Training (GNAC). Dana has spent most of her career working in the field of vocational education and training. She is involved in the development of initial VET in Romania, including the elaboration of the Romanian VET Strategy 2016-2020 and the implementation of Education and Training 2020 strategic framework for European Cooperation ("ET 2020") at national level. She has extensive experience in developing and implementing quality assurance mechanisms at both system and provider levels.



Francesco Lauria – National Officer – responsible for European Projects, European Training and Research in CISL Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori. Francesco received his PhD in the International School of Doctorate Labour Law Relations University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. He is a member of: ETUC Education and Training Committee, ACVT European Commission Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, and works within the technical body for the preparation of national repertoire of the professions at the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.



Franz Gramlinger (PhD) – represents (ARQA-VET) - Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training in the Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD-GmbH) – the Austrian agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research. Since 2016 he has been the Head of the National Coordination Point for the NQF which is also located in the OeAD-GmbH. Franz studied Law and Business Education at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. He was awarded a Fulbright grant for CUNY, the City University of New York and later worked at the University of Hamburg. Seconded as national expert for e-skills and LLL to Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, until 2007, he returned to Austria in 2007 to build up the Austrian Reference Point for QA in VET in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education.

Keith Brumfitt has been an expert advisor to the EQAVET Secretariat since 2009. His expertise is in vocational education and training. He has held a number of national roles: Director of a Sector Skills Council; national manager in a government agency which develops policy for the training of teachers; principal advisor for the development of the UK’s vocational qualification system and head of education in a university.



Lara Paoletti - Project Officer at the European Commission’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). She is responsible for managing the grants made available to the EQAVET NRPs and EQF NCPs under the Erasmus+ Programme. Ms Paoletti has a 15 years’ experience in project management and in EU funding procedures - she has been working in European institutions on the administration of EU grants since 2009.



Jatta Herranen (PhD) - Development Manager in North Karelia Municipal Education and Training Consortium since 2010. Previously she was principal lecturer in Humanities of Applied Science, teachers’ educator and researcher at Joensuu University. Jatta is an expert in Finnish vocational education, especially pedagogical and quality management.

Thea van den Boom - Senior policy advisor on quality assurance and supervision in VET at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Directorate of VET. She gained her QA expertise working on the implementation of quality management and specific quality assurance systems (ISO, EFQM, INK, BSC) within the Ministry and the National Employment Service Organisation. She represents the VET-Netherlands in EQAVET, is chair of the Advisory Group of the Dutch NRP and is a temporary member of the EQAVET Steering Committee.



Alie Kamphuis - Coordinator of the Dutch NRP EQAVET and a consultant at CINOP. Her expertise is in QA in VET with a specific focus on strengthening quality culture and quality of assessment and certification of students. Alie is participating in the working group on EQAVET+.

Leena Koski - Counsellor of Education, Finnish National Board of Education. Responsible for Finnish Reference Point for Quality Assurance in VET. Member of EQAVET Network and Steering committee of EQAVET.



What is EQAVET (European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training)?

In 2009, EU Member States agreed the EQAVET Recommendation, which provides authorities and VET providers with common tools for the management of quality in VET. These tools offer common quality criteria and indicators for improving VET systems, promoting mutual understanding and trust in the outcomes of VET.

What materials are available to support the implementation of EQAVET?

The EQAVET Network has produced materials on a range of key areas, which provide guidance on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of quality assurance (QA) in VET systems and processes; and on implementing the EQAVET Recommendation in Member States according to their specific national and/or institutional contexts. EQAVET supports the improvement of policy and practice by building on experience and shared knowledge, providing leadership and partnership on issues of QA in VET and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Content of the USB

1. EQAVET Indicators – improving the labour market relevance of VET systems

- Policy brief EQAVET PLA on indicator 6 - Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market
- Policy brief EQAVET PLA on indicator 9 - Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace
- Policy brief EQAVET PLA on indicator 2 - Investment in training of teachers and trainers
- Policy brief EQAVET PLA on Indicator 5 - Placement rates in VET programmes

2. Supporting an evaluation and quality improvement culture

- Policy brief on self-evaluation for VET providers
- Policy brief on the impact of QA systems in IVET systems
- Policy brief on actions to reduce early leaving in VET
- EQAVET Network's paper on Complementing EQAVET - EQAVET+ indicative descriptors 2016

3. VET in employment – supporting QA in work based-learning and continuing VET

- Brochure on EQAVET and building blocks on quality assuring work-based learning
- Policy note of Symposium on learning from sectoral approaches to QA of VET
- Supporting adult learning, CVET and soft skills development by using quality assurance descriptors and indicators

4. Supporting learning outcomes – a partnership approach

- Assuring the quality of VET qualifications - the contribution of the EU tools to the definition of learning outcomes based standards, report and policy
- Information Gathering Exercise on QA procedures in the processes of certification, curricula setting, accreditation and training of trainers in Europe
- QA in VET and Higher Education for improving their permeability, report of the Joint Seminar VET and higher education
- Using ECVET and EQAVET principles some early experiences at national level
- Using units within professional qualifications, report on 2nd EQAVET, ECVET, EQF Joint Seminar
- Policy brief on QA process for defining qualifications based on the learning outcomes approach

5. Training material for National Reference Points

Six training activities which help VET providers identify key features of their own approach to QA through discussion and self-reflection. Each activity is illustrated by at least one case study showing other VET providers in the EU addressing the same issue. They are designed to support those interested in using EQAVET to monitor and/or develop their QA approach.



Use this memory key

Other resources are available on our home page at <http://www.eqavet.eu>

EQAVET Secretariat

The Secretariat provides leadership and support for the efficient organisation and management of business and the range of activities which comprise the EQAVET Network's work programme, facilitating cooperation between the EU Member States and the Commission.



Sean Feerick

Director

Sean is a senior level programme manager and policy analyst responsible for directing the Secretariat, guiding and organising the work of a team of experts and managing the implementation of the EQAVET work programme.

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Dr. Arancha Oviedo-García

Quality Assurance Policy Officer

Arancha is responsible for developing policy materials to ensure accessibility and relevance of the content developed by EQAVET and other EU and international bodies to a wider audience of policymakers, VET providers and other stakeholders.

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Dr. Beata Sokolowska

Communication and Information Officer

Beata is responsible for coordinating the information and communication function within the Secretariat, the EQAVET website management and for developing and implementing a communication strategy for EQAVET.

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