

Background

As part of the 2013 work programme, EQAVET is organising two peer learning activities (PLAs) – the first will be in Budapest on 22/23 May and will be hosted by the Directorate for VET and Adult Education within the Hungarian National Labour Office.

The PLA will focus on self-assessment at both a system and VET provider level. As with all peer learning activities, the priority is to find time for discussion, reflection and sharing knowledge and experience. The approach used in a PLA is different to the one that is used in a study visit - as the participants do not just consider the experiences of the hosts. In this PLA, colleagues from France and the Netherlands will also describe their systems in order to offer three perspectives on how self-assessment is used at the system and VET provider level. Using short presentations as a stimulus for discussion, the participants will reflect on the policy and practice implications of strengthening self-assessment within the context of the 'quality cycle' that underpins the EQAVET framework.

Introduction

The 2012 survey by the EQAVET Secretariat highlighted that self-assessment was one area of quality assurance where National Reference Points would value additional support and guidance. This PLA has been planned to respond to this need. The discussions have been planned to ensure there is time to understand different approaches and identify how (at both the system and VET provider level) a more consistent approach to self-assessment can be developed. No particular approach will be recommended – the approach is one that values the variety of national contexts and seeks to identify common approaches, key lessons that have been learnt in the implementation process and solutions.

As this is part of the EQAVET programme of support, the PLA will also consider the use of the indicators and indicative descriptors in the EQAVET Recommendation. This helps to locate self-assessment as part of an EQAVET-aligned quality assurance approach. It also highlights how the indicators and indicative descriptors are relevant and valuable to a wide range of quality assurance approaches in Europe.

Expected outcomes

The two-day PLA (finishing at 16.00 on 23 May) will help participants to:

- gain a greater understanding of how VET systems and providers in Europe use self-assessment to support quality assurance and continuous quality improvement;
- identify lessons and challenges surrounding the implementation of self-assessment.

At the end of the PLA, a policy brief (4-5 pages) will be produced and circulated to participants. This will highlight the key issues discussed during the PLA and it will be placed on the EQAVET website (www.eqavet.eu).