

## What are the quality indicators?

The Framework is accompanied by a set of 10 indicators:

### 1. Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers

- Share of providers applying internal quality assurance systems defined by law at own initiative
- Share of accredited VET providers

### 2. Investment in training of teachers and trainers

- Share of teachers and trainers participating in further training
- Amount of funds invested

### 3. Participation rate in VET programmes

- Number of participants in VET programmes, according to the type of programme and individual criteria

### 4. Completion rate in VET programmes

- Number of successfully completed/abandoned VET programmes, according to the type of programme and individual criteria

### 5. Placement rate in VET programmes

- Destination of VET learners at a designated point in time after completion of training, according to the type of programme and individual criteria
- Share of employed learners at a designated point in time after completion of training, according to the type of programme and individual criteria

### 6. Utilisation of acquired skills in the workplace

- Information on occupation obtained by individuals after completion of training, according to type of training and individual criteria
- Satisfaction rate of individuals and employers with acquired skills/competences

### 7. Unemployment rate

- According to individual criteria

### 8. Prevalence of vulnerable groups

- Percentage of participants in VET classified as disadvantaged groups (in a defined region or catchments area) according to age and gender
- Success rate of disadvantaged groups according to age and gender

### 9. Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market

- Information on mechanisms set up to identify changing demands at different levels
- Evidence of their effectiveness

### 10. Schemes used to promote better access to VET

- Information on existing schemes at different levels
- Evidence of their effectiveness

## How will the quality indicators be used?

The adoption and implementation of the Framework and its indicators in Member States is voluntary. Indicators may be used as a "tool box" by VET providers and national VET systems as they work on developing their quality management procedures. They are not designed for benchmarking but rather to support a culture of quality assurance among stakeholders.

## Why is such information necessary?

Quality indicators underpin an evidence-based and outcomes-focused approach to quality assurance in VET. Collecting data helps VET providers to assess their performance. Therefore, data can help VET providers to support continuous improvement processes to ensure that:

- they provide quality training and assessment across all operations
- their management systems are responsive to the needs of clients, staff and stakeholders and the environment in which the VET provider operates
- they adhere to principles of access and equity and maximises outcomes for its clients

## What is happening regarding implementation?

The Framework is a voluntary instrument that can be implemented progressively and in accordance with national legislation and practices. It can serve as a tool capable of being developed further as a result of practical experiences at both European and national. Its main users are public authorities and bodies charged with quality assurance and improvements, as well as VET providers.

Since its adoption in 2009, Member States and the Commission have been encouraging testing and the further development of this instrument. This has involved launching of pilot projects funded through the Lifelong Learning Programme and also through national initiatives.

By 2011 Member States were expected to have devised an approach aimed at improving quality assurance at national level making best use of the Framework in accordance with national legislation and practices. Member States involved all relevant stakeholders in this process.

## For further information

In every Member country, a quality assurance national reference point gives access to information on the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET and national quality assurance matters in VET. All national reference points are part of the European quality assurance in VET (EQAVET) network.

For further information, consult:

[www.eqavet.eu](http://www.eqavet.eu)

[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

# European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training

## - a tool for VET providers



## Why a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET?

The European Quality Assurance Reference Framework is designed to promote better vocational education and training (VET) by providing authorities and VET providers with common tools for the management of quality in VET.

Given the diversity and complexity of VET systems and of the approaches to quality within and across Member States, the Framework offers a common point of reference to ensure transparency, consistency and portability between the many streams of policy and practical development across Europe, in order to increase mutual trust and mobility of learners and workers.

The Framework was developed by Member States in cooperation with the European Commission and it has now been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. It is a key element in the follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration, which calls for closer cooperation in the field of VET, particularly quality assurance for VET, and the ongoing work to renew Europe's education and training systems.

## How does the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET benefit providers, learners and other stakeholders?

### 1. Increases transparency and mobility

By establishing a shared understanding among Member States of what constitutes quality, the Framework increases transparency, consistency, portability and recognition of qualifications and competencies received by learners across different countries or learning environments. This will enhance the mobility of learners and workers.

### 2. Valorises permeability in a lifelong learning perspective

By focusing on the improvement and evaluation of the outputs and outcomes of VET – in terms of employability, matching supply and demand for training and better access to lifelong training (especially for vulnerable groups), the Framework:

- facilitates the permeability of learning paths between VET, general education and higher education without extending learners' education and training
- contributes to the overcoming of current unemployment problems by addressing the gap between labour market needs and of labour force qualifications
- allows more flexible pathways, enhancing the opportunities for lifelong learning.

### 3. Makes VET more attractive

By ensuring mutual recognition, thereby fostering international, national and sectoral mobility, VET providers can enrich the training provision, raise the attractiveness of training programmes and enhance their pan-European reputation.

The Framework, because it is based on outcomes of VET, facilitates cooperation between VET providers and companies. This means that VET providers can strengthen the link between education and training and the labour market.

## What is the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET?

The Framework is an instrument for improving the quality of VET systems. It provides a European-wide system to help Member States and stakeholders to document, develop, monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of their VET provision and quality management practices.

It can be applied at both system and VET provider levels adapted to the different national systems and used in accordance with national legislation and practice.

It complements the work of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the European Credit System for VET (ECVET).

The diagram outlines the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET. The Framework is shown as a quality cycle structure with four phases linked to each other in a systematic manner. The Framework contains quality criteria (Planning, Implementation, Evaluation and Review) for which descriptive indicators have been identified (see overleaf).

## The Framework:

- states the need for regular monitoring (involving internal and external evaluation mechanisms) and reporting on progress
- uses common quality criteria and indicative descriptors to underpin the monitoring and reporting arrangements
- stresses the importance of common quality indicators to support the evaluation, monitoring and quality assurance of VET systems and providers.

# 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.