EQAVET

European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training

EQAVET
Quality Cycle

an on-line tool to support the
implementation of the European Quality
Assurance Reference Framework
for VET systems and providers

The EQAVET Quality Cycle is an on-line software tool designed to support national implementation processes and actions aligned to the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET Framework).

The tool is accessible via internet on the EQAVET network website at www.eqavet.eu and it is free

The tool can assist VET systems and providers to:

- Consider, monitor or evaluate their own approach to quality assurance;

- Examine how other Member States and VET providers in Europe are operating a quality assurance system;

- Explore ideas relating to the design of a national, regional or an institution quality assurance system;

- Stimulate further thinking on how to introduce or develop quality assurance mechanisms at a system or VET provider level.

Who are we?

The EQAVET Framework (developed by Member States in cooperation with the European Commission and adopted in 2009 by the European Parliament and the Council) is designed to promote better VET by providing authorities and providers with common tools for the management of quality in VET. It is a key element in the follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration, which calls for closer cooperation in the field of VET and in on-going work to renew Europe's education and training systems.

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

In each Member State a Quality Assurance National Reference Point (National Reference Point) has been established, in order to support the use and implementation of the EQAVET Framework, which is voluntary.

Using the EQAVET Quality Cycle – core functions and utilities

On entering the EQAVET Quality Cycle, you are presented with a choice of whether to explore quality assurance for VET systems or for VET providers.

Within each of these sites, there is a common structure which includes:

- guidance on a set of quality criteria or Indicative Descriptors of the EQAVET Recommendation and Building Blocks which offer practical advice on what could be done to develop quality assurance;

- guidance on the Indicators of the EQAVET Recommendation;

- an extensive collection of Case Studies demonstrating how Member States and VET providers in Europe have approached quality assurance;

- a glossary of key terms and information sources used in a VET quality assurance context;
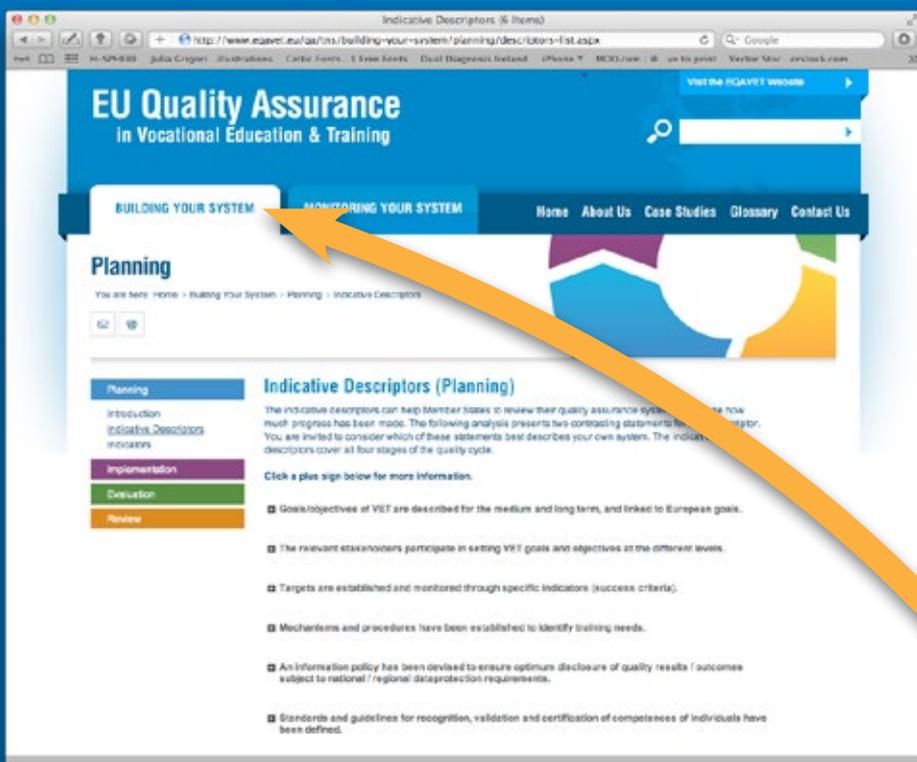
Building your system

This section offers support to those introducing or modifying a national or regional approach to quality assurance. It focuses on:

1. The EQAVET Indicative Descriptors for the four stages of the Quality Assurance Cycle (planning, implementation, evaluation and review). It contains a series of 'contrasting statements' for each Descriptor, which invite you to consider which of the two statements best describes your own system, supporting a process of self-reflection in order to stimulate change.

2. Showing links to appropriate EQAVET Indicators which may help you to improve your performance as measured by these Indicators within a quality criteria area described by a Descriptor.

3. A set of 10 Building Blocks which offer practical advice on what could be done to develop quality assurance for VET.

| 01 Clean Rules	02 Existing Internal Arrangements	03 Clear Roles & Responsibilities	04 Identifying Information & Data	05 Communications Strategy
06 Initiatives & Success	07 Feedback	08 Clarity Over Funding	09 Quality Assurance	10 Involvement

Quality Assurance for VET systems:

guidance on developing and further improving quality assurance using the EQAVET Recommendation
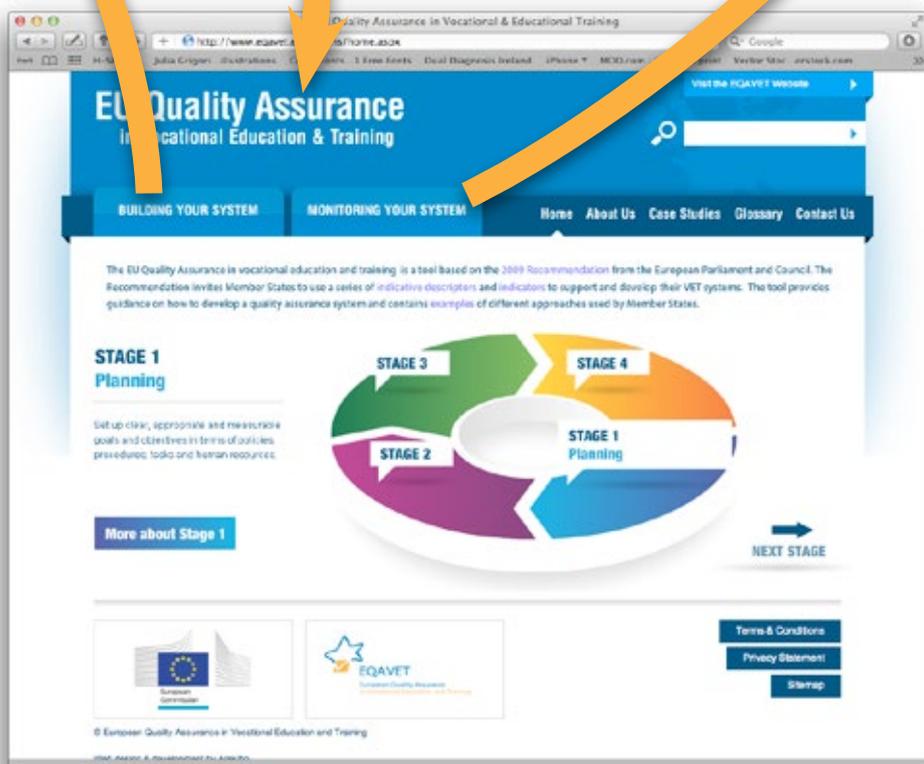
**This tool is accessible at:** www.eqavet.eu/qa/gns/home.aspx
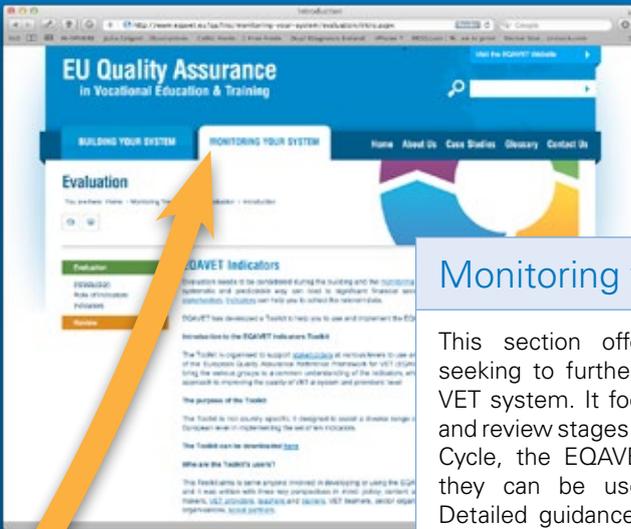
Monitoring your system

This section offers support to those seeking to further improve their existing VET system. It focuses on the evaluation and review stages of the Quality Assurance Cycle, the EQAVET Indicators, and how they can be used for self-monitoring. Detailed guidance is offered on ways of collecting data to support the reporting of progress as measured by these Indicators. It also includes a Toolkit to develop a common understanding of the Indicators.

Case Studies

Case Studies are organised alphabetically and each contains a summary of a quality assurance practice showing how the EQAVET Descriptors and Indicators have been used by a Member State to design system-level processes. They also include links to additional information.
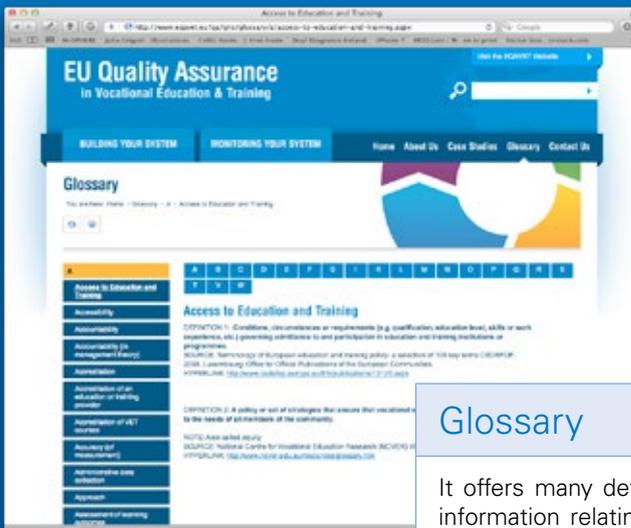
Glossary

It offers many definitions and sources of information relating to the terms used in the on-line resource.
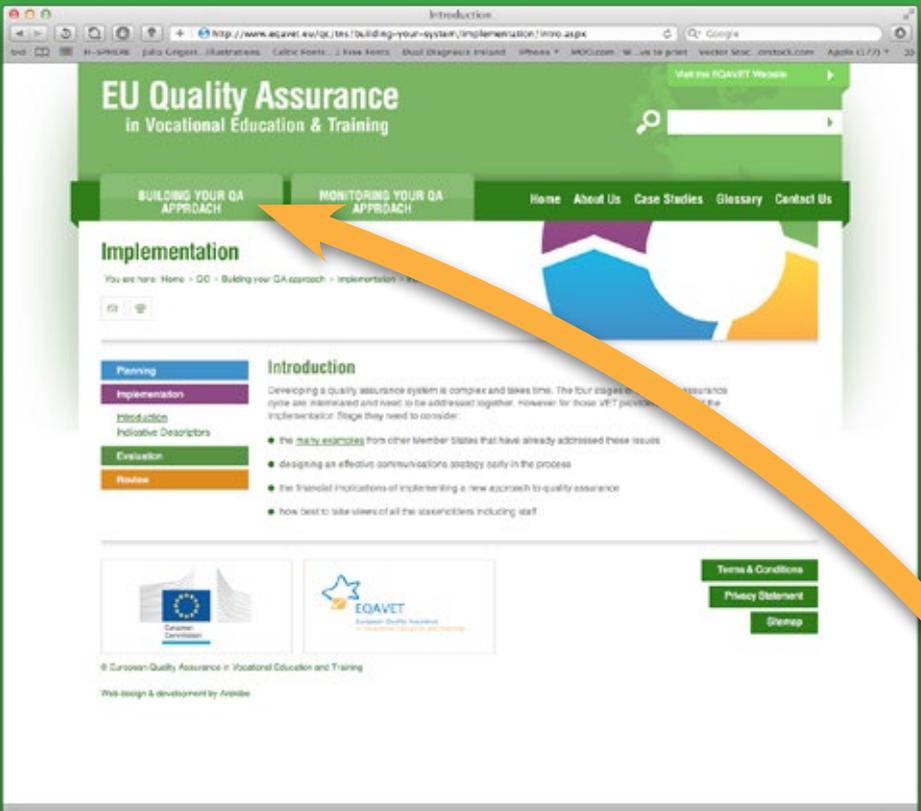
Building your QA approach

This section offers support to VET providers who wish to implement a systematic approach to quality assurance. It focuses on:

1. The EQAVET Indicative Descriptors for VET providers for the four stages of the Quality Assurance Cycle (planning, implementation, evaluation and review). It contains a series of 'contrasting statements' for each Descriptor, which invite you to consider which of the two statements best describes your own approach to quality assurance, supporting a process of self-reflection in order to stimulate change.

2. A set of six practical steps or Building Blocks to designing or implementing a quality assurance approach.

01 Management Culture	**02** Approaches reflect the provider's circumstances	**03** A culture of self-assessment
04 Support staff training	**05** Use data and feedback to improve VET	**06** Involvement of stakeholders

Quality Assurance for VET providers:

guidance on developing and further improving quality assurance using the EQAVET Recommendation

Monitoring your system

This section offers support for VET providers seeking to further improve their existing approaches to quality assurance. It focuses on the evaluation and review stages of the Quality Assurance Cycle, the EQAVET Indicators, and how they can be used for self-monitoring. Detailed guidance is offered on how to collect, analyse, use and store data to support the reporting of progress as measured by these Indicators. It also includes guidance on how to support stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the Indicators.
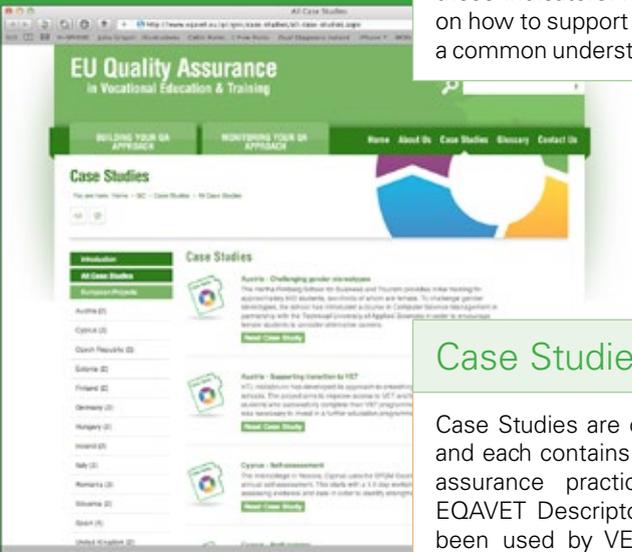
Case Studies

Case Studies are organised alphabetically and each contains a summary of a quality assurance practice showing how the EQAVET Descriptors and Indicators have been used by VET providers in Europe. They also include links to additional information.
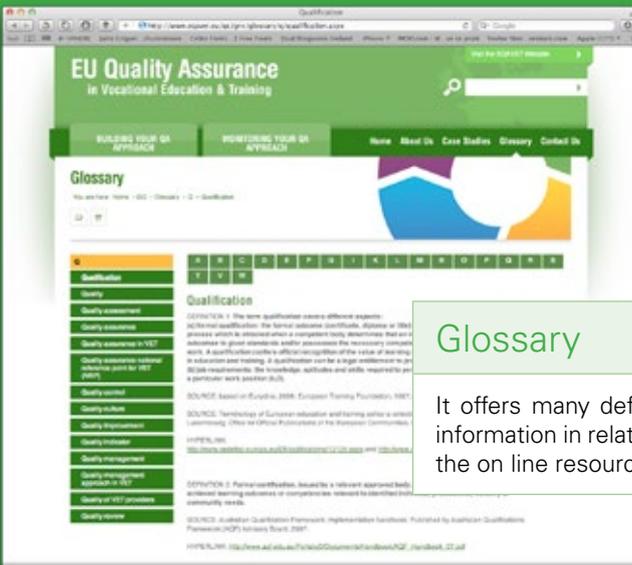
Glossary

It offers many definitions and sources of information in relation to the terms used in the on line resource.

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**European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training**

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

For further information please visit www.eqavet.eu or contact the EQAVET
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European
Commission

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