

# VET providers on Quality Assurance Systems in the provision of Higher VET

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EQAVET Peer Learning Activity On Higher VET and the Role of Quality  
Assurance

## VET vs University Degrees

“Higher vocational education and training (VET) and university degrees ***are parallel universes*** that can be *enriched by greater cooperation and convergence*” (Cedefop’s Director, 2016)



## VET and Higher Education

- Aligning VET with regional/local economic development / innovation policies.
- Development of higher VET to respond to emerging skills shortages
- Strengthening partnerships and networks between companies, VET providers and higher education institutions (new types of partnerships) – *Consulting (ABF)*
- Innovative use of ICT (OER, ICT based simulations) – *ERASMUS+ Programmes (ABF)*
- Entrepreneurship

## “Higher VET”

- The term ‘higher VET’ is emphasised in the European policy context because it is expected to provide graduates with good labour market outcomes and training closely linked to the labour market and its demands (facing skills shortages or emerging skills requirements).
- Governments can have control over this field of education and training mainly *through accreditation processes for higher education* and funding as well as development of national qualifications framework.

## VET Providers in Cyprus

- Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (STVE) – Ministry of Education and Culture
- Private Institutions of Higher Education
- *Private Universities*
- *Public Universities*
  - Courses in the higher education sector tend to have more of an academic focus, although many degrees have a vocational focus (i.e. Agricultural Sciences).

# CYPRUS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

## **Strategic planning 2016-2020**

### Promoting life-long learning

- Development of targeted vocational training programs to maintain the knowledge-based society
  - Continuing training pathway for adult workers and non-traditional students who return to training in order to update their skills.
- Centre of Professional, Business and Personal Development

## Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology & Food Science

- Consulting
  - Creating the curriculum for the STVE Programme on *Dairy Science-Cheesemaking* to satisfy the requirements of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education
    - *Strengthening partnerships and networks between companies, VET providers and higher education institutions*
- 8 weeks Industrial Placement
  - Thoughts for increasing this even more
- Strong links with local industry
  - Applied research projects

## Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology & Food Science

- Participation in ERASMUS+ Projects
  - eFoodScience – participated
  - InnoDairyEdu – to be submitted
- Aim is the development of teaching Modules that aim primarily students using *Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Open Educational Resources (OER)*.



## The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA)

- The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, is responsible *to ensure the quality of Higher Education in Cyprus* and to support, through the procedures provided by the relevant legislation for the continuous improvement and *upgrading of higher education institutions and their programs of study*.

## The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) - CRITERIA

- Name of the Institution, Name of the Program of Study
- Final higher education qualification awarded
- ***Program type (academic / vocational)***
- Duration of studies
- Program's purpose and objectives
- Intended learning outcomes
- Detailed curriculum, including the structure of the program, courses per semester and the content of each course analytically
- Student admission requirements
- ***Academic / teaching personnel and their qualifications***

## The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) - CRITERIA

- Program's courses and the academic / teaching personnel teaching each course for every year of studies
- Research activities of the teaching personnel involved in the program and synergies between research and teaching
- Number and description of classrooms, laboratories, library, equipment and of any relevant infrastructure in general
- **Regulations and procedures *for quality assurance* for the program of study**
- Student welfare mechanisms, for monitoring the sufficiency of student support
- Feasibility study, which must include, amongst others:
  - The proposed number of students
  - Graduates' employability prospects***



Thank you!