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The issue of quality and quality management in vocational education and training (VET) constitutes one of the major fields of development in the European Union while many resources have been devoted to increase the quality of VET. Despite all the efforts, experience shows that it is difficult for VET organisations to translate evaluation results into improvement initiatives. The available Quality Assurance (QA) guides and kits are based on a fairly traditional model which focuses on “evaluation” rather than engaging the teaching staff on incorporating ideas into practice. Available research (CEDEFOP) shows that one of the main barriers is the view about quality initiatives of not only an organisation’s leadership but also of the teaching staff.

**This is where the “Promoting quality culture in VET” project is aiming at!**

The overall objective of the project is to support VET leadership in motivating and engaging VET teaching staff in the implementation of quality initiatives at VET institutions by improving prior elaborated guidelines.

These guidelines promote the engagement and motivation of teaching staff regarding quality initiatives in 4 different phases of the quality cycle (planning, implementation, evaluation and review). The guidelines will be developed based on the EQAVET quality cycle in an interactive form in five different languages. The guidelines will be supplemented by best practises, practical advice and examples.

The impact of the project will be:

- the empowerment of teaching staff with regards to quality initiatives in VET-organisations,
- enabling VET-organisations in overcoming the present barriers in utilization of evaluation results of QA-initiatives in their review and improvement processes,
- facilitating the work of EQAVET in monitoring the impacts of their Quality models and indicators in VET-organisations at EU-level.





## QC-VET Kick off

The Kick Off meeting for QC-VET took place on the 5th and 6th of December in Volos, Greece.

At the meeting participated representatives of all partners from six different countries: Folkuniversitetet (Sweden), RINOVA (United Kingdom), MMC (Cyprus), Revalento (the Netherlands), DIMITRA (Greece) and DOCUMENTA (Spain).

*“The innovative nature of the QC-VET project is the elaboration of guidelines according to the EQAVET quality cycle (Planning, Implementation, Evaluation and Review) complemented by practical best practices and checklists*

## RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

The importance of quality in VET has been highlighted by the EU in many declarations such as the Bruges declaration of 2010. The practical result has been the development of Common Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) and lately the standard European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET). A thematic network (QALLL) was created, aiming to improve the standards of vocational education and training.

Folkuniversitetet, the lead partner of this project, was representing Sweden in QALLL-network. Together with other partners, they initiated and developed 3 projects concerning CQAF. The main conclusion from these projects was the same: Why all these quality assurance projects have difficulty to be mainstreamed and used by a wider range of VET providers?

Analysis (during 2014-15) of these projects gave the same answer that has been given by research: quality is a different thing for every category of staff in VET institutions.

The answer to this question was the main idea behind the QC-VET project.

Therefore, the aim of the project is to develop guidelines for facilitating and ensuring the involvement of teachers. The guidelines will cover the following aspects according to the EQAVET quality cycle; how to:

- create awareness of quality assurance ideology and benefits,
- engage staff in the selection of Quality assurance model,
- plan the evaluation process of QA finding with the teaching staff,
- review and plan for improvement of the VET-activities,
- promotion of a shared vision on VET-education.





## INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

<b>O1 – Research report</b>	<b>O2 – Report from feedback seminar for VET-providers on the research result from O1</b>
<p>A report on the attitude and experiences of leadership and teaching staff on QA initiatives in VET institutes will be the project's first output. For this purpose, a questionnaire based on EQAVET quality cycle and type of best practices will be developed which will be distributed to the target group. Subsequently, the analysis of data will follow which will lead to the development of a transnational report.</p>	<p>A report from feedback seminar for VET-providers on the research resulted from O1 will be the project's second output. Particularly, the aim of this Output is to design and deliver seminars for VET institutes providing information and findings from the IO1 report and practices and policies of Quality initiatives at VET institutes in relation to the EQAVET quality cycle.</p>
<b>O3 – Updated guidelines based on EQAVET cycle, indicators and descriptors</b>	<b>O4 – Online interactive version of final guidelines according to EQAVET</b>
<p>The aim of the third Output is to develop guidelines for VET leaders by engaging them in the quality initiatives of their organization. These guidelines will facilitate a participatory approach for engaging and motivating teaching staff in the quality process of EQAVET quality cycle. The result of these projects will be Guidelines on EQAVET for providers.</p>	<p>This Output will include all the changes from the prior work package "Test of the prior elaborated CQAF-VET provider model". The partnership will agree upon a common quality assurance model for VET providers at EU level. Based on the final guidelines, the online version will be based on axes, themes, indicators and levels developed by EQAVET and supplemented by best practices and practical advises.</p>



## 2nd transnational meeting in Nicosia

In May the 4<sup>th</sup>&5<sup>th</sup> MMC held the second meeting of the QC-VET project. Partners shared impressions on the international survey carried out among teachers and trainers of VET organisations on quality issues and discussed the overall activity plan and methodology to perform the activities of next stages of the project.

## QC-VET NEXT STEPS

- **O1\_ Report on the attitude and experiences of leadership and teaching staff on QA initiatives in VET institutes**
  - English version 30<sup>th</sup> July
  - FINAL REPORT 30<sup>th</sup> September
- **O2\_ Feedback seminar for VET-providers on the research**
  - Hold the seminars 15<sup>th</sup> September
  - Joint report on feedback 30<sup>th</sup> September
- **Next Meeting: Santander 20th and 21st of November 2017**

**Are you a vet provider or a teaching/training staff?** For more information on activities and findings of the project, please contact your local partner.

## QC-VET PARTNERSHIP

 <b>Folkuniversitetet</b> Kursverksamheten vid Uppsala universitet <a href="http://www.folkuniversitetet.se">www.folkuniversitetet.se</a>	 <b>ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ</b> εκπαιδευτική συμβουλευτική <a href="http://www.dimitra.gr">www.dimitra.gr</a>	 <b>documenta</b> INSTITUTO EUROPEO DE ESTUDIOS PARA LA FORMACIÓN Y EL DESARROLLO <a href="http://www.documenta.es">www.documenta.es</a>
 <b>MMC</b> Mediterranean Management Centre <a href="http://www.mmclearningsolutions.com">www.mmclearningsolutions.com</a>	 <b>REVALENT</b> Quality by learning <a href="http://www.revalento.nl">www.revalento.nl</a>	 <b>RINOVA</b> innovate, create & regenerate <a href="http://www.rinova.co.uk">www.rinova.co.uk</a>



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