



EQAVET

European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training

EQAVET work programme 2013-2015

‘The overall goal of the EQAVET work programme is to support Member States, social partners and the European Commission in developing approaches to the quality assurance of VET which use, or are inspired by, the EQAVET Framework’.

At a time of economic crisis, high quality vocational education and training (VET) have a key role to play in helping individual countries and the European Union to address the challenges of unemployment and the skills mismatch and to return to sustainable growth and employment. Countries participating in the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET) network have worked consistently to support the development of robust quality assurance approaches in order to ensure the quality, relevance and attractiveness of VET as a learning and career pathway for young people and for those at work seeking up-skilling. The EQAVET Framework has been a guiding light to VET policymakers as they assess and reform their VET systems and establish quality assurance frameworks for VET providers.

THE EQAVET FRAMEWORK

The EQAVET Framework is designed to promote better VET by providing authorities and VET providers with common tools for the management of quality in VET.

Given the diversity and complexity of approaches to VET quality within and across Member States, the Framework offers a common point of reference to ensure transparency, consistency and mutual trust among approaches to VET policy and practice across Europe.

The Framework was developed by Member States in cooperation with the European Commission and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in 2009. It is a key element in the follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration, which calls for closer cooperation in the field of VET, and in the ongoing work to renew Europe's education and training systems.

EQAVET NETWORK'S MISSION

EQAVET is a community of practice which promotes European collaboration in quality assurance for VET. The overall goal of EQAVET is to support Member States, social partners and the European Commission's efforts towards improving quality assurance in VET, promoting the use of the EQAVET Framework and increasing the performance and attractiveness of VET in the EU.

PRINCIPLES OF WORKING

The key principles underpinning the work of EQAVET are:

- Close partnership with members of the EQAVET network and relevant stakeholders. Partnership is a cornerstone of the network, which ensures the creation of a sense of ownership.
- A customised and menu approach in order to offer tailored support which is responsive to national and sectoral needs.
- A cluster approach to ensure effective mutual learning.
- Wide dissemination of the results of our work at European level.



THE STRATEGY FOR 2013-2015

The focus of the EQAVET network for 2013-2015 is to support the use and implementation of the EQAVET Framework in the national contexts, considering:

- 1 The importance of national reference points (NRPs) as key actors in the process of its implementation;
- 2 The new impetus provided by the Bruges Communiqué, in particular in relation to the strategic objectives: establishing at national level a) quality assurance frameworks in accordance with the EQAVET Framework by 2014 and b) a common quality assurance framework for VET providers compatible with EQAVET which also applies to workplace learning, by 2015.
- 3 The need to support the EU agenda in relation to making lifelong learning (LLL) and mobility (transversal and geographical) a reality and responding to the challenges of "Rethinking Education."
- 4 The need for a systematic, structured and permanent dialogue with social partners as they provide an important contribution to improved responsiveness of VET systems; and in the delivery of continuing vocational education (CVET) and workplace learning.

The EQAVET network creates an environment in which Member States and national reference points feel committed but also supported to ensure that the EQAVET Framework is implemented in a way which embeds a culture of quality assurance within and among Member States.

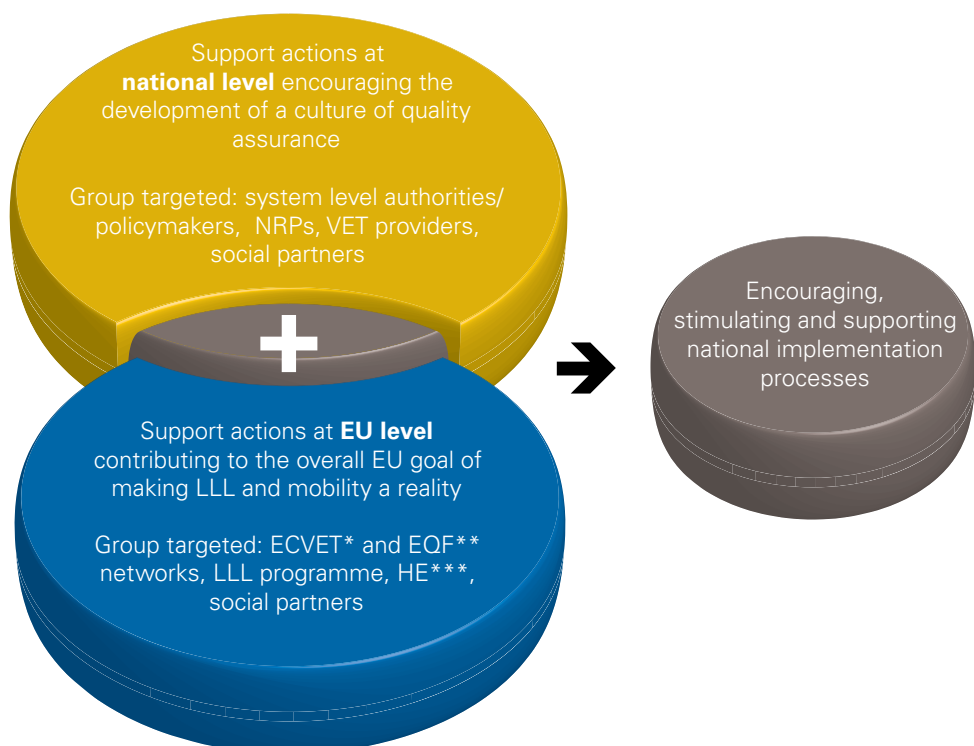
The work programme will contribute to developing the national approaches to the implementation of the EQAVET Framework and to achieving the strategic objectives of the Bruges Communiqué. It is built upon experience gained and lessons learned during almost ten years of EU cooperation on quality assurance in VET; and it takes into account the evolving needs of both Member States and the EU policy context.

It focuses on **two key programme areas** and **one transversal area**:

Key programme area 1	Support the development of national approaches in line with the EQAVET Framework
Key programme area 2	Strengthen synergies and European cooperation
Transversal area	Create a sustainable environment for engaging with social partners as essential interlocutors at both national and European levels



OVERVIEW OF APPROACH



*ECVET - European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training

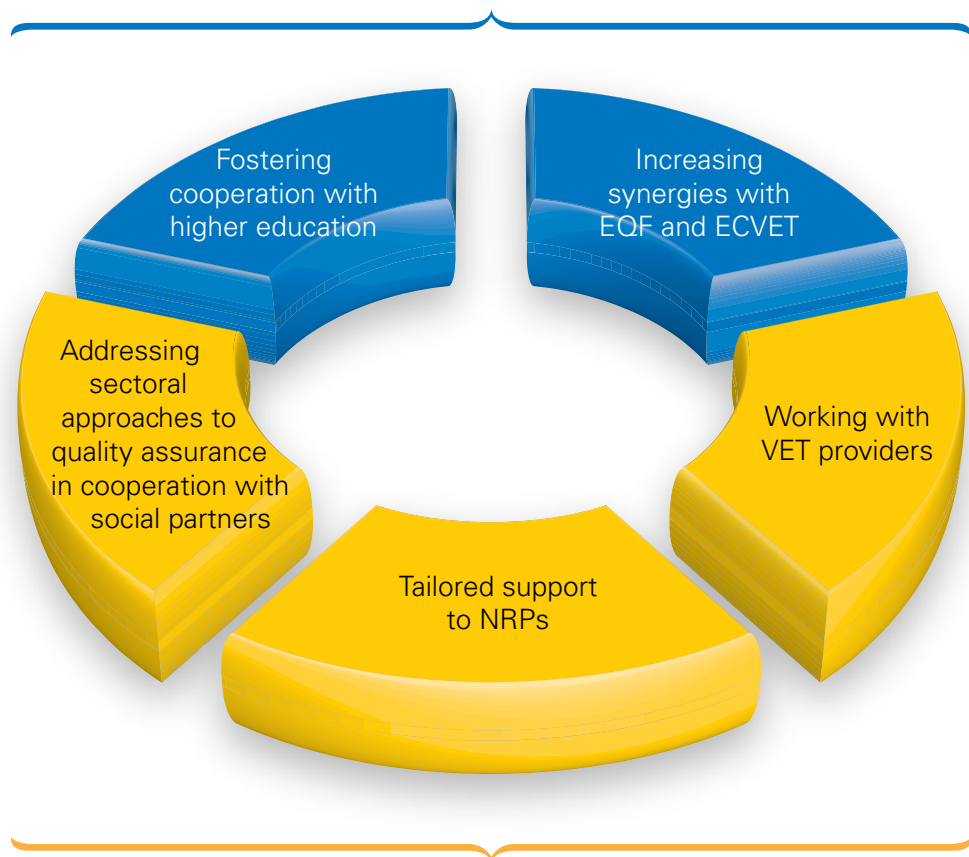
**EQF - European Qualifications Framework

***HE - higher education

IMPLEMENTING THE APPROACH

Support actions at EU level contributing to the overall goal of making lifelong learning and mobility a reality:

- Fostering cooperation with higher education
- Increasing synergies with EQF and ECVET



Support actions at national level:

- Working with VET providers
- Tailored support to NRPs
- Addressing sectoral approaches to quality assurance in cooperation with social partners

ACTIVITIES

The following activities are proposed in order to address the work programme objectives:



Working Groups

Working Group 1

On facilitating the development of a QA approach for VET providers in line with EQAVET. The focus is on advancing the strategic objective of the Bruges Communiqué: 'establish(ing) at national level a common quality assurance framework for VET providers, which also applies to associated workplace learning and which is compatible with the EQAVET Framework' by 2015.

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Working Group 2

On supporting VET systems to address the interrelation between the EQAVET Framework and existing quality management systems/instruments in order to guarantee quality, increased transparency, mobility and mutual trust. This working group supports VET systems so that they can address the interrelation between the EQAVET Framework and existing quality management systems/instruments. The focus to advance the strategic objective of the Bruges Communiqué: 'establish(ing) at national level quality assurance frameworks in accordance with the EQAVET Recommendation' by 2014.

Peer Learning Activities

The topics of peer learning activities have been selected from a list of eleven topics identified by NRPs on issues of shared concern, ensuring that the activities reflect their needs.

Sectoral approach, seminars and workshops

These activities address sectors that are significant drivers of the European economy and focus on the issue of meeting future skill needs (both quantitatively and qualitatively). There will be a particular focus on work-based learning and continuing VET.

VET-Higher Education activities

Organised in collaboration with CEDEFOP, with the objective of achieving a deeper mutual understanding of the quality assurance approaches used in both VET and higher education. The aim is to promote greater permeability and transparency of qualifications so that learners are able to move more easily within and between systems.

Reflection Group

The work of the Reflection Group (established in 2010 to bring together the secretariats and the European Commission representatives responsible for EQAVET, EQF and ECVET) continues with the objective of increasing cooperation and building greater complementarity and synergies between EQAVET, EQF and ECVET and higher education.

Annual Forum

Once a year, the annual forum of the network and a plenary meeting of NRPs will take place for the duration of the work programme, bringing together senior policymakers, EU VET providers' associations, the social partners and other key stakeholders at European level.

Research and stocktaking of progress

Ongoing research and stocktaking of progress made by Member States in implementing, capturing and sharing existing best practices. In particular updating the EQAVET Survey on progress to support the implementation of the EQAVET Framework, which addresses the reporting process of the Bruges Communiqué and the national progress reports.

The activities will produce a range of diversified materials of interest to policymakers and VET providers, which reflect on how to improve quality in VET and most appropriately implement the EQAVET Framework in specific national and/or institutional contexts. EQAVET also produces a twice-yearly newsletter, which provides updates and technical information on current developments in the field of quality assurance in European VET. The newsletter is available on-line in English, German and French; and it is summarised in 20 European languages. All this material is available on the website at www.eqavet.eu





EQAVET

European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training

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



This publication includes only the views of EQAVET and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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