

4th EQAVET Peer review on ‘Using administrative data to monitor the quality of initial VET in Luxembourg’ - Flash Report

EQAVET peer review in Luxembourg

The 4th EQAVET Peer Review took place from 12-14 October 2022 in Luxembourg City, hosted by the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth (*Service de la formation professionnelle in the Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse*). EQAVET Network members from Belgium(fr), Belgium(nl), Croatia, Finland and the Netherlands acted as peer reviewers.

The peer review focused on the establishment of a monitoring and recording system to ensure the timely availability of reliable data on initial VET in Luxembourg. This mechanism (DQMVET) would use administrative data to provide insight into learners' pathways based on a small number of key indicators relating to quality. The peer reviewers' feedback will inform the development of DQMVET and help to identify additional sources of information.

Initial VET and the use of data in Luxembourg

Initial VET is part of the national education system at upper secondary level. In total 40,695 learners attended secondary education in the 2020/21 school year. Approximately 15% of these learners followed an initial VET programme at EQF level 2,3 or 4. More than half of initial VET learners must find an employer prepared to accept them as an apprentice to complete their vocational programme. Sometimes learners take a long time to find an apprenticeship; and sometimes they cannot find an employer. In these situations, they are guided towards an alternative VET programme or a one-year skills programme¹, or they experience delays in starting and gaining their qualification. There is a risk that some learners drop out of the education system because they cannot find an apprenticeship or are laid off by the training company.

Luxembourg has skills shortages in several sectors despite a high influx of cross-border workers (approximately 47% of the workforce). Retaining talent to enable the transfer of knowledge to new employees is a significant issue for small and medium sized enterprises. Initial VET learners have excellent prospects to find employment directly after they leave school. Based on a slightly different cohort of learners, the information from the graduate tracking study (TEVA) shows that in 2017/18 93% of learners who obtained their diploma found employment directly after leaving school. And 79% of learners who did not obtain their diploma secured a work contract within one year.

The peer review focused on developing and designing an IT-based interface which could bring together existing administrative data on initial VET learners. This data analysis instrument for monitoring learners (DQMVET) should have the capacity to include new data and a 'dashboard' to show data on a small number of indicators. This would enable the quality of initial VET to be

¹ Since 2020 the *Fit fir d' Léier* upskilling programme takes all learners who did not find an employer

monitored and evaluated and help to predict where interventions would support learners to complete their diploma.

The peer review focused on two areas of quality assurance:

- Policy/governance questions related to the use of data in the DQMVET
- methodological questions related to the technical design of the DQMVET.

Based on the peer reviewers' experience with similar systems, they commented on:

- the importance of ensuring all stakeholders have a joint understanding of the goals and purposes of the DQMVET system
- the value of building on the experience of an existing graduate tracking system (TEVA) which monitors VET learners' progress after completing their qualification
- DQMVET's potential to include 'early warning' indicators to predict learners' success, as well as indicators that record learners' progress and achievement
- the value of including an indicator on the quality of work-based learning in initial VET
- DQMVET's potential to expand and cover learners from other areas of education.

DQMVET is currently in the planning stage, and discussions on the indicators to use are still ongoing. The peer reviewers appreciated the significant amount of development work that is needed to design and implement this type of system and underlined the necessity of a 'staged approach' to allow for testing and evaluation. The peer reviewers further remarked that:

- the development of DQMVET, which is linked to policy goals and objectives, appears to be a valuable addition to the existing quality management arrangements in VET in Luxembourg,
- it seems advisable to start small and use an incremental approach of scaling up to build a comprehensive data management system which uses both administrative and survey data,
- the benefits of considering additional data at the system design stage should be discussed, (e.g. could learners in continuing and higher VET be included and could DQMVET collect, record and use data on primary and lower secondary students),
- there is added value in including the learners' voice in developing and monitoring the quality of provision, and approaches to do so should be further discussed,
- most of the data for the DQMVET already exists, the challenge is to select the right indicators (those that lend themselves to predict learners' choice of which pathway to follow).

Next steps

At the end of the meeting, the peer reviewers shared their initial feedback on designing and developing the DQMVET. A comprehensive feedback report will be drafted and shared with the Luxembourgian hosts. The feedback from the peer reviewers' feedback report will be used to support the development of an Action Plan on the implementation of DQMVET.

The EQAVET Peer Review initiative 2022 - 2023

The [2020 Council Recommendation on VET](#) called upon the EQAVET Network to develop a specific methodology for EQAVET peer reviews, with the objective to support the improvement and transparency of quality assurance arrangements at system level in the Member

States. Over the course of 2021, with the support of DG EMPL and the EQAVET Secretariat, the EQAVET Network agreed on a joint methodology and prepared a Peer Review Manual.

The Quality Assurance National Reference Points (EQAVET NRPs) from 21 Member States have agreed to take part in the first phase of the EQAVET Network's peer review initiative.

The Luxembourgian Peer Review was the fourth out of ten Peer Reviews that are scheduled to take place in 2022. Eleven further peer reviews are planned for 2023.