



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



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the European Union



Agency for Vocational
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INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING



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Promoting the use of Transnational Peer Reviews for VET providers

Introduction of the EQAVET NRP-project and joint activity with
Croatia, Estonia, Finland and Slovenia

PLA webinar 21 April 2023

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The joint activity in 2021-2023

Objective is to

promote the use of the Transnational Peer Review method and the use of the Peer Review criteria handbook

provide the Peer Learning experiences to the VET providers

to support mutual learning



● European Peer Review
▲ Quality Areas and Criteria
◆ for Vocational Education
■ and Training (VET)

- **European Peer Review Quality Areas and Criteria for VET has been carried out as a joint four-year project** by the NRPs of Croatia, Estonia, Finland and Slovenia from 2019-2021 (Quality Areas 1-10), following the earlier project by the NRPs of Austria, Croatia, Finland and Slovenia from 2017-2019 (Quality Areas 11-15).
- Representatives of the VET providers from each of the partnering countries have been important partners in the development work. The criteria and indicators have been piloted.



[Publication Leaflet](#)

Peer Review criteria for VET providers

- The handbook is designed for international peer review, wherein at least one of the evaluators is from a different country than the VET provider reviewed; the criteria help the subject of the evaluation and evaluators to speak the same language
- Includes 15 quality areas that relate to the core activities of VET.
- Each Quality Area includes a quality cycle review: planning, implementation, evaluation and review
- The VET provider can choose the quality areas separately based on its own development targets as well as the criteria and indicators from which it wants to peer review.



In the development of quality areas, criteria and indicators, consideration has been given to the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET and its additional components (EQAVET+) and the current change in the operating environment of education and training.

Peer review methodology

PEER REVIEWS RELY

ON quality areas (QA), each defining the corresponding criteria, indicators and sources of evidence. VET providers can select the criteria and indicators that suit their development goals and needs. For transnational peer reviews, the following quality areas have been developed:

QA 1	Strategic planning and development
QA 2	Quality assurance
QA 3	Knowledge management
QA 4	Management and leadership
QA 5	Management of infrastructure, facilities and finances
QA 6	Planning and management of human resources
QA 7	Equality and equal opportunities
QA 8	Internal relations
QA 9	External relations

QA 10	Internationalisation
QA 11	Pedagogical framework and planning the pedagogical processes
QA 12	Teaching and learning
QA 13	Work-based learning (WBL) outside the school
QA 14	Assessment and certification
QA 15	Learning results and outcomes

The methodology builds on the initial peer review concept developed in the Leonardo da Vinci project Peer Review as an Instrument for Quality Assurance and Improvement in initial VET. The methodology has been revised in line with new developments in VET and in consideration of the EQARF and EQAVET+.

Quality Area
1-15

QUALITY AREA 1: STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Criteria based on
the quality cycle

Examples of indicators; there
may be others if the VET
provider reviewed so wishes

Criteria	Examples of indicators (<u>not prescribed</u> , the proposed indicators can be changed)	Examples of sources of evidence
Identifying the external and internal environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring and analysing the external environment: The VET provider monitors and analyses the relevant knowledge and information from external sources systematically (e.g., national policy, European policy, local environment, local and regional employers, education providers, stakeholders, etc.). The VET provider identifies external priorities and goals.• Monitoring and analysing the internal environment: The VET provider monitors and analyses the relevant knowledge and information from internal sources systematically (e.g., students, staff, leadership and management). The VET provider identifies internal priorities and goals.• Analysing results and resources: The VET provider monitors and analyses the results and resources of its own operation systematically.• Anticipating changes: The VET provider has a process to anticipate the changes by systematic recognition of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU and national policies• Results of monitoring and evaluation processes• Interviews• Surveys• Anticipating reports

Monitoring and evaluation and Improvement are uniform criteria for all Quality Areas, but they are considered from the perspective of each area.

- **Sustainability:** The VET provider plans and promotes sustainability and has procedures to implement it in Knowledge Management activities.

Sustainability cut across all Quality Areas as an indicator, which is considered from the perspective of each area:

The VET provider plans and promotes sustainability and has procedures to implement it in... (QA)

Criteria	Examples of indicators (not prescribed, the proposed indicators can be changed)	Examples of sources of evidence
Monitoring and evaluation of strategic planning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring: The VET provider systematically and regularly monitors and evaluates the strategic planning and development processes. • Collecting feedback and other qualitative information: The VET provider systematically collects relevant feedback and other qualitative information on strategic planning and development by using appropriate methods. • Collecting data and data protection: The VET provider collects quantitative data about strategic planning and development and protects them regarding international and national legislation. • Analysis: All data, feedback and information are analysed and discussed among the staff of the VET provider and relevant stakeholders (e.g., funders, students) • Communication of results: The VET provider communicates the results of the strategic planning and development with staff and relevant stakeholders (e.g., funders, students). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and monitoring system • Evaluation plan • Self-assessment procedures, results and reports • Interviews • Feedback and questionnaires • Individual and group reflection • Round-table discussions • Success indicators
Improvement of strategic planning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement plan: The VET provider has a mechanism to establish an action plan and a plan for monitoring improvement activities. All key stakeholders have the possibility to make suggestions and improvements. • Follow-up of the improvement plan: The VET provider has a follow-up system to assure that improvements and changes in strategic planning and development are made systematically according to the improvement plan. • Communication to staff and key stakeholders: The improvement and development plans are transparent and understandable, and they are communicated to staff and other relevant stakeholders. • Immediate response: The VET provider has procedures for how to react immediately to feedback on strategic planning and development if needed. • Improvement of procedures: The VET provider continuously improves the processes of strategic planning and development on the basis of evaluation, monitoring and feedback results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement plans and follow-up procedures • Interviews • Feedback and reports

Joint tasks in 2021-2023

Transnational Peer training

- *Part I May 2022: Peer review as a method of evaluation*; to the organizers of the VET provider under evaluation and to some other VET providers interested in the method and transnational Peer Review from project countries and from other countries
- *Part II September 2022: Interview techniques*; to the Peers who will act as evaluators in this project

Review of the VET providers:

- One VET provider in Croatia, Estonia, Finland and Slovenia **have implemented a transnational peer review** during October 2022 – March 2023.

PLA

- **Open PLA webinar** 21.4.2023 on the Transnational Peer Review method and user experiences.

Concept note

- A concept note of a **Transnational peer review partner searching system for VET providers** will be made. Representatives of the NRP 's and the VET providers are involved in identifying needs.

Why participate in a peer review?

VET PROVIDERS BENEFIT FROM PEER REVIEWS BY:

- confirming the quality of VET provision
- receiving critical, yet supportive feedback on the quality of VET provision from peers
- presenting strengths and achievements
- enhancing accountability towards stakeholders
- identifying blind spots and weaknesses,
- mutual learning and sharing best practices with peers
- establishing networks and cooperation with other VET providers
- sharing best practices across countries and obtaining an international perspective on the quality of VET provision through transnational peer reviews

Peer reviews rely on:

- confidentiality
- impartiality
- transparent criteria
- assessment without advising or judging
- focus on the needs of VET provider under assessment
- committed, open and inquisitive attitude as a prerequisite for mutual learning
- culture of continuous quality improvement

More information about the project

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