



*European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for
Vocational Education and Training*



European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training

Moving from Principles to Implementation Launching Conference

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EQARF Workshops

Name: Thea van den Boom

Organisation: Ministry of Education,
Culture and Science, Directorate of
VET The Netherlands

EQARF Workshop A:

Implementation of EQARF at system level

- What is the use of Quality Assurance in relation to EQF and ECVET
- EQARF and the “thematic group on guidelines supporting the implementation of EQARF”
- The wedding cake as result
- Main messages and priorities for implementation

What is the use of Quality Assurance in VET in relation to EQF and ECVET

It's all about trust!

- Being confident in the quality of VET certificates in Member States
- Being confident that the VET certificates do meet the needs and expectations of the labourmarket
- Being confident that VET fulfils the needs and expectations of students and parents
- Being confident that VET is compliant to the needs of other stakeholders

EQF, ECVET and EQARF



- EQF and ECVET make VET qualifications and learning outcomes more transparent, comparable and transferable
- If EQF and ECVET form the bridge then EQARF is the pillar of the bridge

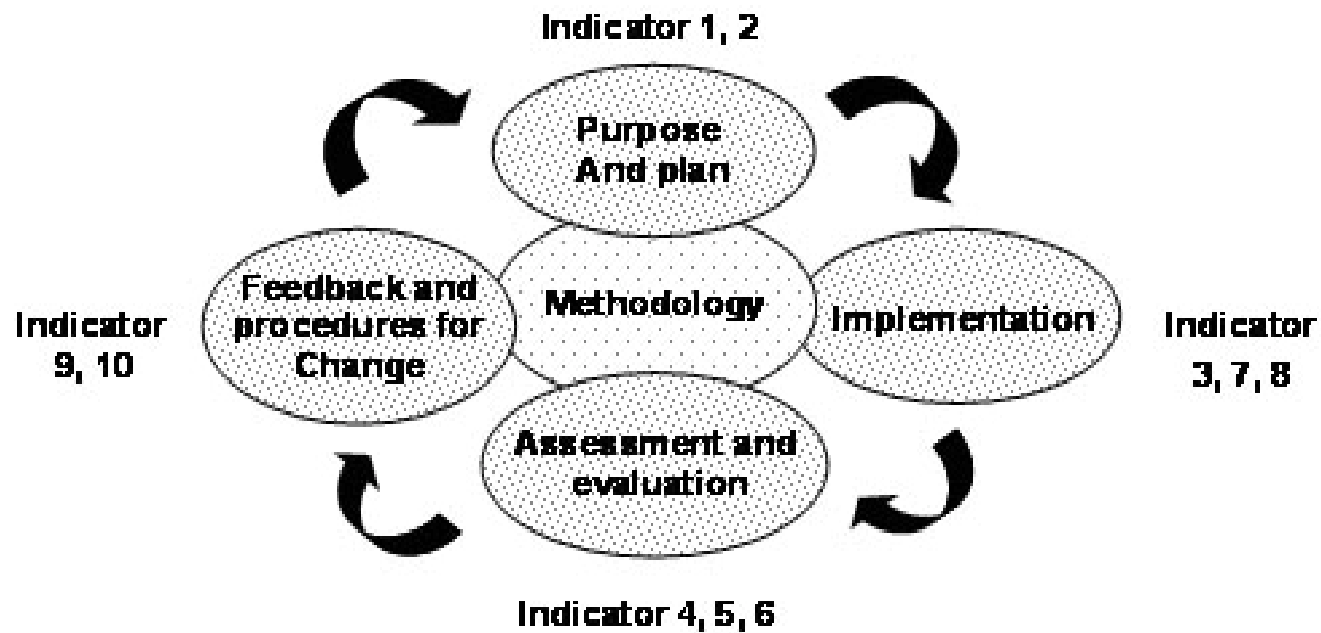
What is EQARF?

- Builds on the fundamentals of the Common Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF)
- Describes quality criteria, indicative descriptors in the cycle of QA and Q improvement on system and provider level
- Ten indicative quality indicators for VET
- Follow up of ENQA-VET
- Establishment of National Reference Points
- National approach design within 2 years
- Report on progress every 4 years

Thematic Group Guidelines

- Develop guidelines to support the implementation of QA that matches EQARF
- 12 Member States
- 12 Different contexts/cultures/structures
- Guidance on implementing quality assurance in VET
- Key questions, quality cycle of EQARF
- Relevant experiences; lessons learnt, key factors of success

The quality cycle



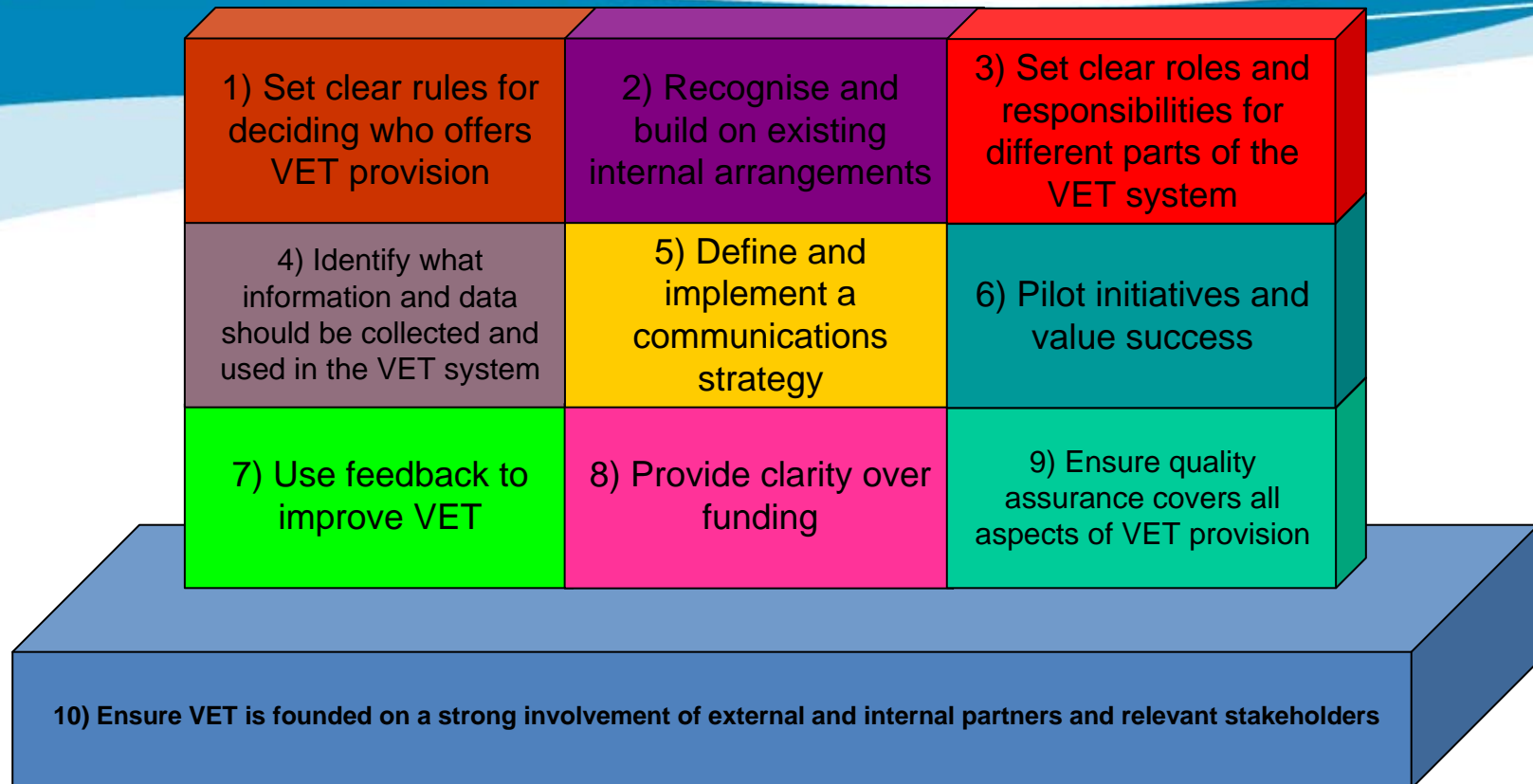
A Weddingcake !



At the top level printed guidance;

- at the second level the ENQA VET website gives a one-side summary of 40 case studies or examples
- at the third level the website of the organisation running the quality assurance process

This three level structure allows readers to explore issues in more depth and supports web structure.



Each building block:

- Identifies the key issues and factors for success;
- Gives Member States' experiences and early lessons;
- Supports and complements each other and builds on the EQARF descriptors and indicators

Set clear rules for deciding who offers VET provision

- **How are decisions made on which organisations should provide training?**
- **How are decisions made about which qualifications training providers offer?**

Key questions	Member States' experience to date	Lessons learnt
<p>What processes are needed to approve which qualifications and programmes can be offered by individual training providers?</p>	<p>Estonia is developing an accreditation and licensing system for initial VET.</p> <p>Since 1997, Portugal's accreditation system has been mandatory for training providers wishing to access public funds, and voluntary for other situations. It is based on an EQARF compliant quality standard and compliance is verified by documental analysis and audits.</p> <p>Cyprus is developing an on-line assessment process to approve training providers to deliver publicly funded training programmes.</p>	<p>Clear processes need to be in place to agree who should offer training.</p> <p>Accreditation and approval systems, while important, do not by themselves guarantee high quality VET provision.</p>

Examples of experiences

- In Slovenia there has been a staged introduction to the use and monitoring of indicators based on the EQARF
- Austria is developing an internal management culture of quality assurance with objectives achieved through consensus and negotiation
- In Finland and the Netherlands there is a yearly systematic feedback-system which collects feedback from students

Examples of lessons learnt / key factors of success:

- Direct, instant and honest feedback helps training providers to improve the quality of provision
- Funding is an important lever in supporting quality assurance and it is one of many incentives to training providers to introduce and strengthen their systems
- Ensure VET is founded on a strong involvement of external and internal partners and relevant stakeholders

Main messages:

- Build on existing systems and develop an incremental approach to implementation
- While each Member State's approach varies, there is a common focus
- The case studies show a wide range of approaches to QA and emphasises the focus on outcomes of VET
- Development has to be nurtured, supported and regularly reviewed
- Effective QA systems in VET are dependent on strong involvement of all stakeholders

Priorities for the implementation:

- Develop and improve quality assurance systems by cherry picking exchanging and cooperation
- Focus on the outcomes in terms of valid certificates
- Focus on VET responsiveness to the needs of stakeholders

**The pieces of the jigsaw need to be in place for a
fully operating system!!**

