

## Quality Assurance in VET: Finland

This document provides an overview of quality assurance in VET in the respective country. It covers information on VET systems and how quality assurance takes place, which organisations are responsible for VET policy and any recent developments in VET policy.

### VET system and quality assurance



#### Overview of the VET system and how quality assurance takes place

VET in Finland is based on the principle of continuous learning which promotes the acquisition and renewal of knowledge, skills and competences throughout individuals' whole career and life. The aim is to meet the needs of individual goals and the needs of working life. Individual learning pathways are designed and documented in a personal development plan (PCDP), which steers what, how, where and when to study. Learning environments can be chosen according to student's life situation, and they may include the facilities at the educational institution, working places, virtual environments, and others. Apprenticeship training and training agreement training are equal forms of training in VET system in Finland.

All VET qualifications (initial vocational qualifications; further vocational qualifications; and specialist vocational qualifications) are competence based and designed together with working life and key stakeholders. There is no time limit to complete the qualification, the duration depends on the PCDP.

The provision of VET is a shared responsibility between the national administration and VET providers. Providers are authorised by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Decisions on developing new qualifications and updating core curricula are made at the national level.<sup>1</sup> The State provides funding for VET providers, defines standards for targets of education providing system and the quality of VET. Within this framework, providers have autonomy to target and implement the provision of education and complement the national curricula with the local parts to meet local needs of working places.

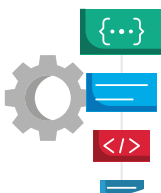
VET's continuous improvement and quality management is a key priority in Finland. Finland's quality assurance approach promotes and implements the EQAVET Framework. The implementation is guided nationally by the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).<sup>2</sup>

The national quality strategy for VET 2030<sup>3</sup> sets out the vision for vocational education and training and the subsequent vision for



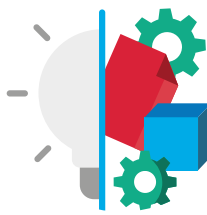
<sup>1</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/205aa0ac-460d-11e9-a8ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oph.fi/en>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oph.fi/en/education-system/finnish-vocational-education-and-training/quality-assurance-national-reference/vet-quality-strategy-and-frameworks>

	<p>quality management should be implemented with the help of five effectiveness targets which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementing comprehensive quality management.</li> <li>• taking customer-orientation as the basis for activities.</li> <li>• having continuous improvement towards excellence integrated in activities.</li> <li>• adopting evidence-based decision-making.</li> <li>• guidance and leadership.</li> </ul> <p>The quality strategy includes targets for the quality and effectiveness of activities, including systematic monitoring of outcomes and progress towards the targets.</p> <p>The development of quality management in vocational education and training in Finland is based on the VET Act, national policy outlines and the underlying policy outlines of the European Union. The aim in Finland is that all vocational education and training providers should have a well-functioning system supporting quality management and the continuous improvement of quality. VET providers must also participate in the external evaluations established by the Ministry.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>The VET providers decide the quality assurance system that they use.</p> <p>More information about the VET system in Finland can be found on CEDEFOP's VET in Europe database (2019): <a href="https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/finland">https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/finland</a></p>
 <p><b>System-level QA arrangements</b></p>	<p>The national quality strategy for VET 2030 is a tool that comprehensively outlines quality management in all vocational education and training and its various forms of implementation. The key objective is to establish common principles and a framework for the quality management and management of the various actors in VET, and to support systematic and comprehensive quality management at all levels of VET actors, in service networks and in partnership.</p> <p>The national financial system and external evaluations also provide incentives to improve quality.</p> <p>The criteria for peer review, methods and tools and for quality management of individual learning pathways, and assessment and verification of competence have been developed for VET providers. All development work is done in cooperation with VET providers.</p> <p>A range of stakeholders participate in the quality assurance as members of working-life committees. These committees ensure the quality of the implementation of competence demonstrations and</p>

<sup>4</sup> [https://karvi.fi/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/KARVI\\_1016.pdf](https://karvi.fi/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/KARVI_1016.pdf)

	<p>competence assessment as well as the working life orientation of the qualifications.</p> <p>It is obligated by law for VET providers to self-evaluate the education and training they provide and to participate in external audits performed by an independent evaluation agency operating under the Ministry of Education and Culture.<sup>5</sup> The evaluation is criteria-based. The results are published, but VET providers are not ranked so the audits are used for VET providers to improve their programmes.</p>
 <p><b>Provider-level QA arrangements</b></p>	<p>The system level approach provides and ensure the quality management work of VET providers. The VET providers quality assurance is based on continuous improvement: planning, implementation, evaluation and review of all activities. VET providers decide on the quality assurance system they use. VET providers use as tools self-assessment, peer review, processes designed to ensure quality, knowledge management and results of the external evaluations.</p>
 <p><b>Which organisation(s) are responsible for VET policy?</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for VET policy and development of continuous education.</p> <p>The Ministry of Employment is responsible for shorter-term employment training.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the National Framework for quality assurance in IVET and CVET.</p>
<b>Specific projects in the country (optional)</b>	
 <p><b>Please provide a short description of recent projects or initiatives in the field of QA in</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national quality strategy for VET 2030, sets out the development measures for the three years 2020–2022. The monitoring and the review of the quality management strategy will take place in 2023. The need for new strategic targets and future measures in the form of a revised strategy is under discussion. The strategy is in line with the EQAVET framework.</li> <li>• The implementation of the quality strategy has been supported by project grants, which have enabled VET providers to develop their activities through extensive peer networks (2021-2022).</li> <li>• The external evaluation of the quality management systems of VET providers took place in 2018 – 2022 and the evaluation model and criteria for developing will be developed in this context. The evaluation focus was on leadership, resources, core</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/205aa0ac-460d-11e9-a8ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

**VET that you would like to highlight for your country**

- processes and results. The evaluation was done by the Finnish Evaluation Centre.
- EQAVET National Reference Point (NRP) project worked on promoting quality assurance on the VET-system level, with the emphasis being on national quality requirements. The European Peer Review was part of the project. Changes in quality assurance measures in the national process have been taken and will be considered further.
  - Every two years working-life committees create I situation reports on how VET providers have arranged the demonstration of competences. The latest report was prepared in 2022, covering 2020-2021.



**Which organisation(s) are responsible for the project / initiative**

- Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).
- Ministry of Education and Culture.
- National Working Life Committees.
- VET providers.
- The Finnish Evaluation Centre.

### Use of EQAVET labels

**Do you use an EQAVET label or seal to certify VET providers in your country?**

No

Yes

If yes, please provide more info and a link (if available)