

Estonia – approach to quality assurance system and methods

Internal assessment shall be conducted in VET providers/schools. Internal assessment is a continuous process, the purpose of which is to ensure conditions promoting the development of students and the consistent development of a school. Based on the purpose of internal assessment, the internal assessment of a school shall analyse the teaching and education, the management and evaluate the performance thereof. The internal assessment shall form the basis for preparing the development plan of a school and the assessment of quality.

The [conceptual framework](#) for assessment the quality of VET complies with the EQAVET guidelines. Click on the following link to find out more about them: [link](#). The national quality assurance/assessment system of VET is in line with the EQAVET model and recommendations. The objective of the quality assurance/assessment of vocational education is to foster the development of a learning-oriented school culture and to increase the reliability of vocational education.

Quality assessment of vocational education provides an opportunity:

- ❖ For the school to get feedback about the quality of the study process and recommendations to develop it and to use the results of an independent external evaluation for the school's strategic management.
- ❖ To inform interested groups (learners, the labour market, the State and society in general) about how well vocational education meets the national demands, objectives of development plans, labour market needs and expectations of the learners.

A regular quality assessment will take place at least once in every six years, targeted at fostering the development of learning-oriented school culture and improving the reliability of vocational education.

In Estonia training providers choose their internal quality assurance model and methods. Some of them have been adjusted internal QA system and criteria in accordance with areas and criteria of quality assessment of VET study programme groups (available at the following link: [link](#)) as external assessment is based on self-assessment. Click on the following link for more information: [link](#).

The Estonian VET system invites VET schools to select the most appropriate quality assurance methods. Training providers use different approaches for formal, informal, and non-formal learning.

Central to this approach is the belief that it is the outcomes of the system that matter rather than the particular methods chosen. The

current legislation recognises this element of choice alongside training providers' responsibility for both quality and quality assurance.

More information is available from the National Reference Point. Click on the following link to find out more:

<https://ekka.edu.ee/en/>

The information was gathered in 2021, for more up to date information on this case study, please check the national website.