Italy – the regional accreditation systems

In Italy responsibility for VET provision is held at the national and regional level. Over time there has been increasing decentralisation of responsibility and regional authorities are now exclusively responsible for planning vocational training in line with a set of national general principles. According to national law, all Italian regions have developed its own VET providers' accreditation system for public funded training. Accreditation is required to training agencies for initial, higher, or continuing vocational training.

To obtain the accreditation, training agencies need to consider the following criteria:

- ❖ quality of management including the needs analysis process, forecasting processes, and the supply of training.
- ❖ the organisation's structure and technology.
- ❖ the organisation's economic and financial accountability.
- ❖ managerial competences and professional skills.
- ❖ strength of relationship with other institutional, social, and economic organisations.
- ❖ efficiency and quality of outputs (drop-out, placement, etc.).

Periodically, all regions verify that each training agency continues to meet the criteria. Guidelines and technical support for applicants is available as training agencies are allowed to start the accreditation process during the whole year.

The accreditation process is the first step in the regional VET quality assurance policy. In addition to other instruments – such as the regional system of professional profiles and the setting of training standards – accreditation helps to raise the quality levels of VET supply. To support this approach, some regions share knowledge of approaches to quality (in particular through support for self-evaluation and peer review) in order to set clear rules and a consistent 'bottom-up' strategy of quality assurance, including the development of an institutional culture which supports quality.

More information is available from the Italian EQAVET National Reference Point, located in Inapp.

This case study was prepared by the EQAVET Network.

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