



EQAVET Annual Network Meeting 2022

Hotel Mercure Paris, 19 Philharmonie La Villette, 09-10 June 2022

Flash Report

The EQAVET Annual Network meetings bring together EU countries representatives in charge of quality assurance in VET, EQAVET National Reference Points (NRPs) representatives, as well as members of the European Commission, European Training Foundation (ETF), Cedefop, social partners and thematic experts/scientific advisors.

The Annual Network meeting 2022 meeting was attended by 60 participants from 24 countries.

The thematic focus of the EQAVET ANM 2022 was on progress with the implementation of the EQAVET Framework with a particular focus on continuing VET. The EQAVET network also appointed the new EQAVET Steering Committee for 2022-2024, and discussed questions related to the ongoing work of the EQAVET National Reference Points including the state of play of the first pilot peer reviews and the communication activities of the EQAVET network. Six EQAVET NRPs (Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, and the Netherlands) presented highlights from their work in the past year.

As the Annual Network Meetings in the past two years (2020 and 2021) took place online, the participants very much welcomed the opportunity to meet face-to-face.

EU Policy Update

Koen Bois d'Enghien, DG EMPL, updated the EQAVET members on the EU VET policy context and presented the policy developments in quality assurance in VET.

By end of May 2022, all the Members States had to submit a National Implementation Plan (NIP) outlining how the objectives of the VET Recommendation and the Osnabrück Declaration will be implemented at national Level. Currently, the NIPs are analysed by the European Commission in cooperation with Cedefop and European Training Foundation (ETF).

Regarding the green transition, the European Union has the ambitious objective to make Europe the first climate neutral continent in the world by 2050. To achieve this objective, all the sectors need to take actions and rethink their policies including the VET sector. For the EQAVET Network, this means concretely that more EQAVET events will be organised online instead of as meetings in persons compared to the period prior to the COVID pandemic.

Koen Bois d'Enghien also informed the members about the next call for proposal for EQAVET NRPs to be launched after the summer 2022 which introduces some novelties (e.g.: the project duration is extended to 3 years; the budget will be increased, and the submission deadline is expected by the end of January 2023).

In the [2020 VET Recommendation](#), Members States are encouraged to promote the use of micro-credentials in VET. **William O'Keeffe**, DG EMPL, presented key features of the [Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability](#):

- ❖ Micro-credentials should be fit for purpose and meet the needs and expectations of learners.
- ❖ Micro-credentials can be used in any sector or activity and in line with existing standards such as the EQAVET framework.
- ❖ Information about micro-credentials can be included in Europass, where relevant.
- ❖ The recognition and validation of micro-credentials will be the responsibility of Member States in line with existing systems.

Tim Van Rie, DG EMPL, shared a presentation on [skills for green transition](#):

- ❖ Skills needed to ensure a green transition cover a broad spectrum, from technical, occupation-specific skills over transversal labour market-related skills to broader citizenship skills.
- ❖ The Commission has recently published a European Sustainability Competence Framework, covering citizenship skills. On the labour-market related skills, a recent release of the European Classification of Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) contains a labelling of green skills and knowledge concepts.
- ❖ There is an ongoing need to exchange on innovative and inspiring practices. The Commission enables such exchanges via the European Education Area Working Group on Vocational Education and Training for the Green Transition, and via the European Vocational Skills Week.
- ❖ The EU provides many funding opportunities to promote skills for the green transition, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility and Centres of Vocational Excellence funded under Erasmus+. A more exhaustive overview of funding opportunities for upskilling and reskilling can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

Highlights from the work of the NRPs in the past year

Six EQAVET NRPs presented national initiatives that they have recently completed.

- ❖ **Croatia:** The [Council Recommendation on graduate tracking](#) recommends improving the availability and quality of data about activities of graduates in all programmes and qualifications at EQF Level 4 and above. The Croatian NRP presented a project in which they have developed and gradually upscaled an approach to graduate tracking, involving an increasing number of VET providers.
- ❖ **France:** France Competences presented the recently introduced quality certification Qualiopi for VET providers, developed to achieve greater transparency for learners. The need for such a label emerged from the reinforcement of the individual learning account (Compte personnel de formation), which gives learners greater autonomy in developing the skills and competences.
- ❖ **Germany:** The German NRP shared details about an ongoing research project that aims to find out more about the efforts of intermediary organisations (chambers and employer organisations) in the quality assurance of dual VET. It was found that there are many initiatives ongoing, mostly related to enhancing the visibility and profile of training companies, and to counter the declining popularity and image of VET that was observed in recent years.
- ❖ **Greece:** The Greek NRP presented EOPPEP, a newly developed quality framework for IVET institutions in Greece. The main objective of EOPPEP is to contribute to the upgrading and modernisation of apprenticeship systems, to a quality assured approach to VET curricula upgrading, developing a framework for linking skills supply and demand in the labour market, and tracking IVET graduates in the labour market.
- ❖ **Hungary:** The Hungarian NRP shared details about an EQAVET-based quality management system for formal VET institutions in Hungary, which is a legislative

requirement. The set of criteria and measuring tools includes self-evaluation, external evaluation and VET teacher-trainer evaluation. VET institutions are required to elaborate their own quality management system by 31 August 2022.

- ❖ **The Netherlands:** The Dutch NRP presented a pilot project that involves Dutch VET students in the process of quality assurance throughout the entire QA cycle, including the planning and review phase. It was discussed that engaging students requires giving feedback on actions taken regarding improvements and to be transparent on the process.

EQAVET Community development

The EQAVET Secretariat provided an update on two important activities of the network: the EQAVET peer reviews and the communication within the network.

A session was dedicated for beginners who had little experience in working with EQAVET. The Secretariat provided them an overview on EQAVET and how it is used to quality assure the VET systems and VET providers across Europe.

The EQAVET peer reviews

Peer reviews are an important focus for the EQAVET Network in 2022/23. Peer reviews (PR) have been integrated in the EACEA call for proposals for NRPs 2021-2023 and 21 NRPs submitted their PR topics, together with suggestions for peer review countries as part of their project proposal.

Currently, already one peer review took place online (Spanish peer review) in March and the second one is taking place right after the ANM 2022 (Czech peer review). Nevertheless, the EQAVET Secretariat could already identified some important features and elements to improve based on feedback received:

- ❖ Due to the number of peer reviews planned and as the methodology requires several meetings, it is crucial to plan the peer review in advance (ideally 6 months).
- ❖ The peer review manual offers a methodology but a tailored approach to each peer review can be applied to better fit the needs of the host country.
- ❖ The Peer Review manual will be reviewed during the summer, building on the experiences from the first two peer reviews (eg: some templates will be reviewed, an additional step will be added)
- ❖ The participants in the Spanish peer review highlighted the importance to dedicate sufficient time to peers to give a constructive and common feedback.

During the Annual Network meeting, the EQAVET Secretariat also provided a training session for the participants in peer reviews to help them to become more familiar with the phases and steps of the peer review process, the roles and responsibilities and the supporting tools and services available.

The EQAVET Network communication channels

The EQAVET Network members were invited to brainstorm, discuss and share ideas on the development and use of the EQAVET communication channels (EQAVET website, Community Space, newsletter etc.) and identified the main following recommendations:

- ❖ Common moments to exchange among the members are needed and should not only be limited to peer reviews because these activities involve a more limited number of people but also peer learning activities in physical presence.
- ❖ The community space can be a relevant space for exchange if easily accessible, well moderated and feed with actions, project news, stories sharing, useful resources, short surveys etc to engage the network on a regular basis.
- ❖ Contact information on Ministries should be added on the website and profiles of NRPs members on the Community space to facilitate networking.

Next steps

The presentations from the meeting will be made available on the EQAVET Community Space TEAMS page.

A full summary report from the meeting will be circulated by the end of June 2022.