

Greece – Quality Assurance system approach for implementation in Initial Vocational Training Institutes (IEK¹)

Summary

The proposed quality assurance (QA) system applies to Public Initial Vocational Training Institutes (IEK) that fall in the merit of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning (LLL) and Youth, of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

It introduces a coherent set of principles, criteria, procedures and indicators and it is aligned with the EQAVET framework.

It comprises five quality criteria, in principle:

1. Leadership, management, planning
2. VET provision
3. Infrastructure, equipment, resources
4. Innovation, extroversion
5. Results, outcomes

Specific indicators are introduced to assess the compatibility against the prescribed criteria.

Date of implementation

The proposed QA system was designed in the first quarter of 2022 and has been elaborated since.

Scope and partners involved

The QA system has been developed to be implemented on a national scale. Key stakeholders commissioned include the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth, the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) and IVET Providers representatives.

Funding sources

The QA system has been developed utilising own funds and human resources of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and of EOPPEP.

Aim of the implementation

Law 4763/2020 initiated major reforms in VET, towards an integrated, systematic and coherent national VET system. In this respect, the Ministerial Decision K5/160259-15/12/2021 'Operating Regulation for IVET Institutes (IEK) under the merit of General Secretariat for VET, LLL and Youth,' introduced the legislative framework for the development of a quality assurance system for IVET institutions. Following this, a Ministerial Decision is planned to establish the operational procedures and provide the specific guidelines for the implementation of the proposed QA system.

¹ "Institute Epaggelmatikh's Katartish's", Initial Vocational Training Institutes, initiated by law 2009/1992 (GG A' 18/14.02.1992)

Targeted EQAVET indicative descriptors at system/provider level

The proposed QA system is aligned to the EQAVET quality cycle.

In terms of planning:

- ❖ Explicit goals/objectives and targets are set and monitored
- ❖ IVET providers are actively engaged in planning

In terms of implementation:

- ❖ Resources are appropriately allocated
- ❖ Courses enable learners to achieve the learning outcomes
- ❖ Learner-centred approach
- ❖ Innovation in teaching methodology
- ❖ Valid and reliable assessment of achieved learning outcomes

In terms of outcomes:

- ❖ Success/placement/ dropout rates of IVET graduates /learners

In terms of review:

- ❖ Self-assessment and external assessment are periodically carried out
- ❖ The outcomes of self-assessment are discussed with relevant stakeholders and action plans are set and followed up
- ❖ Learners' feedback is focused on individual learning experience

Activities

The process for the development of the QA system entails:

- ❖ Review of relevant national legislation
- ❖ Desk research and review of European policies/best practices
- ❖ Extensive collaboration with key officials and experts
- ❖ Drafting of a Ministerial Decision legal document
- ❖ Drafting of an Implementation Guidelines Handbook

Main outputs and outcomes

The proposed QA system for public IVET institutions is expected to be deployed in five consecutive stages. In brief, each includes:

1. Target setting

- ❖ Carried out annually by the IVET management team.
- ❖ Targets are SMART and aligned with national VET policy and recommendations of the Central Council for Vocational Education and Training (KSEK) and of the Regional Councils for linking VET with the Labour Market (SSPAE)

2. Self-assessment

- ❖ It is implemented annually
- ❖ It is based on quality criteria and key performance indicators

3. Drafting of improvement plans

- ❖ IVET management team identifies areas for improvement and drafts relative improvement action plan

4. On site external assessment

- ❖ External assessment is carried out every three years by a team of external assessors selected from a specific registry, via onsite visits at the IVET provider premises .

5. Acknowledgement/publication of assessment results

- ❖ The General Secretariat for VET, LLL and Youth and the IVET provider are notified of the results of the external assessment.
- ❖ The results are made public on the website of the General Secretariat for VET, LLL and Youth of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

Indicators of the EQAVET framework to measure and evaluate the quality improvements

Indicator 1: Relevance of QA Systems for VET Providers

The proposed QA system applies to all public IVET institutions.

Indicator 2: Investment in training of teachers and trainers

Continuous development of teachers and trainers includes monitoring indicators:

- ❖ Number of training activities realised
- ❖ Share of trainers participating in further training

Indicator 4: Completion rate in VET programmes: Number of persons having successfully completed/abandoned VET programmes, according to the type of programme and the individual criteria and Indicator 5: Placement rate in VET programmes

The proposed QA system introduces sets of specific outcome-based indicators, such as:

- ❖ Success rate of IVET graduates in National Certification Exams
- ❖ Placement rate of IVET graduates in the labour market
- ❖ Share of IVET graduates continuing to next level of education
- ❖ Dropout rate of learners

Indicator 6: Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace

- ❖ Alignment level of IVET courses with the learning outcomes
- ❖ Relevance of internship/work-based learning to courses

Indicator 8: Prevalence of vulnerable groups and Indicator 10: Schemes used to promote better access to VET and provide guidance to (potential) VET learners

Linked to Indicator No. 8, the QA system foresees specific indicators to monitor and assess:

- ❖ The share of learners receiving career counselling and guidance services
- ❖ Number of career counselling and guidance activities and events realised
- ❖ Specific care is provided for vulnerable groups of individuals, to foster their prevalence in IVET programmes

Added value of EQAVET

The proposed QA system for public IVET providers is of substantial added value for EQAVET. It monitors all the stages of operation of IVET providers: from management and planning to the actual provision of IVET services, resources and infrastructure, innovation, and development and finally outcomes assessment. It is also an invaluable resource of meta-data which facilitate the on-going monitoring and improvement of IVET services. The QA system initiates a culture of critical reflection and self-improvement, aligned with EQAVET strands of quality assurance and performance criteria. Ultimately, it engages all the key players in IVET and triggers a virtuous circle of total quality review.

Website

The website of the NRP of the Hellenic EQAVET: <https://eqavet.eoppep.gr>