

Lithuania – External evaluation of vocational education and training (VET) quality

Summary

External evaluation of VET providers' activity is a part of the national VET quality assurance approach, consisting from internal quality assurance systems of VET providers, external evaluation of VET providers and VET monitoring based on education monitoring indicators. In recent years the procedure for external evaluation of the activities of VET providers has been clarified and legitimated, collection of VET monitoring indicators was launched and external evaluation of VET providers was started. These developments have been largely supported by the ESF project 'Strengthening vocational education and training quality assurance systems and processes.'

Date of implementation

The initiative started in 2018 and is ongoing.

Scope and partners involved

National initiative. The key stakeholders include the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, Qualifications and VET Development Centre, National Education Agency, social partners and VET providers.

Funding sources

European Social Fund (ESF) and national budget funding.

Aim of the implementation

The Law on VET in 2017 introduced a more systemic external evaluation of VET providers and creation of a system for monitoring of VET providers' activities, integral with external and internal VET quality evaluation processes. So far, the quality assurance system for VET lacked consistency and integrity.

In 2020 the procedure for external evaluation of the activities of VET providers was established and defined indicators for monitoring of activities of VET providers. It also described the concept of external evaluation of VET providers' activity; its' organisation; areas of evaluation; composition of expert group; and preparation of external evaluation reports.

Targeted EQAVET indicative descriptors at system/provider level

The initiative is aligned to EQAVET and is directly referred to the following EQAVET indicative descriptors:

- ❖ A national and/or regional quality assurance framework has been devised and includes guidelines and quality standards at VET-provider level to promote continuous improvement and self-regulation.
- ❖ A methodology for VET quality evaluation has been devised, covering internal and external evaluation.

- ❖ Relevant, regular and coherent data collection takes place, in order to measure success and identify areas for improvement.
- ❖ Evaluation and review covers processes and results/outcomes of education and training including the assessment of learner satisfaction as well as staff performance and satisfaction.

Activities

- ❖ Preparation of methodological recommendations for internal and external evaluation of VET providers.
- ❖ Adoption of the procedure for external evaluation of the activities of VET institutions and other VET providers offering formal IVET and CVET programmes in 2020 by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport (amended in 2022).
- ❖ Creation of an electronic form for the self-analysis, which automatically integrates quantitative data from the Education Management Information System (SVIS).
- ❖ An online system for publishing VET monitoring indicators on SVIS.
- ❖ External evaluation of 28 VET providers in 2021-2023.
- ❖ Capacity building of external assessors and VET providers.

Main outputs and outcomes

The initiative has helped to make external VET quality evaluation more transparent, systemic and data-based. The following five indicators for monitoring of VET quality have been set:

- ❖ the share of filled state-funded VET places;
- ❖ the proportion of students in apprenticeships;
- ❖ the share of persons who have not completed the formal vocational training programme;
- ❖ competences assessment results; and
- ❖ employment of graduates.

Moreover, the areas, criteria and indicators for external evaluation of VET providers' activity have been set. From now on, in external evaluation the following three areas are considered: leadership and management, learning and training, learning outcomes.

In 2021-2023 external evaluation of 28 VET providers has been carried out. Summaries of the findings have been made public on the website of the Qualifications and VET Development Centre. An online system of VET monitoring indicators is open to everyone.

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

Indicator 1: Relevance of QA Systems for VET Providers

VET providers' internal and external evaluation include an indicator on application of quality management system and its impact for quality assurance.

Indicator 2: Investment in training of teachers and trainers:

When performing self-analysis VET providers are expected to analyse data about human resources policies.

Indicator 3: Participation rate in VET programmes and Indicator 4: Completion rate in VET programmes

VET providers' internal and external evaluation covers analysis of data about VET participation and the rate of dropping out. VET monitoring indicators published on SVIS include an indicator on share of persons who have not completed formal vocational training programmes.

Indicator 5: Placement rate in VET programmes, Indicator 6: Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace and Indicator 7: Unemployment rate according to individual criteria

VET providers' internal and external evaluation include indicators on the situation of graduates in the labour market, employers' and graduates' own satisfaction with the qualifications of graduates.

Indicator 8: Prevalence of vulnerable groups

VET providers' internal and external evaluation include an indicator on inclusive teaching and learning, adaptation of the material base, learning environment.

Indicator 9: Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market

VET providers' internal and external evaluation include analysis of information about the contribution to solving local challenges, new initiatives in planning and implementing training and improving training processes.

Indicator 10: Schemes used to promote better access to VET and provide guidance to (potential) VET learners

VET providers' internal and external evaluation include an indicator on support to learners.

Added value of EQAVET

The initiative is broadly based on EQAVET. Methodological recommendations for self-analysis of VET providers and their external evaluation, VET monitoring indicators and self-analysis indicators have been elaborated considering the EQAVET indicative descriptors and EQAVET indicators.

Websites

Information about the ESF project 'Strengthening vocational education and training quality assurance systems and processes' and its outputs, (project No 09.4.1-ESFA-V-713-03-0001):

<https://www.kpmpc.lt/kpmpc/profesinio-mokymo-kokybes-uztikrinimo-sistemu-ir-procesu-stiprinimas/> [in Lithuanian].

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport order of 25 March 2020, No. V-442 on the procedure for external evaluation of the activities of VET institutions and other VET providers offering formal IVET and CVET programmes:

<https://www.etar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/7f6484806ea311eabee4a336e7e6fdab/asr> [in Lithuanian]

An online system for publishing VET monitoring indicators (indicators for external evaluation of VET providers activity) (SVIS):

<https://www.svis.smm.lt/pm-isorinio-vertinimo-rodikliai/> [in Lithuanian]