Implementation of the EQAVET Recommendation: perspectives and challenges

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P.R.I.S.D.O.Q.
PEER REVIEW: INCREASING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY

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Main Objective

To support the **adoption of Transnational Peer Review methodology** among VET providers and agencies across Europe by:

- disseminating the methodology and the self-evaluation/evaluation tools already developed at EU level (Manual for European PR and relative Tool Box);
- having the project partners involved with VET provision adopting and experimenting PR methodology;
- Defining, experimenting and reviewing an operational plan to facilitate TPR adioption across Europe.

Implementation

WP1: Transnational Peer Review (TPR) Experimentation

WP2: SWOT analysis on TPR experience (Check List and Focus Groups)

WP3: Definition of the "Executive plan for sustainable management of European Transnational Peer Review"

WP4: Experimentation of the Executive Plan in each partner's country

WP5: Monitoring, Evaluation and Validation of the results

WP6: Dissemination

Lessons learnt (WP1)

By the first experimentation phase, partners have pointed out that:

- PR adoption guarantees a **better understanding** of the aspects and indicators related to **Quality Assurance processes**;

- **Peers training** is essential for an effective implementation of the methodology;

- The approach of Peers as "**critical friends**" enables VET providers to easily undertake QA processes and develop practices of continuous improvement;

- **Cultural diversity**, key aspect of all TPRs, is at the same time added value and potential weaknesses;

- The **methodology** has to be carefully implemented following the manual;

- In the case of micro VET providers, the methodology has to be properly adapted.

Added Value

- **full Transnational Peer Review** experimentation;

- direct and **active involvement** of VET providers **management**;

- useful starting point for **transferring** the methodology **to** the **Adult Education** sector.

Check List (WP2)

Strengths:

- It can be adopted in different contexts and, if necessary, **adapted**;
- It can be managed and implemented by micro VET providers thanks to its **simple structure** (compared to other QA systems);
- It contributes to develop a renewed approach towards quality based on **continuous improvement**;
- It reduces considerably the diffidence towards external evaluators and promotes the **importance of self-evaluation**;
- It enhance the development of **mutual trust** and **mutual learning** processes among VET providers in Europe and improves their **mobility**;
- It develops **new competences** in the staff of the VET providers/agencies involved;
- It combines *bottom-up* and *top-down* approaches.

Check List (WP2) - 2

Potential weaknesses:

- It requires a significant amount of time and resources;
- Its efficacy depends considerably on the training undertaken by the Peers and the commitment of the involved subjects;
- Peers can encounter linguistic and translation problems, also due to differences in VET systems across EU countries;
- It is based on a very detailed methodology;
- Its efficacy my be noticeably reduced in case of an insufficient involvement of the management.

Executive Plan (WP3)

Graph 3: Elements of a European Peer Review "architecture"

Actors/Areas		VET providers	National/regional etc. bodies	European coordinating body	EQARF network/EC
Common principles, Structure, Cooperation	Common principles				
	a) General principles	Integration into European VET quality policies and principles for conducting Peer Reviews, apply to all levels			
	b) Cooperation principles	Principles for cooperation in facilitating transnational European Peer Review; apply to all levels			
	Structure		– operational responsibilities incl. monitoring (cf. below) – national coordination	– operational responsibilities incl. monitoring (cf. below) – coordination of national level/VET providers – reporting to EQARF network/EC	General decision-making
			– nominated by MS/regions – integrate QANRP, if possible	Selected by EQARF network and/or EC following Call for Tender	Call for Tender for Coordinating Body
	Cooperation	based on cooperation principles fine-tunes definition of roles and responsibilities of different actors within the overall structure ➔ cooperation between different actors on different levels AND between Member States			
Tasks and responsibilities	Information/ Dissemination	– dissemination and information by and among VET providers – networking between VET providers	– wide scope of information and dissemination activities on national level – coordination with European level and other MS pending European funding	– wide scope of information and dissemination activities on European level – coordination with MS and EQARF network/EC	Support information and dissemination
	Support	support in communities of practice (e.g. exchange of good practice, mentoring)	– operational tasks and responsibilities in supporting VET providers on national level	– operational tasks and responsibilities in supporting VET providers on European level	
	QA and Learning		– Monitoring and QA of national activities – Support for QA on the European level	– Monitoring and QA of European activities – Self-evaluation together with national bodies	– external meta-evaluation – impact analysis
		Exchange of good practices and networking; Certification/Quality Seal/Label Implementation of procedures for change (learning from evaluation results)			
Funding	Shared-costs-principle**	own funds of VET providers	national funding	European funding	

Source: Gutknecht-Gmeiner 2009, based on the results of the Thematic Group on Peer Review meeting of December 3-4

Based on the experimentation carried out by partners and the following considerations, each of them has defined its own **Executive Plan to support the dissemination of the methodology of TPR in its context**.

Executive Plan (WP3) – 2

Main planned actions:

- Participation to/Promotion of **European conferences and networks** on QA and Peer Review;
- Definition of the **Minimum Standard of Competences** required for PR implementation (to be inserted in the Regional Repertoire of Minimum Standards), and of the relative **training path**;
- Design and delivery of **training paths for Peers**;
- Integration of the methodology with the **Regional Accreditation System** (Regione Umbria);
- **Workshop e Informative seminars** addressing VET providers and relevant stakeholders in partners' contexts.

References to QALLL Reccomendations...

- Instrument to enhance **cooperation and exchange between AE and VET** in terms of Quality Assurance (1);

- Contribute to the diffusion of a renewed **Quality Culture**, able to reduce diffidence towards external evaluation (2);

- The methodology can be adapted and therefore create **flexible** and **easy-to-use QA systems** (4);

- Efficient in case of *work based learning*, involving enterprises(6);

- Able to support a wider dissemination of Quality Culture within VET providers and the personal **professional development** of their workers (8);

BUT:

- Being based on the free commitments of people, could be not sufficient to ensure the implementation of **EQAVET Quality Cycle** and, in particular, the **Review** phase(3).

Thank you for your attention!

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