



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Study visit at European level "Peer review as a tool for quality assurance", 10-11 May 2018

How to ensure the quality of VET, self-assessment and external evaluation in Finland

Leena Koski, Counsellor of Education, EDUFI, National Reference Point for Quality Assurance

Action Grant 2017 - Support to the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training National Reference Points (EQAVET NRP)

Decision number - 2017 -0842/001-001

Project Nr 586540-EPP-1-2017-1-FI-EPPKA3-EQAVET-NRP



Decentralised government



- Parliament of Finland
- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Finnish National Agency for Education
- VET providers: Federation of Municipalities, Municipalities or private organization
 - relatively autonomous

No inspectorate system in Finland



EDUFI in a nutshell

- *From the beginning of 2017 Finnish National Board of Education and Centre for International Mobility CIMO merged to form Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).*

Matriculation Examination Board and Finnish Education evaluation centre 1. 1. 2018

- EDUFI is a national development agency working under the Ministry of Education and Culture and our tasks and organisation are set in the legislation.
- Our core tasks are to develop education and training, early childhood education and lifelong learning and to promote internationalization in Finland.
- National Reference Point for Quality
- Personnel about 370
- Director General Olli-Pekka Heinonen

Quality assurance mechanisms in Finland (examples)

- **Normative mechanisms:** licensing/accreditation, curricula/qualification requirements, matriculation examination, financing, self-evaluation/self-assessment and taking part in external evaluations (in law since 1999).
- Quality Management Strategy for VET 2011-2020 was made by Ministry of Education and Culture together with main stakeholders. The strategy will be updated because of the reform etc.
- By 2015 the VET providers should have had effective quality assurance and quality improvement system / operational system. (The Parliament)
- Ministry of Education and Culture appointed a committee (key stakeholders) e.g. to prepare a set of criteria for evaluation in 2015 - Common criteria for self – assessment and external evaluation.
- Monitoring systems

Quality assurance mechanisms in Finland (examples)

- VET providers have to have a quality assurance system in place (law, 1.1.2018) and they are responsible for the further development of the quality assurance system.
- The provider can choose the methods of quality management and self-assessment.
- **Voluntary mechanisms** (Quality Management Recommendation for VET, Quality awards for VET, **Peer Reviews** ...)
- National QA Network and QA Networks of VET providers
- VET providers can use audits/external evaluation on their own initiative too.

External evaluation of VET

- There is a new agency since May 2015, Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) which is an independent government agency responsible for the national evaluation of education. FINEEV is since 1.1.2018 independent unit of EDUFI.
- The key principle is that the evaluation data can be utilized as a part of the self-evaluation of the education providers.
- In many cases one part of the national external evaluation is self-assessment of VET providers.
- The evaluation information is utilized in the development of education at national and education provider levels.

The structure for the Criteria for self-assessment as part of national evaluation and national external evaluation in 2015

1. QUALITY CULTURE AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT AS A WHOLE (6 + OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

2. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT (14) **3. PEOPLE AND OTHER ACTORS IN VET (6)**

4. BASIC TASKS OF VET

- 4.1 EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS A WHOLE (7)
- 4.2 EDUCATION PROVIDED AS INSTITUTIONAL VOCATIONAL UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (15)
- 4.3. COMPETENCE-BASED QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADULTS AND PREPARATORY TRAINING (16)
- 4.4 APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (11) 4.5. PRE-VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMES (15)
- 4.6. FEE-BASED SERVICES (13) 4.7 SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS (7)
- 4.7. SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED IN VOCATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (13)

5. EVALUATION, FEEDBACK AND RESULTS (4)

6. IMPROVEMENT

An example on feedback loop criteria 4.2.14 in 2015

Absent

There is no procedure for evaluating and developing vocational upper secondary education and training.

Emerging

Some feedback and other follow-up data is collected on vocational upper secondary education and training. Some procedures for evaluating education and training are in place.

Developing

Feedback on vocational upper secondary education and training and other follow-up data is collected extensively from various groups, and evaluation procedures are in place

Advanced

Feedback on vocational upper secondary education and training and other follow-up data is collected extensively and systematically from various groups, and systematic and well-established evaluation procedures are in place. **The procedures are evaluated and improved.**

Self-assessment as a part of external evaluation of QA systems

- National external evaluation of QA systems (planned 2019), will be postponed because of the reform and will most likely be 2021/2022.
- VET providers can use the criteria in their own self-evaluation. (updated) in previous EQAVET project.
- Quality Management Strategy for VET 2011-2020 will be updated in 2018 -.

FUNDING SYSTEM IN VET 2018 -

50 % Basic financing

- Based on study years

35 % Results

- **Qualifications**
- **Parts of qualifications**
 - To match VET better to labour market needs
 - To make study pathways more effective
 - To complete qualifications or parts of qualifications (to reduce discontinuation of studies and recognise previously acquired skills more efficiently).

Strategic financing is maximum 4 percent of the whole money. (is taken away first)

15 % Impact (Collection of data 2018-)

- Employment rate and further studies (2020-)
- Student satisfaction (2020-)
- Company satisfaction (2022-)



EDUFI has been a partner and coordinator in Leonardo projects on European Peer Reviews

Leonardo project "Peer Review in Initial VET "

1.10.2004–30.9.2007

Leonardo project "Peer Review Extended". Implementing the CQAF through Peer Review – "Mutual Review and Assessment of VET Providers and Extension of the European Peer Review Network"

1.1.2007–31.12.2007

Leonardo project "Peer Review Extended II"

1.11.2007–30.10.2009

Leonardo project "Peer Review Impact", FNBE coordinator

Taking actively part in implementation of ENQA-VET work programme/Thematic group on Peer Review

External evaluator in PRALINE project



EDUFI has been the coordinator in "Peer Review Impact project"

National activities on Peer Reviews

- National modification: National Peer Review criteria for IVET and National Peer Review criteria for competence-based qualifications (CVET)
- Peer Review criteria for apprenticeship training
- Peer Review criteria for project activities and projects
- Peer Training
- Peer Review criteria and modified procedure for LLL projects in cooperation with CIMO
- Modification of Peer Review procedure for the quality assurance of some European Social Found projects in Finland
- Peer Review has been widely used between VET providers, in networks of VET providers and between different units of the VET providers. Some European Transnational Peer Reviews has been made.



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education National Reference Points – Presentation of the project

Leena Koski

Action Grant 2017 - Support to the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education
and Training National Reference Points (EQAVET NRP)
Decision number - 2017 -0842/001-001
Project Nr 586540-EPP-1-2017-1-FI-EPPKA3-EQAVET-NRP



Aims of the project

- To assure that in QA of Finnish VET is in line with the new elements of EQAVET+, VET reform in Finland and promote the use of information by further developing the tools, methods and dissemination.
- To promote mutual learning on all levels of VET system (teachers and other staff, VET providers, NRPs and system level)

Main products

- Guidelines for QA of qualification design, assessment and certification at VET provider level
- Seminar for VET providers to disseminate the results of the activity 1
- Criteria fo Peer Reviews in Finnish VET (+promotional and training material), 15 quality areas
- Transnational Criteria for Peer Reviews (+transfer strategy)
- New subsite of QA in VET in Finnish where all the material of this project will be downloaded
- Conference: QA of flexible, individual learning pathways
- Report on study visit in Finland and other study visits

Activity 4 (Joint activity Finland, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia)

- Development of PR criteria for quality area “work-based learning” for transnational PRs and modify 4 existing quality areas in line with the EQAVET+ (develop new)
- Organization of Peer training
- Organisation of transnational pilot PR in each country supported by NRP and collect feedback on quality areas reviewed, procedures and templates
- Updating and/or modifying the quality areas reviewed and make possible suggestions how to further develop transnational PR procedures
- Dissemination activities and Transfer strategy

Criteria

Quality Area 1: Pedagogical Framework and planning the pedagogical process

Quality Area 2: Teaching and Learning

Quality Area 3: Work based learning (WBL) outside the school

Quality Area 4: Assessment and Certification

Quality Area 5: Learning results and outcomes ?

Activity 3 Criteria for national Peer reviews

- One new criteria for providing all VET qualifications
- Modification of existing Quality Areas 7-
- In Total 15 Quality Areas
- Main results:
 - Updated version of the Peer Review criteria
 - Promotional and training material



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

Kiitos!
Thank you!

Leena Koski

Leena.koski@oph.fi

