


EQAVET peer review on ensuring labour market relevance of VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BULGARIA

Timeline

2023 Completed

ID number 45485

Background

The establishment of a European quality assurance reference framework for vocational education and training has stimulated vocational education and training (VET) reforms in EU Member States, contributing to improving quality assurance (QA) in VET systems across Europe. However, there remains a need to address the transparency of quality assurance arrangements at system level, an area that requires further attention and work. The introduction of peer reviews can support this procedure.

Objectives

According to the 2020 VET recommendation, peer reviews are aimed at improving mutual learning, increasing the transparency and consistency of quality assurance arrangements in the provision of VET and reinforcing mutual trust between EU Member States.

Description

In the 2020 VET recommendation peer reviews are described as ‘a type of voluntary mutual learning activity supporting improvement and transparency of quality assurance arrangements at system level. They are not aiming at accreditation procedures based on a specific methodology to be developed by the European Network for quality assurance in vocational education and training’.

A peer review offers the chance to the country hosting it to reflect on its practices of quality assuring its national VET system. Peers from other Member States act as critical friends, offering external feedback and sharing thematic relevant experiences from their country.

2023 Completed

The eleventh EQAVET Peer Review was hosted online by the VET Directorate of the Ministry of Education and Science in Bulgaria on 21-22 February 2023.

Nine EQAVET Network members from Belgium-Flanders, Croatia, Czechia, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Slovakia participated as peers.

The VET system in Bulgaria has been undergoing development, focusing on addressing

practical needs to update VET programmes to reflect structural and other changes in the labour market.

Due to the green and digital transitions, many industries will need to comply with new regulations and workers will need retraining for other occupations.

The peer review focused on how to:

- (a) identify mechanisms and criteria for training needs in the Bulgarian labour market;
- (b) identify skills assessments, anticipation tools, and methods for data collection to develop effective VET programmes in Bulgaria;
- (c) fruitfully engage with social partners in the development of curricula;
- (d) stimulate employer and employee representatives to be more actively involved in the qualification design cycle.

The peers discussed that the initial phases of planning have already created a strong basis for the work. It focused on barriers to implementation.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science

Target group

Other

Policy makers

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[11th EQAVET peer review on Ensuring labour market relevance of VET in Bulgaria -Flash Report](#)

[Second edition of the Peer review manual](#)

[Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on vocational education and training \(VET\) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/45485>