

# Quality assurance: national reference point for VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 BELGIUM-FR

## Timeline



ID number 42341

## Background

Before 2020, there was only a contact and dissemination point located in the education ministry in place which was in charge of quality assurance of vocational education and training (VET). An inspectorate carried out mandatory external inspection of VET providers. Self-assessment was also in place, as most VET providers had their own quality assurance approaches.

The Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on VET for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience called for a quality assurance national reference point for VET to bring together all relevant stakeholders at national and regional levels for both initial and continuing VET, in all learning environments (such as school-based provision and work-based learning, including apprenticeship schemes) and all learning types (digital, face-to-face or blended), delivered by both public and private providers.

## Objectives

The objective of setting up a national reference point for VET is to develop a culture of quality assurance in national systems, for both initial and continuing VET; in all learning environments (such as school-based provision and work-based learning, including apprenticeship schemes) and all learning types (digital, face-to-face or blended), delivered by both public and private providers.

## Description

The Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on VET for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience calls to develop a culture of quality assurance in national systems, the French-speaking part of Belgium has designated for the first time a National Quality Assurance Reference Point (NRP). A partnership agreement has been signed to formalise the commitment of the project partners to the NRP and to allow the hiring of a project coordinator.

In 2021, preliminary activities for the development of a partnership agreement took place.

### **2022 Implementation**

In 2022, a partnership agreement has been signed by all relevant stakeholders at national and regional levels for initial and continuing VET, a coordinator has been hired and the EQAVET NRP started its work of analysing the EQAVET framework and situating each partner against the framework. The NRP is hosted at the Belgian Erasmus-Plus Agency (AEF-Europe), within the Ministry of the French Community.

### **2023 Implementation**

In 2023, the partners jointly decided to focus on the EQAVET descriptors related to labour market needs. This theme was also selected as the central topic for the peer consultation meeting organised by French-speaking Belgium in Brussels on 23 and 24 March 2023, which included participation from five reviewing countries, namely Belgium Flanders, Italy, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia.

### **2024 Implementation**

In 2024, all partners agreed to renew the partnership agreement for the 2023-2026 period, and it was signed the same year.

The partners also agreed to continue analysing the theme explored in 2023, this time focusing on its indicators rather than using the EQAVET descriptors.

Working groups were created and focused on Indicator 5 (graduate tracking and transition to employment) and Indicator 9 (mechanisms for identifying skills and training needs) of the EQAVET framework as they were considered strategic drivers for the ongoing reforms in French-speaking Belgium. The EQAVET NRP contributed to the European network through its participation to two peer reviews meetings organised by EQAVET NRPs in Malta and Romania as well as to the EQAVET Steering Committee.

### **2025 Implementation**

In 2025, building on the exploratory work carried out by its working groups, the EQAVET NRP conducted a self-assessment of practices related to adapting VET to labour market needs.

This analysis led to a second international peer review meeting in Namur, Belgium on 24-25 September 2025, focused on the same theme. European peer reviewers from Italy, Latvia, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania and Slovenia provided their feedback on the presented processes and their potential improvements.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of the French Community
- Francophone Agency for Lifelong Education and Training (AEF-Europe)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Adult learners

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

# Thematic categories

## Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

### Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Quality assurance in VET: French-speaking Belgium](#)

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[News - French-speaking Belgium organized an intervision to explore ways to better meet the labor market's training and skill needs](#)

### “ ... ” Cite as

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