

Quality strategy in VET 2030

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 FINLAND

Timeline



ID number 36295

Background

The Ministry of Education and Culture has prepared a Quality strategy in VET until 2030. The strategy includes measures for its implementation. The Vocational Education and Training Act (531/2017), which entered into force in 2018, requires education providers to have an efficient quality management system in place and to carry out quality management at all levels. The act, along with changes to the environment in which the schools work, has underlined the importance of quality management, especially as education providers now have more powers to target and implement their provision.

Objectives

The strategic goals of the Quality strategy in VET aim to provide comprehensive long-term guidance for quality management and:

- (a) to implement comprehensive quality management in VET institutions;
- (b) to take customer orientation as the basis for activities;
- (c) to integrate continuous improvement towards excellence in all activities and decision-making;
- (d) to adopt evidence-based leadership and guidance;
- (e) to set clear targets for the quality and effectiveness of activities.

Description

The strategic goals included in the Quality strategy are to be put into practice by using development measures. The development measures proposed for each VET actor have been set out for the next 3 years (2020-22). The actors are VET providers, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Finnish National Agency for Education, working life committees and the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre. The monitoring and the review of the quality management strategy will take place at the end of the 3-year period, after which the strategic goals and measures will be revised as necessary.

The Quality strategy includes all parts of the quality system of VET: national guidance, quality management of education providers and external evaluation of education. Quality management is based on standards of the education ministry and the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) and on voluntary quality management standards. The focus of the quality strategy is on continuing learning, improving work-based learning, cooperation between work and education, as well as learning in different learning environments.

EDUFI is the national reference point (NRP) for quality assurance in VET in Finland. The main goals of the QANRP project 2019-21, funded by the EU, are: to support the quality management of Finnish VET so it is in line with the elements of EQAVET+ and the 2018 VET reform in Finland; to support the implementation of the recommendation to follow up those with a VET qualification; to promote the use of information in VET quality assurance by further developing tools, methods and materials to be distributed to all VET providers and actors.

Working life committees are responsible for supervising qualifications. Their aim is to ensure the quality and working life orientation of VET. The 39 working life committees will collect feedback from the skills assessment and competence tests organised during 2018-20. Their reports are to be published on the EDUFI's website in spring 2020.

An example of the VET provider's quality assurance work is preparation of a competence assessment plan. This plan details the guidelines and competence assessment procedures adopted by the education provider on the implementation of competence assessment.

2018 Design

In June 2018, the Ministry of Education and Culture appointed a quality strategy group to draft a proposal for a quality strategy in VET and its implementation measures. All relevant stakeholders and actors related to VET were represented in the group: the ministry, EDUFI, the Finnish Education Evaluation Council, VET providers and social partners.

2019 Approved/Agreed

The VET quality strategy was approved in September 2019.

2020 Implementation

EDUFI has allocated EUR 4 million to 13 VET provider development projects implementing the Quality strategy. The areas of development were improvement of the learner's personalisation process; improvement of apprenticeship training and training agreement processes; development the personalisation process and learning at the workplace, so it is possible for the learner to study full-time. Improved personalisation makes it easier to identify learners who need more support and guidance at different stages of their studies. In addition, the different needs of learners were better identified and those learners who were in danger of dropping out were supported.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has granted the 2020 quality award to two VET providers: the Keuda Group, Vocational Education and Training and the Tampere Adult Education Centre, TAKK. The themes of the 2020 quality award competition were quality assurance and the overall quality of VET provision. The quality award encouraged VET providers to assess and improve their quality.

The 39 working life committees published their snapshot reports of the quality of implementation of competence demonstration and assessment of competence during 2018-20. The information in the snapshot reports was from the KOSKI database (VET providers send the number of completed qualifications to the KOSKI database). The committees also utilised the reports from site visits on competence demonstrations and correction requests for assessments in their reports. According to the summary of the reports published by EDUFI, the main targets for development were: cooperation

between VET institutions and workplaces; workplace instructors and assessors needed more training; competence demonstrations were sometimes organised at VET institutions even though they should have been organised at the actual workplace; assessment of competence must have been separated from acquiring competence; competence assessment plans should have been better linked to VET providers' quality assurance systems.

The EQAVET/NRP has organised two webinars for VET providers on the themes of the quality of personal flexible study paths and cooperation with the world of work. In addition, a virtual online study visit in Finland was organised with EQAVET NRPs from Croatia, Greece and Slovenia.

2021 Implementation

The EQAVET NRP 2019-21 project was implemented through national and international cooperation and the results were reported to the EU commission on time and distributed to all VET providers on the oph.fi website and at various events. The project promoted the ability of VET providers to improve quality continuously and organised peer learning events. A tool for international peer review was completed: European peer review quality areas and criteria for vocational education and training. The criteria were formulated in cooperation with Estonia, Croatia, Austria, Slovenia and Finland and were piloted at VET provider level. Training in the method of peer review was provided for evaluators and the institutions being evaluated. One international peer-learning activity and one national webinar for VET providers were organised to promote the use of international peer review and to share experiences gained from piloting. A national quality network meeting was organised with VET providers on the guidance process for extending compulsory education.

The new working life feedback system became functional in 2021. The national questionnaire was being sent to workplaces that trained students with an apprentice or training agreement to monitor their satisfaction with the quality of education and training provided by the vocational institution with which they cooperated. The answers are to be used to help develop the quality of vocational education and training and help determine funding for the institution. The EDUFI organised the webinar for the VET providers that supported the use of the feedback results in the quality assurance.

The Ministry of Education and Culture granted the 2021 Vocational Education and Training Quality Award to one VET provider: Luovi Vocational College. The theme of the 2021 competition was equality. The Quality Award encourages VET providers to assess and improve their quality.

The implementation of the quality strategy has been promoted through projects funded by the government and implemented through 13 networks in cooperation with 98 VET providers. The results of the projects and examples of good practice were shared in a seminar open to all VET providers.

The working life committees ensured the quality of competence demonstration that was carried out, such as through visits to the VET providers. EDUFI and 37 working life committees have developed uniform procedures for carrying out these visits and for monitoring quality. The information produced by the working life committees was utilised, for example, for developing qualifications and supporting their implementation. Procedures have also been created by which the committees participate in the development of the national qualification requirements as a partner of the EDUFI.

The use of information in decision-making has been promoted through the development of national data resources, data collection and reporting.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, an interim evaluation of the EQAVET NRP 2019-21 project was conducted on the accomplishment of the development targets of the 3-year term of the VET quality

strategy. The Ministry of Education and Culture and EDUFI organised a webinar for persons in charge of VET providers' quality assurance. In the webinar, development measures were discussed, as well as the situation of accomplishing the targets, and the thoughts of VET providers on what should be the next development measures.

The National Quality Network for VET gathered around the topic of cooperation in upper secondary education. The Network's activity was developed by creating a new forum for discussions and cooperation. The forum was meant for dealing with questions related to quality assurance, sharing information, improving practices, and receiving peer views. Participation in the forum was voluntary and open for everyone interested. In 2022, the topic was connection between foresight information and quality assurance.

Cooperation between Finland, Croatia, Slovenia and Estonia continued by offering training on the European Peer Review method to VET provider representatives, and by organising international peer review events.

Finland participated in the national peer review process of other countries, according to the plans of the EQAVET secretariat. The review focused on quality assurance of the development process of quality requirements, and the role of customer feedback in it. Throughout the year, the quality assurance process was being developed in the VET unit of EDUFI.

The Ministry granted a VET quality award to two VET providers, and two providers received an honourable mention. The theme of the award was sustainable development. The implementation of the quality strategy was promoted through projects funded by the government and implemented through 13 networks in cooperation with 98 VET providers. All the projects were completed, and the results are to be used in developing the activities of VET providers. The working life committees produced field-specific situational pictures for quality development.

The use of information in decision-making was promoted through development of national data resources, data collection and reporting. The new national working life feedback system, introduced in 2021, was complemented in 2022. It included a questionnaire sent to workplaces twice a year, a questionnaire sent to workplace instructors after a completed period of studying at a workplace, and a questionnaire sent to students at the beginning and at the end of their studies.

2023 Implementation

The implementation of the Quality strategy for VET 2030 continued and monitoring and reviewing of the strategy started.

The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (Karvi) published a report on work-based learning and collaboration with the labour market, as well as the state of quality management among VET providers. In the quality assurance of teaching and the assessment of the effectiveness of VET conducted by the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre the importance of the learning environment, teacher competence, collaboration with the labour market, and students' employment opportunities were emphasised.

Updating the national peer review criteria initiated in 2023.

New EQAVET NRP 2023-26 project started, co-funded by the European Union. The objectives of the project include developing quality assurance methods, monitoring and analysis systems as well as self-assessment. For example, an assessment model of the effects of renewing the national qualification requirements, a monitoring system for the national sustainability road map of VET and a publication model for education administration's analysis on national student and working life feedback is to be developed during the project. In 2023, the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) organised two meetings for the National Quality Network of VET in the topics of assessing the effectiveness of VET and ensuring the quality of teaching.

2024 Implementation

Updating the national peer review criteria continued in collaboration with education providers and the Finnish National Agency for Education in 2024. The work on the national peer review as well as the Quality strategy for VET 2030 was pending until the legislative changes to VET come into force.

The themes of the National Quality Network of VET meetings focused particularly on the financial aspects of organising education, and the potential of AI in quality management. In addition, separate discussion forums and workshops were held for education providers.

In EQAVET NRP project, the development of the assessment model of the effects of renewing the national qualification requirements was under way as well as the publication model for education administration's analysis on national student and working life feedback. The drafts of monitoring indicators for the national sustainability road map of VET were drawn up and published in EDUFI's website. Preparations for piloting the monitoring indicators were done. A kick-off meeting was organised regarding the EQAVET system level peer review. In addition, work was done updating the transnational peer review criteria in collaboration with Croatia, Estonia and Slovenia.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)
- Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Learners with disabilities
Adult learners
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons
Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders
Adult educators
Guidance practitioners

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Towards excellence: Quality Strategy for VET until 2030](#)

[EDUFI has allocated EUR 4 million to VET providers for 13 development projects to implement the quality strategy, EDUFI web page](#)

[The 2020 vocational education quality awards for Keuda and TAKK, Ministry of Education and Culture press release \(in Finnish\)](#)

[EQAVET network and national quality network, EDUFI web page](#)

[Finland hosted the ninth and last Peer Review in 2022 on the quality assurance process of developing national qualification requirements in Finland, European Commission news](#)

Related policy developments

2022 Completed

Programme for quality and equality in VET

The programme to develop quality and equality in VET is mainly implemented through comprehensive development projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish National Agency for Education. The projects are mainly wide-ranging network projects with one coordinator.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

2021 Completed

The 2015 evaluation of VET provision and quality improvement measures

Based on the results of the 2015 evaluation, the Ministry of Education and Culture supported the development of the quality assurance system for VET providers.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 Completed

Measures for increasing employers' involvement in apprenticeship

The increased compensation for employers was part of the youth guarantee and it was paid during 2013-17. The 2017 Act on VET changed the financing system and from 2018 the funding of apprenticeship training was raised to the same level as the institution-based funding.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Quality strategy in VET 2030: Finland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/36295>