

National EQAVET implementation plan

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE****SLOVAKIA**

Timeline

2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation	2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation	2021 Implementation
2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation	2024 Implementation

ID number 28837

Background

Full responsibility for EQAVET-related activities lies now with the State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV). The main initiative of the EQAVET national reference point is to pilot a quality assurance model in selected VET schools.

Objectives

The objective was to implement quality assurance procedures in Slovakia based on international experience and to set the quality indicators adjusted to the national environment and culture.

Description

The national EQAVET implementation report (2016-20), containing measures to strengthen quality assurance in IVET, has been prepared. At the end of 2016, ŠIOV, the quality assurance national reference point (QANRP), joined a European project aiming to introduce peer review in the country. Another Erasmus+ project Mobility for quality (June 2017 - November 2018), run by ŠIOV, resulted in training the staff of the institute as well as practitioners from education institutions in the European peer review methodology.

2016 Implementation**2017 Implementation****2018 Implementation****2019 Implementation**

ŠIOV, in cooperation with the Trenčín self-governing region, decided to pilot a quality assurance model based on international experience (European peer review manual for initial VET and the 2017-18 Erasmus+ project Mobility for quality).

In July 2019, quality coordinators in schools were trained, and in October 2019, 32 schools from this region learned how to apply peer-reviewing in the quality check. The first two pioneer schools (one grammar school and one secondary VET school) have already submitted their self-evaluation reports for assessment and peer-reviewing is already in progress.

2020 Implementation

In January 2020, ŠIOV and the Trenčín self-governing region signed a Memorandum on cooperation. All 32 schools involved in this activity submitted their self-evaluation reports. Online training of assessors was held on 10-11 December 2020 and teams of four of the 24 retrained assessors were created who will perform the school visits in 2021.

During the European Vocational Skills Week 2020, ŠIOV organised a webinar on using peer review as an instrument in quality assurance. Two additional regions (Prešov and Košice) declared their interest in joining this peer review activity.

Within the Erasmus+ project QUALity Networks: fine-Tuning Monitoring systems for better performances in VET (QUANTUM), 2020-22, quality networks will be created. Territorial and/or cross-country quality networks will include VET providers, enterprises, local authorities, social partners and other stakeholders. A monitoring system based on feedback loops, including reinforcing the 'peer review' approach among the various key actors, should be adopted.

2021 Implementation

36 secondary schools from the Trenčín region completed their final self-evaluation reports by June 2021. After obstacles caused by the pandemic, assessment visits by quality assessors were postponed to February 2022. Online training of quality assessors in the Banská Bystrica and Prešov regions was held in relation to the Catching-up regions initiative in June and October 2021.

Within the QUANTUM project, a seminar, Let's speak about quality, was held in Bratislava on 21 October 2021 to start the creation of the national network of education quality ambassadors.

The national ESF project, Introducing quality management in VET, is under preparation aiming to establish a comprehensive quality management structure, with a clear division of responsibilities among State bodies including the State School Inspectorate, self-governing regions as major maintainers of secondary schools, schools and employers.

In February 2021, a National quality award in VET was announced. Publishing the results and awarding winners in four categories - excellence in the provision of VET, innovation in VET, cooperation with community, and personality in VET - is a feature of the Month of quality organised in April in cooperation with the education ministry, the Employer Council for VET and the State Institute of Vocational Education.

2022 Implementation

The peer review initiative of the State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV) is in progress. Quality coordinators were appointed in the schools concerned in Trenčín self-governing region, and further activities are coordinated by regional educational authorities. Two schools from the neighbouring region of Trnava joined the initiative and an initial phase focusing on the training of coordinators started. Training on quality assurance and peer review continued for staff from the Banská Bystrica and Prešov regions. The QUANTUM project continued with the establishment of the Quality Network of VET providers, enterprises, education and training policy-makers, and other stakeholders to share VET quality assurance practices. A training for 24 representatives of VET providers and public authorities was held on 28 June 2022 by the EQAVET team focusing on quality assurance principles and the peer review methodology.

The Erasmus+ mobility project, run by the ŠIOV with a consortium including the Association of Secondary VET Schools and 3 self-governing regions (Banská Bystrica, Žilina and Prešov) and open to other regions in the future, was launched in June 2022.

The national ESF project Introducing quality management in VET is in the final phase of preparation, supported by both the Lifelong learning and counselling strategy for 2021-30 and the National implementation plan.

In February 2022, a National quality award in VET was announced in four categories: excellence in the provision of VET, innovation in VET, cooperation with the community, and personality in VET. Three VET schools and a long-serving director of a VET school were awarded at the conference „Excellence in VET- future challenges“, held in April as part of the Month of quality, organised in cooperation with the education ministry, the Employer Council for VET and the State Institute of Vocational Education.

2023 Implementation

To implement quality assurance in VET, a national ESF+ project, Introducing quality management in VET and adult education, funded by Programme Slovakia 2021-27 and run by the State Institute of Vocational Education was approved with a budget exceeding EUR 6.96 million in December 2023. The project builds on previous experience with the EQAVET application and the piloted peer review methodology. The main aim of the project is to propose principles of a comprehensive quality management system in VET and adult education. The main output will be the development of a National VET and adult education quality strategy, including recommendations for quality management at all levels, from the education ministry, and self-governing regions to individual schools as well as adult education institutions.

2024 Implementation

Throughout 2024, a working group conducted an analysis of current legislation to assess its coverage of quality assurance. The core principles relevant to all segments of education, regional schooling, higher education, and adult education were identified. The working group proposed five quality areas for certifying providers of adult education, considered the first filter for submitting educational programmes for accreditation. Establishing procedures and criteria for institutional accreditation (certification of quality) is envisaged.

In September 2024, a manual for a mutual quality assessment in the initial VET was completed. 99 VET schools nationwide committed to forming teams of three schools for mutual quality assessment using a peer-reviewing framework. In November, the State Institute of Vocational Education (SIOV) organised a webinar for participating schools to retrain school quality assurance staff and prepare them for signing a memorandum on cooperation. There are 33 memoranda envisaged bringing together the SIOV and, as a rule, three schools. They are obliged to comply with the peer review reference framework and methodology promoted by the SIOV, and fulfil duties allocated within the process of peer reviewing.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth
- State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV)
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (until 2024)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies
Further developing national quality assurance systems

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

VET underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

European Education and Training Area and international VET

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[National EQAVET implementation report \(in Slovak\)](#)

[Web portal on quality in education](#)

[Mobility for quality project information](#)

[European peer review manual for initial VET \(in Slovak\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

National implementation plan: Slovakia

Eight priority areas were identified in relation to the achievement of the objectives, five of which explicitly target VET, two target lifelong learning in parallel with VET ((f) and (h)) and one targets interlinking general education and VET (e):



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Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation

Catching-up regions initiative

The Catching-up regions initiative, in cooperation with regional authorities, aims to identify challenges and priority areas at regional level to direct investments to. Improving VET programmes in line with labour market needs can foster economic development in regions lagging behind.



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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

VET graduate tracking

The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (public employment service) coordinates the national project Prognosis of labour market development, which is carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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