

Development of a quality assurance culture in initial VET training

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 FRANCE

Timeline

2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation	2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation	2021 Implementation
2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation	2024 Implementation
2025 Implementation		

ID number 28832

Objectives

This policy development aims at developing a quality assurance system based on continuous improvement in IVET.

Description

An online guide, *Qualéduc*, was made available to education institutions and inspectorate bodies in April 2016 to help them develop a quality assurance system based on continuous improvement.

By March 2017, 25 out of the 30 existing education districts (*académies*) had been involved in *Qualéduc*. Two national conferences were organised in 2016 to promote the use of this tool among schools and inspectorate bodies. The tool has since been complemented with sections to guide on how to adapt the management and steering of education institutions to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities, and on handling and supporting this specific target group.

In addition, in line with the circular of August 2016, providers applying to obtain or renew the *Lycée des métiers* (vocational high school) label, must have defined and set up an organisational structure that meets quality criteria in line with the *Qualéduc* tool.

In September 2017, a European project *Qualéduc Mobilités* was launched to promote European mobility of staff, to support the acquisition by staff of a mobility culture and skills.

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

The *Qualéduc Mobilités* project aims to encourage the development of a shared quality

The *Qualéduc* mobility project aims to encourage the development of a shared quality culture among the academic teams by comparing French practices with others in five European countries: Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden and UK-Scotland. Conducted as part of the Erasmus+ programme, *Qualéduc Mobilités* allowed participants from 18 academies to visit these countries in order to discuss their self-assessment practices and collect examples that could potentially be transferable to France. The project took place over the two school years 2017/18 and 2018/19, and resulted in a dissemination seminar in April 2019.

105 VET professionals from the education ministry and 18 education districts (*académies*) have taken part in study visits focusing on quality assurance in VET organised across the five countries involved in the project.

In terms of deliverables, 44 information sheets are intended to enrich the reflections on and procedures for self-assessment and continuous improvement undertaken in France, to help students succeed; they are grouped together in the collection *Qualéduc* mobility – Self-assessment for action (*Qualéduc Mobilités – Autoévaluer pour agir*) published in March 2019.

Steered by both the management staff and the inspectors, *Qualéduc* has proven to be an efficient tool which promotes a participatory and collaborative approach for educational, teacher and management teams.

2020 Implementation

The *Qualéduc* guide was updated in 2020. It includes 31 information sheets on the transformation of the vocational pathway, teaching and pedagogy, and life in the education establishments.

Among the *Qualéduc* deliverables, *Qualinclus* is a tool for inclusive and quality education, made available to secondary education institutions. Its objective is to deploy an interactive and reflexive approach to improving the efficiency and fairness of the education and training system for students with disabilities. Five information sheets were produced in order to:

- (a) formulate an analysis and suggest a shared diagnosis, supported and established based on observations and facts;
- (b) establish or adapt a plan by presenting objectives and areas for progress, improvement actions, and an implementation plan, providing for monitoring tools (such as dashboards, monitoring sheets) etc.

2021 Implementation

The tool is operational and runs as a regular practice. Managed jointly, between the management staff and the inspectors, *Qualéduc* has proved to be an efficient tool, promoting a participatory and collaborative approach for education, teacher and management teams. Concrete examples are made available to inspectors as support for teams and individuals to ensure the quality of teaching provided to students and, hence, to promote their success.

2022 Implementation

Work on the issue of self-assessment and continuous improvement of public IVET institutions continues to progress. For example, the *Qualéduc* guide on self-assessment and how to prepare teaching audits of apprenticeships in order to support teams in their continuous improvement process has been developed and is available online.

With regard to Trades and Qualifications Campuses (Campus des métiers et des qualifications, CMQ), cooperative work has resulted in a guide entitled 'Guidelines for the self-assessment process at Trades and Qualifications Campuses'. This guide has been distributed to the CMQ directors and regional academic heads of initial and continuing training institutions.

An online training with the title '*Qualéduc*: an approach to continuous improvement for schools and networks of schools', dedicated to the presentation of the *Qualeduc* tool, was held on 11 and 12 May 2022, as part of the 2022 national training plan.

Finally, among other goals the *Qualeduc* tool invites to work on the support of continuation and permeability of studies for VET learners.

2023 Implementation

The *Lycée des métiers* quality label initiative is in progress: the list of schools that have recently been awarded the label or of those that had their label renewed for 2022, has been published in the official bulletin.

The *lycée des métiers* label has been renewed: from the start of the 2023 academic year, the label should also be awarded to a network of VET schools (in addition to one-to-one schools) in order to encourage collective initiatives, whatever the sector of activity and the territory.

The circular of 23 October 2023 replaces the previous one of 2016, refining the scope and criteria of the *Lycée des métiers* label. This update allows the label to be awarded to projects focused on specific sectors of activity or geographical areas, provides a national framework for specifications, and details its alignment with other labels and evaluation systems, as well as the labelling process itself.

2024 Implementation

The *Qualéduc* methodology is now recommended as part of the national framework for the Trades and Qualifications Campuses (*Campus des métiers et des qualifications*). It is also incorporated into the 23 October 2023 circular guiding the School of Trades (*Lycée des métiers*) label and certification process. This approach is detailed in the sustainable development education handbook, in link with the E3D label for schools and education establishments with a sustainable development approach (*écoles et établissements en démarche de développement durable*).

The lists of newly labelled School of Trades and School of Trades networks awarded between 1 January 2023 and 25 July 2024 have been published to recognise institutions that meet these updated standards.

At the end of 2024, several updates were published on the *Eduscol* portal concerning quality assurance in vocational education and the School of Trades (*Lycée des métiers*) label.

Eduscol also made available a series of labelling sheets (fiches *Qualéduc*) offering guidance and tools for school staff, as well as for academic and regional teams supporting the process. These sheets draw on *Qualéduc* tools and academic resources on continuous improvement. An updated list of labelled institutions and a national map are also accessible online.

In parallel, new *Qualéduc* resources were published in 2024 to support the implementation of the reform of vocational upper secondary schools launched the same year and to assist educational teams in continuously improving pedagogical and organisational practices.

2025 Implementation

The ministerial decree of 21 August 2025 (Official Bulletin No. 32 of 28 August 2025) lists the institutions awarded the School of Trades (*Lycée des métiers*) label between 1 January 2023 and 11 July 2025. As of 1 September 2025, 803 institutions hold this label.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research
- Delegate Minister for VET under the education and labour ministers
- Ministry of National Education and Youth (until 2024)
- Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (from 2020 till 2022)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

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

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European and international dimensions of VET

Mobility of learners and staff

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[The circular in the Ministry of National Education and Youth website](#)

[Qualeduc quality tool](#)

[Qualeduc mobilites project for educational teams](#)

[Qualinclus, a self-evaluation guide for inclusive education](#)

[Ministry of National Education and Youth - Guide on self-assessment and how to prepare teaching audits of apprenticeships](#)

Label"Lycee des metiers": list of schools recently awarded or that have had their label renewed in 2022

Ministry of Education and Youth - Qualeduc project

Ministere de l'Education nationale - Eduscol. (n.d.). School of trades label [Le label Lycee des metiers].

Ministere de l'Education nationale. (n.d.). Qualeduc : la demarche d'amelioration continue des etablissements. eduscol.

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Measures fostering teachers initial training and CPD

A December 2015 circular created more opportunities for school staff to work with the business world, including courses for head teachers and CPD modules on entrepreneurship; it also contributed to the CPD of VET school teachers.

 FRANCE

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Development of a quality assurance culture in initial VET training: France. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28832>