

Quality assurance national framework for CVET providers and Apprentices Training Centres

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 FRANCE

Timeline



ID number 28831

Background

The 2014 Law on VET, employment and social democracy included several quality assurance measures related to CVET. Quality standards for providers were incorporated in legislation and used as a condition for accreditation and funding. Providers were required to report on their performance. Quality controls were also carried out in employment training.

Objectives

Quality requirements aim to make training provision clearer to individuals, companies and funders. The individualisation of pathways and the reduction in intermediaries - particularly via the personal training account (CPF) - support transparency and help individuals in selecting a training programme. For funders, the certification makes it possible to evaluate organisations based on common indicators.

Description

In 2015, a decree on continuous professional training defined six quality criteria for publicly funded training and introduced a quality label for providers meeting these standards. In 2017, Decree No 2017-239 (February 24, 2017) introduced the Eduform quality label for CVET providers under the education ministry. The label is valid for three years and is granted based on an audit and the recommendations of a national labelling commission.

In 2018, the Law for the freedom to choose one's professional future introduced new quality standards, including the Qualiopi certification, which applies to all CVET providers funded by public or mutualised funds.

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

Following a request by the Ministry of Employment, the National Council for Employment, Vocational Training and Career Guidance (CNEFOP) developed a self-assessment tool in 2016 to support quality in apprentice training centres (*centres de formation d'apprentis*, CFA). The tool was expected to help tackle apprentice dropout rates, reduce early breaches of apprenticeship contracts and enable training centres to question their own practices and design improvement plans.

2017 Implementation

A 2017 decree (Decree No 2017-239 of 24 February 2017) introduced the Eduform quality label for CVET providers.

2018 Legislative process

The 2018 Law for the freedom to choose one's professional future established new quality arrangements and a quality label, the Qualiopi certification that applies to all CVET providers which activities are funded with public or mutualised funds.

2019 Implementation

The law of 5 September 2018 introduced an obligation for certification bodies to certify providers offering skills development activities (training activities, skills assessments, validation of prior learning - *validation des acquis de l'expérience*, VAE - and apprenticeships). Certification is based on a single national reference framework and is open to any organisation wishing to benefit from public or pooled funds.

In November 2019, the Ministry of Labour launched the Qualiopi label, which will be mandatory as of 1 January 2022. Qualiopi is issued by certifying bodies accredited by the French Accreditation Committee. The label is issued for a period of three years, renewable after an initial audit. Qualiopi covers 32 indicators grouped into seven criteria (including teachers and trainers CPD as well as issues related to equality and inclusiveness), which are made publicly available after their assessment. For each indicator, a guide specifies the expected level, the evidence required, specific obligations for certain actions if applicable, and lists potential major and minor non-conformities. One specific indicator is dedicated to the provision of staff members responsible for promoting international mobility.

The new national governance agency for vocational training and apprenticeships, *France Compétences*, is the lead institution for quality-related issues alongside the European Union.

The Eduform quality label has been adapted in accordance with regulatory and legislative changes made by the law of 5th September 2018 (Qualiopi certification). 'Eduform' is the quality label for vocational training issued by the Ministry of National Education and Youth. It is issued for three years by the Minister of National Education and Youth, after carrying out a national audit and receiving the opinion of the national labelling commission. Obtaining it automatically results in the granting of Qualiopi certification.

2020 Implementation

The provisions of the Official Bulletin of 5 November 2020 on vocational training (Decree No 2020-1295 of 23 October 2020 and bylaw of 23 October 2020) describe the adaptations of the Eduform quality label, due to health conditions: prolongation of the label validity (one more year) until 2020, and extension of the duration from three to four years for those labels delivered in 2020. Also, due to COVID-19, responsible bodies can carry out the audits for the Eduform labelling and Qualiopi certification remotely.

To help training providers to take ownership of the new Qualiopi quality reference

framework, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration has published several resources: a reading guide, a user charter, user regulations and a set of questions and answers.

2021 Implementation

The Eduform national labelling commission meets at least once in a year to assess the bodies/institutions that will receive the label; the list of those labelled is published in the official bulletin of the Ministry of Education. In 2021, 111 public and private training providers were labelled; most of them are institutions operating under the remit of the education ministry (107) or other public or private training providers (4). It is possible to receive the label for one or more types of actions; in 2021 accreditations corresponded to: the delivery of continuing education programmes (105 accreditations), validation of prior learning processes (VAE) (70), apprenticeships (66) and skills audits (55). In total, 3 764 local national education institutions are Eduform labelled and more than 500 auditors are being trained in 2022.

In regard to the Qualiopi label, new institutions also need to be quality-certified, which requires them to inform their funding operator/body within two months regarding the certifying body or the labelling body they are in contact with. Furthermore, they are required to obtain the quality certification within six months after the conclusion of the first training agreement.

2022 Implementation

From 2022 this policy development is part of the NIP: "Measure Reinforcing the individualisation of training paths and the fluidity of lifelong learning" / Action: "The personal training account, vocational development counselling and the quality certification of training organisations".

Since January 2022, the Qualiopi certification is compulsory for all training providers who receive public or mutualised funds (the list of bodies that distribute such funds is defined in the Labour Code: skill operators, Transitions Pro associations, the State, the regions, the *Caisse de dépôts et consignations*, Pôle emploi and Agefiph).

Apprentice training centres (*centres de formation d'apprentis*, CFA) should also be quality-certified (decree No 2021-1851); new apprenticeship training centres should inform their funding operator/body within two months of the certifying body or the labelling body they are in contact with and obtain the certification within six months after the conclusion of the first apprenticeship training agreement. Among the 32 indicators, one is related to VET providers' staff responsible for the promotion of international mobility of IVET learners as well as equality and inclusiveness.

A Ministerial Order of February 2022 extended the authorisation to carry out the initial remote audit for the awarding of the "EDUFORM" label.

Due to COVID-19, the possibility to carry out the Qualiopi audit remotely has been extended till end June, 2022.

The list of labelled training providers is publicly available on the open platform of French public data.

At the end of 2022, the Board of Directors of the national agency "France compétences" approved the new list of bodies authorised to award the Qualiopi French national quality assurance label. As of 1 January 2023, 8 bodies have been approved to award this certification based on the national reference document on training programme standards (art. L. 6316-2, Labour Code) for the period 2023-2025: the 7 bodies approved in 2019 plus a further organisation, namely the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Labour created a working group on the training quality in November 2022. One of its objectives is to further strengthen the Qualiopi national quality assurance label by simplifying and coordinating its oversight policies.

2023 Implementation

The Order of 31 May 2023 'on various measures relating to the quality certification of training bodies' strengthens the quality certification measures for training providers and clarifies the audit procedures and standardises the practices of the certifying bodies that issue the Qualiopi label.

The decree no. 2023-1396 of 28 December 2023 'on the activity of certifying bodies and the control exercised by funding bodies in the field of vocational training' marks a new step towards improving the quality of training: from now on, in the interests of greater transparency, Qualiopi certifying bodies are required to submit an annual report on their activities to the ministry responsible for vocational training, the national accreditation body and France Compétences. These changes also empower funding bodies to coordinate quality checks on the programmes they finance.

As mandated by the law of December 19, 2022, aimed at combating misuse and fraud within the personal training account (CPF), Decree No. 2023-1350 of December 28, 2023, introduces stricter regulations on subcontracting practices for training providers listed on the 'Mon compte formation' digital platform. This decree regulates how training providers can use subcontractors. It aims to make training providers more transparent and accountable for the quality of their subcontractors. To meet these requirements, training providers must declare their subcontractors to the Caisse des Dépôts, discontinue the use of Qualiopi portage, and adhere to more stringent criteria to be listed on the platform. Under the new rules, subcontracted training providers (with some exceptions for independent contractors) must hold the same certifications and authorisations as the primary training provider listed on 'Mon compte formation'. This specifically includes the Qualiopi certification.

2024 Implementation

The order of 30 April 2024 was issued regarding the annual reporting requirements for certifying bodies and labeling organisations. These reports must be submitted by March 1 each year to provide a comprehensive overview of activities.

The National Quality Reference Framework continues to be updated regularly. The latest version, published in January 2024, serves as a pedagogical tool to enhance understanding of the framework and standardise audit practices across organisations.

The ETOF survey (*Enquête sur les Transformations de l'Offre de Formation, ETOF*), conducted by the Centre for Research on Qualifications (Céreq) and DARES between 2022 and 2023, examined the challenges faced by training providers in the context of the 2018 reform (relating to the personal training account/CPF in French; the *Qualiopi* certification and subcontracting regulations).

Céreq Bref Nos. 459-460 outlined the main issues for providers: certification obligations, modularisation of training offers, and increasing dependence on public funding. The ETOF survey also highlighted a rise in the number of micro training organisations, financial pressures on smaller providers, and the growing use of subcontracting in certain training activities.

2025 Implementation

Persistent problems continue to affect skills development: low-quality training, limited resources, fraudulent practices and lack of harmonisation among providers.

To tackle these challenges, the State has launched a strategic plan to improve training quality and fight fraud (*Plan qualité et lutte contre la fraude dans la formation professionnelle*). The plan is based on stronger interministerial coordination and a set of legal, regulatory and operational reforms. It aims to ensure everyone can access high-quality, safe training under fair and transparent rules. It also reflects a public service approach that puts learners first, while guaranteeing efficient use of public funds.

The plan gives authorities greater powers to act quickly and effectively. It is structured around four priorities:

- reinforcing training quality: clarify the missions of apprenticeship training centres to ensure content is professionally oriented and helps learners acquire labour-market-relevant skills;
- improving information and protection: strengthen career guidance for young people and adults, link training and employment, and boost alert mechanisms;
- guaranteeing quality processes among providers: build on Qualiopi certification, extending its scope and reliability to ensure consistent standards;
- applying zero tolerance to fraud: modernise the legal framework, improve coordination and strengthen controls.

The Law on combating fraud in public funding, published on 1 July 2025, allows for suspension or cancellation of providers' declarations and gives inspectors stronger powers.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Labour, Full Employment and Inclusion
- 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 Labour, Employment and Professional Integration (until 2022)
- 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

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Decree No. 2015-790 of 30 June 2015 on the quality of continuing vocational training actions \(in French only\)](#)

[Decree of 18th December 2019 modifying the Eduform label](#)

[Decree of 18th December 2019 on conditions for the award and withdrawal of the Eduform label](#)

[French National quality reference framework mentioned in Article L. 6316-3 of the French Labour Code \(Reading guide\)](#)

[Qualiopi certification: regulations and usage charter for the quality guarantee trademark for providers of training actions contributing to skills development\)](#)

[Ministry of Labour, Employment and Inclusion/guide to the national quality framework](#)

[Open platform for French public data/list of training organisations](#)

[Ministerial order, 4 February 2022: Extending authorisation for remote audit issuing Eduform label](#)

[Ministry of National Education and Youth - Presentation of the Eduform label](#)

[France competences - eight bodies approved for 2023-2025 to certify training quality](#)

[National Quality Reference Framework | 'Qualiopi' Reading Guide](#)

[DARES. \(2024, November 7\). Sous-traitance, CPF, Qualiopi : quels enjeux pour les organismes de formation depuis la reforme de 2018 ? \[ETOF survey landing page\]. Paris : DARES.](#)

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). Quality assurance national framework for CVET providers and Apprentices Training Centres: 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/28831>