

Benchmarking for quality assurance in apprenticeships and work-based learning (BEQUAL.app) Erasmus+ project

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** CROATIA

Timeline

2018 Implementation**2019 Implementation****2020 Completed****ID number 28820**

Background

The VET system development programme 2016-20 emphasises the need to address further attention to the quality assurance of work-based learning undertaken in companies.

Objectives

The aim of the Bequal.app initiative is to support education institutions and companies that provide work-based learning (WBL) in quality assurance of WBL.

Description

This policy development started within the Erasmus+ project Benchmarking for quality assurance in apprenticeships and work-based learning (BEQUAL.app). The project coordinator is the Kaunas Chamber of Industry and Crafts, Lithuania, with project partners from Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia representing public institutions responsible for VET, SMEs, consulting organisations and education institutions. Croatian partners are the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education and the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts. The project lasted from October 2018 until December 2020. The project is directed at developing, piloting and mainstreaming online benchmarking tools for quality assurance in apprenticeships and WBL for both VET providers and businesses. First, a quality assurance framework for apprenticeships and WBL will be developed. Next, two self-assessment questionnaires will be produced, for education institutions and companies respectively. An online platform will be launched, that will include quality assurance tools for apprenticeship and WBL providers, as well as additional resources, documents, links, articles, and videos. Two online benchmarking tools will be developed, for education institutions and companies respectively. Finally, a Bequal.app badge will be awarded to education institutions and businesses that demonstrate best practices in apprenticeship and WBL management. Bequal.app is expected to have a positive impact on the planning, management and delivery of apprenticeships at VET provider and business level. Users of the benchmarking tool will be able to compare their performance to that of similar organisations in and outside their country, and thus take measures to improve the quality of their apprenticeship schemes. The online platform will serve as the single point of reference and resources for quality

assurance of apprenticeships and WBL. Dissemination events will be held in six European cities in project partner countries, to present the online benchmarking tools and encourage businesses to participate in the European contest of best practices in apprenticeship and WBL provision and the award of Bequal.app badge to employers. The project aims to promote innovation (Bequal.app badge) and excellence. The project is financed through the Erasmus+ programme (KA2 Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices), with national contribution. Total budget is EUR 256 220.

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the methodology for benchmarking quality assurance in apprenticeships and work-based learning was developed, including a unique quality assurance framework, as well as different self-assessment questionnaires and online benchmarking tools for education institutions and companies respectively. In the following period, the project activities will focus on mainstreaming the tools through an online platform and further promotion through the Bequal.app badge.

2020 Completed

The online platform with benchmarking tools was finalised and launched. VET providers in all countries of the project consortium used the tool for self-assessing their provision of apprenticeships and WBL. This included 20 businesses and 25 education institutions in Croatia. The platform was promoted through virtual events and promotional videos in all countries. Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on WBL delivery was also conducted.

Bodies responsible

- Agency for VET and Adult Education (ASOO)
- Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK)

Target group

Entities providing VET

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

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Subsystem

Further reading

[Project website](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Benchmarking for quality assurance in apprenticeships and work-based learning (BEQUAL.app) Erasmus+ project: Croatia. 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/28820>