

Improving quality assurance in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **PORTUGAL**

Timeline

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

ID number 28698

Background

Decree-Law No 92/2014 states that public and private professional schools must introduce a quality assurance system for monitoring their training process and learner results. The implementation must be linked to the European reference framework for quality assurance in education and professional training (EQAVET). Overall supervision is the remit of the National Agency for Qualifications and VET (ANQEP).

Objectives

To promote and monitor the implementation of a quality assurance system for professional schools leading to an EQAVET certification.

Description

Since 2016, a national approach to improving quality assurance in VET and related work-based learning has been developed, using the EQAVET framework. VET providers have been aligning their quality assurance approaches to the EQAVET framework. Evaluation guidelines have been piloted in professional and public secondary schools offering VET programmes.

In December 2018, two guides were published by ANQEP: one for aligning quality assurance with the EQAVET framework and one for validation. The objective is that once the quality assurance approach is fully set up, all VET providers are able to adopt it and be awarded an EQAVET seal based on its quality criteria and indicative descriptors. This process was planned to be developed gradually up to 2020.

The quality label is awarded for a period of three years. It will then be renewed (or suspended) upon re-evaluation. Introducing a one-year conditional seal is under consideration.

2016 Pilot

2017 Pilot

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In early 2019, VET schools started applying this model.

The project is funded by the Operational programme for human capital (POCH).

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the model was adopted by all schools offering professional programmes; 251 schools were awarded the EQAVET certification.

The expansion of the project led ANQEP to increase the number of external experts in charge of school validation to 160; 100 more external experts were trained in January and February 2020 to fulfil the validation functions. Five training actions were carried out, in 2020, to enable external experts to develop EQAVET compliance verification.

The pool of external experts, created through protocols established between ANQEP and 35 higher education institutions, was expanded. It currently includes 173 experts. The aim is to respond to the increasing number of EQAVET verification requests submitted by training providers who developed their alignment processes (professional schools, secondary schools and private schools offering professional programmes or specific curriculum programmes).

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the EQAVET seal (certification) was awarded to 225 schools.

2022 Implementation

The measure is part of the NIP under the package Quality assurance.

The Quality framework of Qualifica centres (*Carta da Qualidade dos Centros Qualifica*) was published. It is the *Qualifica* centres reference for their activity regarding the quality of service provided and efficiency and effectiveness levels achieved and for the management and regulation of the network by the National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP).

37 EQAVET seals awarded in 2022 (16 new seals and 21 renewals).

2023 Implementation

In 2023, 78 EQAVET seals were awarded.

2024 Implementation

The EQAVET platform has been improved to make it more user-friendly and with more functionalities, such as enabling more reports and queries related to the awarding of the EQAVET seal and setting alerts for the label's expiration date, better interface and forms, or updated typology of VET providers.

In June 2024, an initial training session for new external experts was held face-to-face.

In November 2024, two workshops with EQAVET external experts took place online.

110 EQAVET seals awarded in 2024 (12 new seals and 98 renewals).

2025 Implementation

The EQAVET platform was improved to become more user-friendly and feature-rich.

A face-to-face technical meeting took place in October 2025 with EQAVET external experts. The meeting aimed to discuss a topic related to the upcoming 2026 peer review: the involvement of internal and external stakeholders in the quality assurance cycle in schools, particularly employers.

180 EQAVET seals were awarded until October 2025 (2 new seals and 178 renewals). 180 EQAVET seals were awarded until October 2025 (2 new seals and 178 renewals).

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)

Target group

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Guide to the EQAVET framework alignment process](#)

[Validation process of VET providers](#)

[Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 396/2007, of 31 December 2007, modified by Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 14/2017, of 26 January 2017](#)

[Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 92/2014, of 20 June 2014](#)

[Quality Framework of Qualifica Centres](#)

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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