

Model of quality assurance at all levels of education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SLOVENIA

Timeline

2016 Design 2017 Design 2018 Design 2019 Completed

ID number 28551

Background

The Slovenian educational space has been engaged in the development of quality for at least two decades. There have been various projects, programmes and initiatives, and various and varied substantive, structural and process elements of quality, at the level of kindergartens, schools and adult education organisations, as well as at the system level. A review of these activities and results showed that, with positive effects at the so-called local level, they brought considerable diversity, diffusion and inconsistency in comprehension and processes used for quality assessment and assurance in the Slovenian educational system. Due to this diversity, the need for greater unity in approaches to quality assurance, with self-evaluation at system level, has emerged (Kos Kecojevic and Gaber 2011, Brejc 2014, MIZŠ 2017).

In response to the need for harmonised understanding and implementation of quality assurance in the Slovenian education system, in February 2017 a proposal for a National framework for quality assessment and quality assurance in education (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, 2017) was prepared. The framework defines a draft model with QA elements at school/kindergarten level and system level, and their interconnection. The model is presented in the national framework of the QA as a draft, which was supposed to be further developed, piloted and upgraded through a national project (Vzpostavitev, dopolnitev in pilotni preizkus modela ugotavljanja in zagotavljanja kakovosti na področju vzgoje in izobraževanja), described below.

Objectives

Establish a common model of quality assessment and quality assurance at all levels of formal education, from kindergarten to high school.

Description

Slovenia was running a national project on introducing and piloting model of quality in education (Vzpostavitev, dopolnitev in pilotni preizkus modela ugotavljanja in zagotavljanja kakovosti na področju vzgoje in izobraževanja). The goal was to develop, by August 2019, a common model of quality assessment and quality assurance at all levels of formal education, from kindergarten to high school. This includes recommended standards and indicators in five areas:

- (a) learning achievements and achievements of children in development and learning;
- (b) professional learning and performance of teachers;
- (c) safe and facilitating learning environment;
- (d) leadership of kindergartens and schools;
- (e) assessment and quality assurance with self-evaluation.

The common quality assurance national framework contains 18 standards for providers (schools or kindergartens), which are divided into 50 indicators, further described in detail and illustrated with questions. Examples of descriptors/measures and sources of evidence are available for each standard. Standards and indicators are formulated in a way to concretise directions towards 'a quality school/kindergarten'.

The national project also included collaboration in developing and piloting the model by 32 schools/kindergartens from all participating education subsystems. Examples of good practice were developed during the pilot phase. Four national institutes were involved in the preparation of the model (National School for Leadership in Education, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET, the National Education Institute and the National Examinations Centre).

The idea of systematic common and coordinated support to schools/kindergartens from all four institutes was revised and upgraded. The project was carried out under the aegis the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and was extended to August 2019, when common and coordinated implementation and support by all four national institutes was developed.

2016 Design
2017 Design
2018 Design
2019 Completed
<p>After August 2019, there were discussions on continuation of the project activities among all involved parties; consequently, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport facilitated the preparation of a follow up project on quality of education to take place from 1 April 2020 until 31 August 2022. The project was not realised in the end.</p>

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ) (until 2023)
- National School for Leadership in Education
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI)
- National Education Institute (ZRSŠ)
- National Examinations Centre (RIC)

Target group

Education professionals

School leaders

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Subsystem

IVET

“ … ” Cite as

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