

Measures for quality assurance in VET



Timeline



ID number 28317

Background

Italy has taken several measures and attributed great importance in order to assure the quality of its VET system taking into account the European perspective.

Objectives

The country's priority is the implementation of the national plan for quality of education and training, with the direct involvement of the labour and education ministries and the regions and in closer cooperation with social partners. Actions supervised by the labour ministry include the revision of the national accreditation system, the definition of an evaluation of the VET system, the definition of the informative system on vocational training in line with EQAVET indicators, and the definition of a National system for the validation and certification of competences. The national accreditation system is currently under revision, the monitoring of the regional accreditation systems is still ongoing. This is a fundamental step preparatory to updating the national accreditation system in line with quality indicators (or EQAVET indicators) and it is one of the activities which is followed also by the national board.

The monitoring of regional accreditation systems is preparatory to the activities of a National table, aimed at updating the national accreditation system in line with the legislative Decree 150/2015. Adoption of indicators suggested by the EQAVET recommendation and incorporated in the national plan for quality is envisaged; applying qualitative assessment will help manage the complexity of the training activities. The use of indicators and other statistical parameters supports more comprehensive evaluation, still entrusted to the several actors involved.

Description

The National plan for quality of education and training was revised in 2017 and was approved by the State-regions Conference on 21 December 2017. The plan provides a framework within which territorial articulations are allowed, in compliance with the autonomy of regions. It aims to reduce and prevent training failure and dropout through the

continuous improvement of the training supply as well as the promotion of a quality culture.

The plan is consistent with the EQAVET recommendation and applies to IVET, CVET and work-based learning. Addressing issues emerging from the input of multiple institutional players in the implementation of quality assurance, the plan acts as an institutional framework within which coherent combining of several existing quality assurance measures is possible. It also guarantees homogeneous choices and quality assurance tools, while allowing autonomy for further changes and territorial declinations to stakeholders.

The monitoring of the National plan for quality of education and training is carried out by all institutions involved (ministries, regions and autonomous provinces) which periodically meet at the board of the national reference point (NRP) in order to arrange the annual progress report.

Implementation of the plan is supported by the activity of the NRP collecting data and information on quality assurance models and activities at national and regional levels. The proper legislative national references, the Good school Law (Buona Scuola - 107/2015), the Jobs Act and the Legislative Decree 13/2013, provide for the creation of a model of training provider accreditation. They also introduce a national certification system based on a repertoire of qualifications, as well as an information system for vocational training.

The evaluation of the education system is currently based on periodic surveys of learners' learning outcomes, involving all schools and managed centrally. VET schools are required - in compliance with the national evaluation system - to prepare a self-assessment report following a template and guidelines. Regions and autonomous provinces set standards for all training agencies accessing public funding. These refer to a common framework agreed at national level by all regions and the state. Accredited VET providers are registered in a national database using data from the regions.

2017 Approved/Agreed

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, in line with the country's priority to implement the National plan for quality of education and training, the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP) launched the national initiative Services for monitoring the National plan for quality of education and training and for the operational management of the National peer review network of schools and vocational training centres in Italy. The objectives and goals were the following:

- (a) to monitor and examine the stage of implementation of the National plan for quality of education and training at national, regional, and local level;
- (b) to promote and experiment the European peer review methodology as a joint-evaluation tool amongst schools and vocational training centres;
- (c) to raise awareness and further disseminate the National plan for quality of education and training in relation to the EQAVET indicators and self-assessment methodologies (like the European peer review).

2020 Implementation

In 2020, after the pandemic outbreak, the development of the national initiative Services for monitoring the National plan for quality of education and training and for the Operational management of the National peer review network of schools and vocational education and training (VET) centres in Italy slowed during the lockdown, when all schools and VET centres were closed. Nevertheless, its implementation continued and, despite the difficulties due to the pandemic, the first results and outcomes of the initiative were monitored and reported.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, despite the difficulties due to the restrictions linked to the COVID-19

pandemic, the implementation of the national initiative Services for monitoring the National plan for quality of education and training and for the Operational management of the National peer review network of schools and VET centres in Italy continued. Its different activities were monitored and regularly reported.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the national initiative Services for monitoring the National plan for quality of education and training and the Operational management of the National peer review network of schools and VET centres in Italy ended and its follow-up started. Moreover, the EQAVET National Reference Point continued its activities of promotion and support to the policies for quality in VET at national, regional and local level, through the active involvement of the stakeholders which are members of the National Board.

Also, on 26 and 27 October 2022, the fifth EQAVET Peer Review Quality Assurance in the dual system in IVET took place in Italy, hosted by the Italian NRP, INAPP. EQAVET Network members from Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Spain joined the meeting to acted as peer reviewers. The Peer Review focused on the quality assurance of the initial VET pathway, the IeFP (Istruzione e Formazione Professionale), the first national VET pathway for young learners – who are usually 14 years old when they enrol into IeFP. The IeFP balances regional autonomy with the creation of a nationally recognised, initial VET qualification. Discussions between the hosts, peers and other stakeholders explored two main areas of quality assurance. Firstly, the Peer Review focused on the governance of the IeFP, particularly in relation to balancing the needs and responsibilities of the regions with the national requirements. Secondly, the event also looked at the inclusion of the IeFP qualifications in the national repertory. Participants also had the opportunity to exchange on the balance between regional and national regulations, how EQAVET indicators can be applied in VET at regional level as well as the use of indicators to monitor and review the process. From the Italian side participants included the ministries of labour and education, the regions, social partners and some VET providers.

2023 Implementation

Following the EQAVET Peer Review Quality Assurance in the dual system in IVET, several key follow-up objectives were identified, mainly focused on the dissemination of the peer review findings, raising awareness about its added value.

In March 2023, the NRP presented the results and feedback to the Italian EQAVET Board, which brings together the most relevant stakeholders of the VET sector, calling for further dissemination actions. The two main measures examined by peers, governance of the IeFP and the National Repertory of Qualifications, were identified as key elements to the work on a higher quality of the training offer and for the work success of young people in Italy (i.e. increased employability options and mobility opportunities provided by the IeFP).

Dissemination and awareness-raising initiatives were activated targeting a wider audience, and especially stakeholders and actors of the VET sector at different levels. These stakeholders include representatives of institutions acting in the VET sector and not involved in the EQAVET Board, local authorities, learning providers, organisations of the labour market, experts.

Regarding the more general outcomes from the peer review, a political debate on the proposal to establish a technical vocational training pathway (filiera formativa tecnologico-professionale) started. This pathway aims to connect all existing paths of the VET sector from the national and regional education paths, both at upper secondary and tertiary levels. This initiative is expected to cover the regional IeFP courses and will strengthen the VET offer by setting up a closer link between secondary schools/high schools (second cycle) and tertiary education paths based on a model of 4+2 years. This anticipates to reducing the rate of school dropout and improve consistency between VET and company needs / requirements.

2024 Implementation

In May 2024, the NRP's Board, started a reflection on the most important issues on which to concentrate the effort for the next few years for an update of the National Quality Plan linked to the reforms already in place.

The VET Recommendation 2020 placed the issue of quality in a broader strategic context, paving the way for improvements in the advancements of the 2023 EQF referencing report, in the dual VET system, and the reform of ITS academies. Also, the issue of quality was raised during the ongoing negotiations on the package for the quality of traineeships.

The EQAVET framework provided tools for evaluation and highlighted the role of peers both in the exchange of good practices and in the assessment phases. This allowed the regions, especially in the south, to report satisfactory data in the first year of implementation of the national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) measure concerning the dual system

2025 Implementation

In 2025, in Italy, the experimentation of the Peer Review at system level continued, fostering the implementation of the European VET Recommendation 2020. Focusing on strengthening regional systems and promoting cooperation among stakeholders in relation to quality assurance in VET, the EQAVET National Reference Point, hosted by INAPP, together with the Piedmont Region, organised a Peer Review in Turin on 22 and 23 May 2025. The event supported the ongoing efforts to enhance quality assurance mechanisms in Vocational Education and Training and to align regional practices with national and European frameworks. The outcomes of this activity will contribute to the forthcoming national and regional efforts in terms of quality assurance at policy and system level and to further integrating regional experiences into the national quality assurance measures.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
- Regions and autonomous provinces

Target group

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Cedefop-ReferNet news](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

The Good school and subsequent reforms

On 13 July 2015, the Italian government adopted a reform of the national education system called the Good school (La Buona Scuola), emphasising alternance between classroom work and periods of workplace training.

 ITALY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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