



**CEDEFOP**

European Centre for the Development  
of Vocational Training



Education and Culture DG  
Lifelong Learning Programme



## Study visits workshop on „Enhanced quality in schools and VET institutions“

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**Cedefop is the European agency to promote the development of vocational education and training in the European Union**

**EU Centre of expertise to support development of VET and evidence based policy making:**

- Provision of scientific advice, research, analysis and information ;
- Stimulation of cooperation and common learning (networks) ;
- Forum for policy debate.

**Cedefop shares its expertise by publications, conferences and working groups.**



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## Cedefop's mission

Cedefop works closely with:

- The European Commission;
- Member State governments;
- Representatives of employers and trade unions;
- The European Parliament and Council;
- Researchers and practitioners;
- National agencies for the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Cedefop is one of the oldest EU agencies, was founded in 1975 and has been based since 1995 in **Thessaloniki**, Greece.

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## The place of Study Visits in the Lifelong Learning Programme

LLP			
Comenius School education	Erasmus Higher education & advanced training	Leonardo da Vinci Initial and continuing VET	Grundtvig Adult education
<b>Transversal programme</b> 4 key activities - Policy development and cooperation; Language learning; ICT; Dissemination			
<b>Jean Monnet programme</b> 3 key activities - Jean Monnet Action; European Institutions; European Associations			

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## Study Visits in the Lifelong Learning Programme

As part of the transversal programme, study visits

- promote the quality and transparency of Member States education and training systems;
- support policy development and cooperation at European level in lifelong learning.

*Decision on LLP, Article 32, (1 + 2)*

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## Study Visits (structure)

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graph TD; EC["European Commission  
(responsible for overall implementation of LLP)"] --> Cedefop["Cedefop  
(coordination of the programme at EU-level)"]; Cedefop --> NA["National Agencies  
(35 in all participating countries)"]; NA --> Org["Organisers of study visits in participating countries"]; Org --> P["Participants"];
```

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(responsible for overall implementation of LLP)

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National Agencies  
(35 in all participating countries)

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Organisers of study visits in participating countries

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Participants

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## What is quality?

- Quality is a construction and not a clearly and well defined concept.
- In general terms a service or a product is considered of high quality, if it fulfils or even surpasses our expectations.
- Different stakeholders with different interests and expectations perceive quality in a different way.
- At EU level, quality is considered a modernisation factor of the VET systems while rendering them more accountable on their effectiveness. QA ensures the transparency of processes and procedures facilitating mutual understanding and trust between highly diverse and complex systems. QA can serve as a common reference to ensure consistency between actions/actors at all levels, especially with reference to the EU VET tool package.

## The EU strategy for Quality in VET

Quality in vocational education and training has been on the agenda for many years in all the Member States.

- Copenhagen Declaration (2002): promoting quality assurance as a priority to enhance cooperation in VET;
- Common Quality Assurance Framework for VET (CQAF) 2004;
- The Maastricht Communiqué (2004): emphasis on the implementation of the European tools developed so far;
- The Helsinki Communiqué (2006): emphasis on the attractiveness and quality of VET further development, testing, implementation of common tools and mutual learning;
- Recommendation on European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET (EQARF) 2009;
- European Quality Assurance in VET Network (EQAVET) 2010.

## EQARF- a European quality assurance reference framework for VET

Recommendation on the establishment of a European *Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training* (EQARF):

- voluntary character;
- 2011 Report on Progress;
- 4 years reporting period possible revision after this period (mid 2013);
- participation of government representatives and social partners in European Quality Assurance Reference network (EQAVET);
- Annex I: series of indicative description and quality criteria;
- Annex II: coherent set of quality indicators to be used as a tool box and to help systems and VET providers in promoting quality.

## Cedefop's role in Quality in VET

Technical and scientific assistance to the Commission and in 2000-2005 setting-up of the group of experts to elaborate the European framework for quality assurance.

- Studies;
- Glossaries EN/FR;
- Participation in European Commissions TWG's;
- Virtual community on Quality assurance in VET  
<http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/quality>;
- Conferences, workshops;
- Scientific advice to the ENQA-VET Board and the EQAVET-steering committee.

## Cedefop studies in quality in VET

- Study on: “Assuring the quality of VET systems by defining expected outcomes” (2008)
- Study on: “Accreditation and quality assurance in vocational education and training” (2009), new one coming up soon
- Study on: “Quality Approaches for assuring the quality of training and service provision in the Social Care Sector” (2010)
- Glossary: Quality in education and training (2011)  
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/17663.aspx>

Thank you very much