Cedefop workshop on the quality assurance of certification in IVET

Thessaloniki, 26-27 March 2015

Workshop objectives

Trust in qualifications plays a crucial role for people. Holders of a qualification who have completed a programme and passed the required exams must inspire confidence that they have actually acquired the learning outcomes associated with the qualification. In this case their qualification has value and they can use it for employment, further education or training. The certification process[1] becomes particularly important in this context and quality assurance mechanisms that support it are essential to ensure that these processes effectively generate credibility and trust. Its importance is stressed by several European mobility and lifelong learning instruments (EQAVET, EQF, ECVET, validation of non formal and informal learning), however they do not explicitly set out how to ensure the quality of the certification process.

The workshop aims to draw lessons from Cedefop's work in two different but closely related areas of the quality assurance in VET and on the use of learning outcomes to design and describe qualifications, including guidance for writing learning outcomes. It will bring together national experts (policy makers, researchers, social partners, practitioners) from different European countries and representatives of international organisations to:

 ➢ Present and discuss developments, compare policies, standards, methods and processes that ensure the quality of certification process in IVET;
 ➢ discuss how these approaches are understood by different stakeholders and applied in countries;
 ➢ debate if and to which extent the use of learning outcomes influences quality assurance arrangements supporting certification;
 ➢ Reflect to what extent and how the experiences from the certification process are taken into account when reviewing initial VET.

These insights and the conclusions drawn from the workshop will contribute to two on-going Cedefop comparative studies on 'The quality assurance of certification process' and 'The application of learning outcomes approaches across Europe'.

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[1] In the context of this workshop the term certification is used to encompass all three processes of 'assessment', 'verification' and 'recognition' that lead to the awarding of a qualification.

Agenda

Thursday, 26 March 2015
09.00-09.30	**Registration**
09.30-09.45	**Welcome and introductory speech** ➤ **Joachim James Calleja,** Director, Cedefop
09.45-10.30	**European approaches to ensure the quality of certification processes for initial VET** ➤ Chair: **George Kostakis**, Expert, Cedefop The key findings of Cedefop study on the quality assurance of certification in IVET will be presented by: ➤ **Karin Luomi-Messerer,** 3s research laboratory, Austria ➤ **Juko Luomi,** Austrian Reference Point for QA in VET
10.30-11.00	**Discussion**
11.00-11.30	***Tea/Coffee break***
11.30-12.15	**Learning outcomes in certification processes** ➤ Chair: **Ernesto Villalba-Garcia,** Expert, Cedefop The key findings of Cedefop comparative studies on learning outcomes will be presented by: ➤ **Slava Pevec Grm**, Expert , Cedefop ➤ **Karin Luomi-Messerer,** 3s research laboratory, Austria
12.15-13.00	**Discussion**
13.00-14.30	***Lunch***
14.30-16.00	**SESSION I** **Benefits and challenges of the learning outcomes approaches to ensuring quality of certification process** ➤ **Juko Luomi,** Austrian Reference Point for QA in VET **"The application of learning outcomes standards in vocational skills demonstration in Finland"** ➤ **Discussion in working groups** i) To what extent are learning outcomes standards a key requirement to ensure the quality of certification process? What else is important? ii) Which are the strengths and challenges when using learning outcomes standards in the certification process in your country? iii) How can these challenges be addressed?

	Facilitators: ➢ **Maria Emilia Galvão,** Consultant, Portugal ➢ **Slava Pevec Grm**, Expert , Cedefop
16:00-16:30	*Tea/coffee break*
16:30-18:00	**SESSION II** **The use of Certification process results to review IVET** ➢ **Darko Mali,** Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje, Slovenia **Examination results and quality improvement in Slovenian IVET** ➢ **Katalin Molnárné Stadler,** M & S Consulting Kft, Hungary **"Evaluation and monitoring of certification process in a VET provider in Hungary"** ➢ **Discussion in working groups on** i) What information from the certifications process is important to collect for: - improving tools and methods used in certification, - improving teaching and learning - revising the standards used in certification. ii) How can these data be collected? By whom? iii) Which are the challenges in relation to the collection and use of these data? How can they be addressed at VET provider and system level? Facilitators: ➢ **Krista Loogma,** Tallinn University, Estonia ➢ **Dana Stroie,** National Centre for TVET Development**,** Romania
18:00-19:00	**Debriefing of the Reporters by the facilitators**
19:30	Workshop dinner at the city centre

Friday, 27 March 2015

09.30-10.15	**Key messages from Working groups of the first day** ➢ **Monika Auzinger,** *3s Research Laboratory, Austria* **on Session I** ➢ **Keith Brumfitt,** Consultant, UK **on Session II**
10.15-11.15	**Plenary Session** **The *Role of certification process to ensure trust in qualifications*** ➢ Chair: **Loukas Zahilas**, Head of Department for VET Systems and Institutions, Cedefop **Speakers:** ➢ **Arjen Deij,** European Training Foundation **"New approaches to quality assuring certification in VET in partner countries, work in progress"** ➢ **Borhene Chakroun,** UNESCO **"Enhancing international recognition of qualifications: the role of quality assurance"** ➢ **Luisa Coutinho,** European Welders Federation **"Harmonised International Qualification System - a best practice case"**
11.15-11.45	***Tea/Coffee break***
11.45-12.45	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **Lessons learnt for policies and practices related to quality assurance and certification in IVET** ➢ Chair: **George Kostakis**, Cedefop ➢ **Koen Bois D'ENGHIEN,** European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion ➢ **Roisin Sweeney,** Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), Ireland ➢ **Stylianos Mavromoustakos,** Vice President EfVET ➢ **Svitlana Nastas,** EuroSkills 2014 Gold medallist, Portugal ➢ **Michaela Jonach,** Austrian Reference Point for QA in VET
12:45-13.00	**Conclusions and next steps** ➢ **Loukas Zahilas**, Head of Department for VET Systems and Institutions, Cedefop