

# Peer Review – an instrument supporting quality assurance in VET

## Background paper on PLA 11th of March 2021

*Peer review in the education and training sector represents the concept of evaluation of an institution, activity or product by one or more peers i.e. by someone who does the same or a similar job to those being assessed. Peer reviews can focus on systems (on parts or all of national/regional policies), institution (providers of education and training e.g. universities, VET schools, quality assurance agencies, etc.) and/or on individual products (academic articles, etc.). Peer review may be used as an alternative to formal external evaluation.[1]*

Peer review consists of four phases in line with the quality cycle. Peers (colleagues from the same field) help to improve the quality of an evaluated institution and quality of its processes on the basis of 14 quality areas. The method was thoroughly developed and tested within several projects implemented by the European Peer review Network (e.g. in the Leonardo da Vinci project "Peer Review in initial VET" by a team of experts from seven European countries)[2]. Since the 2007 the [Manual](#) for peer review has been published in English and German language as one of the results of the project. The Manual has been translated to 14 languages - Catalan, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, and Turkish. As the [Study on Peer Review and the work of the EQAVET Network](#) has showed, the Peer Review has become the established and used method for QA and improving of quality in VET in many countries (on regional level) and at providers' level.

In line with the [Council Recommendation on vocational education and training \(VET\) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience](#) (2020), a new task of the EQAVET National Reference Points (NRP) is to engage in EU level peer reviews of quality assurance to enhance the transparency and consistency of quality assurance arrangements, and to reinforce trust between the Member States.[3]

**The aim of this peer learning activity is to showcase the use of peer review methodology on all of these levels – system, regional, providers' level in various countries.** The European Commission will present the intention to use peer review as a tool for enhancing the quality on the system level. The presentation of the project Transnational Peer Review for Quality Assurance in Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning Extended will provide an insight into the using the peer review as a project method for mapping the validation system in some countries.

We are looking forward to meeting you online!

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[1] Giorgio Allulli (2019), Study on Peer Review and the work of the EQAVET Network, p. 3

[2] <http://www.peer-review-network.eu/>

[3] Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience (2020), p. 18