

Lithuania: VET providers received recommendations for VET quality development based on the external assessment results

In 2015 the national level project ‘External Assessment of Vocational Education and Training Quality’ was finalised. As a result of the project, all vocational education and training (VET) institutions implementing initial VET programmes received recommendations for improving their quality. The four-year project was funded by national budget and European Social Fund. A coordinator of the project - Qualifications and VET Development Centre.

The external evaluation focused on how successfully VET programmes are implemented, what are the good practices and what are the weakest points in VET programmes delivery. The evaluation involved all VET programmes in seven sub-fields of education (such as construction, hotels and restaurants, hair and beauty care, travel, tourism and leisure). In total programmes enrol 60% of all VET students in Lithuania. Six areas for the evaluation of programmes provision have been defined: training / learning environment, lifelong learning, access to training, modernity of training, correspondence of qualification to the needs of the economy and efficiency of information and career planning. A list of quality criteria and indicators for each of evaluation area was prepared.

The evaluation also covered the operation of EQAVET quality circle (planning – implementation – evaluation – review).

The external evaluation was done by expert groups composed from employers and other VET providers’ representatives. Prior to the evaluators’ visits VET providers had to prepare self-assessment reports. The assessors analysed documentation, met with staff and social partners of VET providers, analysed and observed training resources and facilities.

The evaluation revealed the areas that need the improvement actions both at national and at provider level. These are: decreasing the share of drop outs; improving students’ performance and employability; designing and recommending tools for collecting the opinion of students, teachers and employers about learning quality; drafting national recommendations for recognition of competences gained through work experience; diversifying the offer of VET programmes and courses (very few providers offer non-formal, adult training courses); increasing opportunities for students to have their practical training implemented in other VET institutions; improving international mobility of VET teachers and students; strengthening skills competitions organisation; achieving 100% efficiency of using the VET providers training facilities; activating the participation

of companies representatives in the training process; developing teachers' qualification improvement system. Attention was also drawn on the insufficient competence of VET providers in strategic planning.

Based on external evaluation recommendations for VET providers and policy makers have been prepared. The external VET quality assessment summary report together with recommendations may be found at [Qualifications and VET Development Centre website](#).

In addition, the project funded many other activities that should contribute to strengthening VET quality culture in VET institutions: competence profiles for VET staff in the area of VET quality assurance have been prepared, training courses have been offered and VET promotion campaign in mass media was organised. The project also proposed a systemic model for external quality assessment.

[Further information about project results \(in Lithuanian\)](#)