

Increasing Sustainable Development of Quality in Vocational Education and Training by Adopting Peer Review – The Project PRISDOQ

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In 2009 the Thematic Group on Peer Review of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (ENQAVET) made a survey that reflects a high demand of European VET providers to start transnational Peer Reviews by 2010. The final results of Thematic Group show that "If implemented properly, European Peer Review as a practical, tangible and concrete tool to implement the EQARF recommendation has the potential to become one of the main pillars of European VET quality policy in the next 5 to 10 years encompassing all relevant actors – VET providers, social partners and other stakeholders as well as the VET systems of the participating Member States".

Peer Review was defined as a voluntary external evaluation tool that supports European VET providers in their efforts to improve the quality of their provision and enhance their accountability. Peer Review combines self-evaluation with an external professional assessment conducted by peers – experts of equal standing with those being externally evaluated. [1]

How can VET providers, policy makers and social partners reach a wide use of Peer Review in their Quality Assurance systems? Which are the strategies and concrete procedures that they can promote and adopt to achieve this goal?

The EU project P.R.I.S.D.O.Q. intends to develop strategies and procedures to concretely promote the adoption of Transnational Peer Review at European level by involving VET System key players of different European countries - as recommended by the EU Commission.

The 1st step: Implementation of Transnational Peer Review at European level by testing it in VET provider organizations from Italy (Associazione FORMA.Azione srl), Germany (PERSPEKTIVwechsel), Turkey (Happy Kids) and in a VET Trade Union (Social Partner from Lithuania). Involving a policymaker at Regional level (Regione Umbria - Italy) supports the sustainable implementation in the national system.

The 2nd step: Sharing of criticism and strengths about the application of Transnational Peer Review including an "Executive plan for a sustainable management of the Transnational Peer Review". By using a SWOT analysis on the Peer Review experimentation, P.R.I.S.D.O.Q. also aims to define and apply solutions and process to concretely increase the use of Transnational Peer Review in each partner country involved.

The 3rd step: Dissemination of all project results including training of future peers.

The expected results concern improvement of quality – especially concerning the offer of VET providers, the attractiveness of VET and the mutual understanding of VET systems including cultural and structural differences.