

Briefing document

EQAVET SECTORAL SEMINAR

A dedicate liaison with Social Partners



Introduction

The EQAVET work programme makes provision for a number of Sectoral Seminars to be held in order to support the implementation of the Recommendation on the establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET in the Member States. The current paper aims to provide useful background information in order to initiate discussion on the Sectoral Seminars and to lay the ground work for their organisation and planning in the coming months.

Ensuring that the National Reference Points are supported to engage with stakeholders and draw on the experience of quality assurance in the sectors can make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET, in initial and continuing VET.

The Sectoral Seminars will provide an opportunity to bring together key actors from Social Partners and representatives of the National Reference Points in order to reflect on how quality assurance of VET is addressed and managed within certain sectors. They should play a leading role in deepening reflection on how a culture of quality assurance in VET can be fostered in a context of lifelong learning.

The Sectoral Seminars will be of interest to those responsible for quality assurance issues in trade unions, employers' organisations, private enterprises, chambers of commerce, industry or craft, and technical or vocational training – as well as the National Reference Points in their role as facilitators of the kinds of networks at national level that contribute to an increased awareness of quality assurance across the continuum of VET.

Issues which might be addressed in this context:

- The training of workers in the labour market, with vocational training in specific economic sectors (in particular adults, older workers and other vulnerable groups).
- The provision of equitable approaches to education and training for workers, focusing on developing essential skills as well as job-specific skills.
- Vocational training as an attractive option for learners, parents and other stakeholders involved
- The labour market skills gap.

Description

The Sectoral Seminars should be seen as round table discussions where specific sectoral groups with an experience in developing quality assurance of their training and development programmes can share experience with those who are responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of the Recommendation at national level.

Good practice in the sectors and in ensuring the effective involvement of the Social Partners in national contexts will be analysed and recorded with a view to formulating guidelines for supporting quality assurance of VET in the continuing education training sector and involving the Social Partners in quality assurance procedures for the provision of VET.

The Sectoral Seminars should therefore contribute to the effective implementation of the Reference Framework through the engagement of key players from industry and from those with responsibility in ensuring the embedding of a culture of quality assurance in Member State VET systems.

Participants/membership

The Seminars will bring together National Reference Points and national industry representatives, with a focus on involving enterprises, chambers of commerce, industry or craft organisations; and representatives of European/national trade unions and employers' organisations.

Each Seminar will involve approximately 30 participants with provision made to ensure that over the three seminars each member state of EQAVET will participate in one seminar.

Operational aspects

The development of the content of each Sectoral Seminar will be undertaken by the Commission and Secretariat supported by an ad hoc expert. Based on the briefing prepared by the Secretariat following the meeting of the EQAVET Steering Committee and his own initial research, the expert will identify possible themes for the meetings, case studies and suggest countries where it may be of particular interest to locate the seminars.

The expert will prepare a background document for each of the seminars and suggest appropriate background material for participants. Following each seminar the expert will prepare a policy brief based on main outcomes in order to ensure the dissemination of insights and potential policy messages to a wider audience of policymakers.

In considering countries which might host particular seminars, the expert will work in close cooperation with the Secretariat on the basis of existing practices within particular countries.

The expert will play a key role in facilitating each of the seminars.

Task / Thematic area address and indicative timeline

Three Sectoral Seminars will be held during the period 2011-2012:

- May 2011
- October 2011
- May 2012

Following discussion with the Steering Committee, it has been decided that the current programme of seminars will address the following industries:

1. Healthcare industry
2. Tourism and Catering industry
3. Construction industry

In each case, topics of crucial importance in relation to ensuring the quality of the training provision will be addressed. Seminars will explore and analyse example of good practices in the following topics:

- Setting quality assurance procedures in the provision of training in the work place - focus: training of trainers /instructors/facilitators
- Social Partners/industry's input in the development of VET curricula and evaluation criteria for training in the work place
- Using quality indicators by industries in the provision of training

The following table summarises the ‘indicative’ organisation of the topics for each Seminars:

	Seminar	Topics to be addressed
May 2011	Quality assurance procedures in the provision on training in the Healthcare industry – analysis of good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting QA procedures in the provision of training in the work place - focus: training of trainers /instructors/facilitators ▪ Social Partners/industry’s input in the development of VET curricula and evaluation criteria for training in the work place ▪ Using quality indicators by industries in the provision of training
October 2011	Quality assurance procedures in the provision on training in the Tourism and Catering industry – analysis of good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting QA procedures in the provision of training in the work place - focus: training of trainers /instructors/facilitators ▪ Social Partners/industry’s input in the development of VET curricula and evaluation criteria for training in the work place ▪ Using quality indicators by industries in the provision of training
May 2012	Quality assurance procedures in the provision on training in the Construction industry – analysis of good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting QA procedures in the provision of training in the work place - focus: training of trainers /instructors/facilitators ▪ Social Partners/industry’s input in the development of VET curricula and evaluation criteria for training in the work place ▪ Using quality indicators by industries in the provision of training

Other important aspects to be considered are:

- Sharing of experiences by National Reference Points engaging with Social Partners/industry representatives – analysis of good practices
- Sharing of experiences by countries which have a tradition of work based learning – analysis of good practices