



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



Peer Review in VET: Overview

Presentation at the Kick-off-Meeting of the Project
„TrainCom – Developing Training Competences in
IVET by Using Units of Learning Outcomes“
12-13/12/2013, Nuremberg

What is Peer Review?

Peer Review is a form of **external evaluation** with the aim of **supporting the reviewed educational institution** in its quality assurance and quality development efforts.

An **external group of experts**, called Peers, is **invited to assess the quality of different fields of the institution**, such as the quality of education and training provision of individual departments or of the entire organisation. During the evaluation process, the Peers visit the reviewed institution.

Peers are **external but work in a similar environment** and **have specific professional expertise and knowledge of the evaluated subject**. They are independent and "persons of equal standing" with the persons whose performance is being reviewed.

Why Peer Review?

Providers of VET can expect to benefit from a Peer Review by

- obtaining critical yet sympathetic feedback on the quality of their VET provision from colleagues in the field,
- becoming acquainted with an external perspective,
- ascertaining the quality of their provision,
- presenting their strengths and showcasing good practice,
- enhancing accountability towards stakeholders,
- detecting blind spots and weaknesses,
- receiving advice and discovering the good practice of Peers,
- engaging in mutual learning with Peers,
- establishing networks and cooperation with other VET providers, and
- obtaining an external evaluation report on the quality of their training and education at a comparatively economical cost.

Aims and principles of the European Peer Review procedure

The general aims of the European Peer Review procedure are

- to promote quality assurance and development,
- to enhance transparency and comparability of quality in VET in Europe through a common European standard, and
- to support equal opportunities.

Specific requirements and characteristics (1)

- a focus on the people involved and their interests and needs,
- objectivity and impartiality of the Peers,
- transparency of all elements of the procedure to all persons involved,
- rules on confidentiality and on the use of results, to be set up in advance and adhered to by all persons involved,
- avoidance of conflicts of interest and direct competition between Peers (and their institution) and the reviewed institution,

Specific requirements and characteristics (2)

- promotion of openness, integrity and sincerity as a prerequisite for mutual learning,
- awareness of cultural influences both on vocational education and training provision and on evaluation, especially in transnational Peer Reviews,
- promotion of an enquiring and critical attitude both in the Peers and the reviewed institution, and
- the design and implementation of Peer Review not as a technical and bureaucratic procedure but as a dynamic and motivating process, from which both the reviewed institution and the Peers can benefit.

