



## Q-KULT NEWSLETTER 5 (31. MARCH 2016)

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*Dear readers,*

*welcome to the fifth and last issue of the Q-KULT Newsletter, the first issue in English!*

*In the previous issues in German, you have been able to follow the progress of the Q-KULT project. Today is the last day of our project and the time has come for the preliminary summary of the project. From the beginning of the project we have been working intensively and goal orientated in order to develop all the foreseen products. At this point we are proud to say that with the help of a devoted project team, we have achieved all the set aims. In this fifth issue of Q-KULT Newsletter we will present shortly the main products of the project, present the latest highlights of the project activities and also give you information about the afterlife of the project, i.e. about the Q-KULT Online Tool. We hope you enjoy reading the Q-KULT Newsletter. Your feedback is most welcome!*

### 1) Q-KULT Final Conference 2./3. March 2016 in Bremen (DE)

**„Quality culture. Questions, Tools, Perspectives“**



The Q-KULT project reached its peak at the Final Conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016 in Bremen. Organised by the German project partner, Die Senatorin für Kinder und Bildung Bremen, and with participants from five different countries, a wide retrospective on the past two and half years of intensive project work was made under the theme of „Quality culture. Questions, Tools, Perspectives“. During the two and half days we focused, on the one hand, on the core results of the project by presenting the developed diagnostic tool for the identification of quality culture of vocational schools Q-KULT Online Tool (based on the OCAI - Organizational Culture Assessment Instrument). The tool was tested and probed by the participants - experts from the various fields of vocational education and training, e.g., school principals, teachers and quality managers - through intensive group work phases whereby the impressions and experiences on the tool were reflected upon in discussion groups. These reflections produced various interesting views in regard to the use of the

Q-KULT Online Tool. On the other, the participants were treated with two top-class keynote presentations from Prof. Sonja Sackmann and Prof. Norbert Landwehr, which brought not only enlightenment to the basis and background of the theme Quality culture in vocational schools but gave impulses for the vivid discussions on the theme during the whole conference.

Both the social programme as well as the conference venue itself offered a very stimulating and to the theme fitting setting for the conference. The Kunsthalle Bremen offered a very bright and an inspirational location for the conference, the art of moderation from Uli Baumann brought energy and also helped participants to discover new coordination skills in themselves. The students of the Rübekamp School Centre took care of other aspects of the wellbeing, namely in the form of „flying buffet“. In short, the theme culture was present and experienced in various ways. You can gain some impressions of the atmosphere during the conference through the photo gallery: <http://www.q-kult.eu/konferenz/dokumentation/>

For the most of the participants, the official conference programme ended by the midday on the second day. The project partners devoted the second half of the day two for the last partner meeting where they discussed the last phases of the project, prepared for the closure of the project and reflected on the past work.

We would like to warmly thank you all participants, keynote speakers, as well as our project partners, the students of the Rübekamp School Centre and the Kunsthalle Bremen for a successful and productive Q-KULT Final Conference.

Conference documentation (in German), including presentations and photos from the conference, is available at:

<http://www.q-kult.eu/konferenz/dokumentation/>

## 2) Das Projekt Q-KULT: 01. Oktober 2013 - 31. März 2016



The project Q-KULT, which is financed by the European Commission, is coming to its end. The project has been focusing on the topic of quality culture in vocational schools. The aim of the project was to make quality culture visible as a key factor in the sustainable implementation and institutionalization of quality management systems in vocational schools. Accordingly, suitable instruments have been developed with which steering opportunities are enabled both at system and provider level for the improvement of sustainable implementation of QM. Central to the project has been the development and testing of a diagnostic instrument to identify school quality culture. During the past 30 months various project activities have been undertaken and workshops organised in order to develop and complete the foreseen products. Six partners from Austria, Denmark,



Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland have been putting forth a remarkable effort to reach all the set project goals. In the following, we would like to present the core products of the project Q-KULT:

### Selected bibliography "Quality Culture in Schools" (in German)

3s, as the leading partner in workpackage 2, began the development work by conducting a comprehensive literature research on the themes quality culture - school culture - organisational culture for creating a selection bibliography on the subject. This bibliography formed the basis for manifold discussions, considerations and ultimately for the development of a diagnostic instrument for the identification of school quality culture. As a result, the selected bibliography "Quality Culture in Schools" (in German) was completed which is based on all together approx. 450 examples of literature including summaries and on 350 full textes.

The selected bibliography (only in German) is available online under:

[http://www.q-kult.eu/fileadmin/Q-KULT/Auswahlbibliographie\\_Q-KULT.pdf](http://www.q-kult.eu/fileadmin/Q-KULT/Auswahlbibliographie_Q-KULT.pdf)



### Report on the development of the tools



Based on the results of the WP2, slight adaptation to the workplan was made concerning the WP3 (Development of a diagnostic instrument for the identification of quality culture in vocational schools); instead of one instrument, three instruments were developed or adapted as well as an additional instrument for the recognition of the state of the quality management was designed. Thus are quantitative instruments (SCEQ, OCAI) and qualitative instruments (U-procedure according to Glasl) available by which different approaches and offers are open for vocational schools. The developed instruments were also tested in partner countries (AT, DE, DK, NL). The leading partner, Die Senatorin für Bildung und Kinder, has written a report on the development work and the developed products. The report (only in German) is available online under:

[http://www.q-kult.eu/fileadmin/Q-KULT/Entwicklungsbericht\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.q-kult.eu/fileadmin/Q-KULT/Entwicklungsbericht_FINAL.pdf)

### OCAI Guide and Q-KULT Instrument

During the project Q-KULT a instrument has been developed which can support vocational schools to apprehend their organisational culture. The instrument was developed in line with the assumption that every school has some kind of specific individual 'culture' that can also be assessed in terms of its own specific characteristics and is related (in a way that has yet to be defined) to the quality

management system (and/or the quality procedure) used by the school in question. The developed instrument is based on the adaptation of OCAI (Organizational Culture Assessment Instrument). This guide aims to provide a concrete description of the Q-KULT instrument for use in different potential applications in vocational schools. In order to do so, it initially classifies the concept of "culture". The guide also contains a number of considerations as to the situations in which the instrument can be used in schools and factors that need to be taken into consideration when using the instrument. The final part of the guide provides various information on interpreting the results provided by the instrument in the form of examples that may help schools to orient themselves when dealing with these results. The instrument itself is attached to this guide



The guide is available in DE, DK, EN and NL online under: <http://www.q-kult.eu/produkte/q-kult-online-tool/>

### Online-Tool

The instrument developed within the scope of the project is called Q-KULT Online tool. It will be online soon and will be available in four languages (DE, DK, EN and NL).

Q-KULT Online tool will be available under: <http://www.q-kult.eu/instrument>

## 3) Q-KULT - Life after the project: Q-KULT Online Tool

The project Q-KULT will be closed in couple of days, so it is time to bid our goodbye. Though the closing of the project, the developed products and findings will last over the project duration: the developed Q-KULT instrument will be published in online form and will be open for vocational schools which have interest for its use. The Q-KULT Online tool will be available in four languages (Danish, Dutch, English and German). You will find the Q-KULT Online tool under: <http://www.q-kult.eu/instrument>

At the end of the Q-KULT project we would like to thank you all the numerous persons and organisations who have contributed their valuable experiences and work to the implementation of the project and thus made it possible to accomplish such impressive results and products. Dear project partners, participated vocational schools, principals, members of school staff and all you others who were involved with Q-KULT in its various phases - with your support we made it! Thank you very much and until the next step and time!

Kind regards,  
the Q-KULT Team

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If you find this newsletter and the project interesting, then please feel free to forward it. If you prefer not to receive further information of this kind, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: [newsletter@q-kult.eu](mailto:newsletter@q-kult.eu)

More information about the project Q-KULT is available on the project website: [www.q-kult.eu](http://www.q-kult.eu)



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