BEQUAL
Benchmarking tool for Quality Assurance in European Training Institutes

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme
Education and Training

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Starting date: 1/12/2008
Ending date: 30/11/2010

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Partners

p&w projekt

The Barcelona European Council in 2002 set as a target to make Europe's education and training systems a world quality reference by 2010. Since then important steps have been made towards this objective. The Copenhagen declaration (November 2002) set the basis for the development of a **Common Quality Assurance Framework for VET in Europe (CQAF).** Since then, a lot of work has been done at European and National level, towards the promotion of use of CQAF as the main framework for Quality Assurance foe VET.

The use of CQAF is voluntary. The primary users are national/regional authorities, public and private bodies (including training providers) in charge of quality assurance and improvement. The promotion of the use of CQAF is a priority of vocational education and training in Europe and a number of initiatives and projects are being implemented in the framework of Lifelong learning programme and at national / sectoral levels.

The objective of the BEQUAL project is to promote the use of CQAF in the European VET community by developing:

- an electronic benchmarking tool, which will allow training providers in VET to online benchmark their quality approach against CQAF core criteria and database collections of good practice.
- a web based "quality sharing network" in VET, which will be based on quality profiles gained through benchmarking and will enable training providers to ad hoc search for CQAF compliant good practice matching with their internal quality process.
- a "good practice centre", which will give access to online Communities of Practice (VET policy makers, VET institutes, researchers and practitioners) and quality sources.
- a thematic portal that will be the main reference point for practitioners, researchers and policy makers that are looking for information for quality assurance in VET training institutes.

The project is expected to have a significant impact on the promotion of CQAF at VET institutes across Europe and on building on-line Communities of Practice. The target groups of the project are VET providers, policy makers and stakeholders in VET.

The partnership of BEQUAL project is composed by 7 partners from 5 European countries. The leader is IDEC and partners are: OBES, IFCIL, FiaTest, FLORIDA, P&W and the Association of Learning Regions in Germany.

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