

## QualiMoVET newsletter – August 2009



Dear Readers,

We are very proud to present the first newsletter of the QualiMoVET project. *BBJ Servis Non-Profit Private Limited Company* (BBJ Servis gGmbH) is the lead partner in this project and is collaborating with eight European partners. It started in December 2008 and will run until November 2010. The newsletter will be published regularly until the end of the project to inform its nine project partners, but also everybody that is interested. It will include updates on the project progress, news as well as other information in the field of VET, quality standards and quality assurance.

Please visit also our website: [www.qualimovet.eu](http://www.qualimovet.eu) to get more information.

We look forward to share our ideas with you.

*Manfred Schneider, project coordinator of BBJ Servis gGmbH*

### **QualiMoVET project**

The full name of the project is QualiMoVET – Quality signet for modular VET for disadvantaged young people. The project has been awarded a grant in the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013, Leonardo da Vinci, Multilateral Projects/Development of Innovation. Nine partner organisations from six EU-countries are taking part in QualiMoVET. The partner organisations represent research institutions, VET providers and consulting companies from Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Spain.

The project's main objective is to find high-quality ways of improving the integration of socially disadvantaged young people as a target group into educational systems and labour markets. Failure to provide young people with vocational training opportunities means greatly restricting their participation in society and isolating them socially. In the end, recommendations for common quality standards and a standardised method for quality assurance in the field of vocational training of disadvantaged youth will be presented.

## PROJECT PROGRESS

The project consists of several stages. First, the project partners conducted studies on education in general and VET. They were all presented and discussed at the kick-off meeting in March in Berlin. It was very important to exchange ideas on the different education systems, but also to get a feeling for developments among the partner countries. The EU-dimension of was also taken into account by the experts from Brussels. The group work at the end of the meeting was important for the elaboration of the next matrix that has been used for the main studies.

The main studies focus on quality standards in programmes within the partner countries (good practice studies). The partner organisations are currently working on the studies and will finish them before the next meeting in Budapest end of September.

Then common recommendations for common quality standards will be derived from these particular studies. Finally, a testing phase of these quality standards will follow next year. In the end, the project partners intend to present a common quality signet for VET of socially disadvantaged young people. The results will be published after the end of the project in November 2010.



kick-off meeting in Berlin, March 2009

## PROJECT NEWS

We are very glad to welcome our new partner from Austria, a regional adult education centre based in Vienna (*Volkshochschule Meidling*).

Workshops in Poland and Hungary already took place before the summer break. The partner organisations invited national experts and stakeholders and presented the QualiMoVET project there. Upcoming workshops in September are organized in Germany and Austria.

## PRESENTATION of partner organisations

In this section, we are going to present each of the partner organisations in the different six countries. We are going to start with Germany this time. In the upcoming newsletter the two Hungarian partners will be presented.

### ***BBJ Servis Non-Profit Private Limited Company***

[www.bbj.info](http://www.bbj.info)

The BBJ group has years of national and international experience in developing and implementing target group-specific solutions and in developing publicly supported projects and job creation schemes for disadvantaged youth. BBJ has initiated modernised and maintained collaborative ties with public sector administrations, social services partners and institutions, scientific establishments and educational institutions. It has been possible to transfer knowledge acquired through practical work to counselling processes for other organisations, sponsors and multipliers. Branch offices of the BBJ Group in a number of European countries have a broad international network providing comprehensive expertise in the field of European vocational training and labour market structures. Recent activities include among others the coordination of the development of the German Qualification Framework.

The BBJ Servis Non-Profit Private Limited Company is lead partner in the QualiMoVET project. On the one hand, it develops and implements concepts for the social and vocational integration of disadvantaged young people. On the other hand, it is assisting VET providers and other providers in the field of social work in the application process for funding. It is also advisor for new projects and ideas.

An interesting project that BBJ is implementing in the field of VET for disadvantaged young people is a project in the region of Western Brandenburg. This projects aims to develop alternative ways for finishing a VET programme or continuing vocational education. This can include modularized programmes and other individualized educational programmes.

[www.nachqualifizierung.info](http://www.nachqualifizierung.info) (in German)

### ***Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg (HSU)***

<http://www.hsu-hh.de/debo/>

The Department of Vocational Education and Training is part of Helmut-Schmidt-University/University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, Germany. The Helmut Schmidt University is one of the two universities in Germany that serve the scientific study and the academic education of armed forces' officers. It increases the attractiveness of the profession and is pulse generator and service provider for the Federal Armed Forces. The Helmut Schmidt University takes its tasks by research, theory and further training in the autonomy guaranteed by the responsible body and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

The Department of Vocational Education and Training is active in national and international cooperations and research projects with special focus on work-related learning, the acquisition and development of competencies and European political strategies in the field of vocational education and training. Recent publications in 2009 include among others a study on accreditation of quality standards of socially disadvantaged young people by Dr. Gabriele Molzberger and Prof. Dr. Dehnborstel published in the BBJ publishing house.

## FOCUS

### **EQARF**

The European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQARF) is a reference instrument for the Member States and was adopted 12 May 2009. *“The aim is not to introduce new standards, but to support Member States’ efforts, whilst preserving the diversity of their approaches.”* (EP and Council, June 2009). The EQARF comprises a quality assurance and improvement cycle based on a selection of quality criteria, descriptors and indicators for the quality management that are not only applicable for the VET systems but also for the VET provider level. It is intended to ensure higher quality in VET and to promote transparency and coherence between the Member States. Lifelong Learning and mobility are, like for the implementation of ECVET, the key aspects for the EQARF. The EQARF does not comprise benchmarks, but should be seen as a *“toolbox”* from which users can choose the descriptors and indicators they consider as most relevant. Indicators are: relevance of quality assurance for VET providers, investment in training of teachers and trainers, participation rate in VET programmes, completion rate in VET programmes, placement rate in VET programmes, utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace, unemployment rate according to individual criteria, prevalence of vulnerable groups, mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market and schemes used to promote better access to VET. The official launch will take place in November (together with ECVET). The Member States have to develop a concept for the improvement of their quality systems in two years time. It is also laid down that the implementation process has to be monitored every four years (May 2013).

(Please find the recommendation here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:155:0001:0010:EN:PDF>)

## OTHER NEWS

### **ECVET**

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) was formally adopted by the Council on 11 May 2009 after it had been accepted by the European Parliament in December 2008. The Council and the European Parliament write in a joint recommendation that the ECVET is intended to *“facilitate the transfer, recognition and accumulation of assessed learning outcomes of individuals who are aiming to achieve a qualification. This will improve the general understanding of citizens’ learning outcomes and their transparency, transnational mobility and portability across and, where appropriate, within Member States in a borderless lifelong learning area”*.

References to the European Qualifications Framework and to the adopted recommendation of the EQARF are made, too. In November, a major conference will take place to present and discuss ECVET pilot projects (17 and 18 November 2009, Brussels). (See the complete text of the recommendation:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st03/st03747-re03.en08.pdf>)

### **Employment Summit in Prague, May 2009**

The leaders of the social Troika (the Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain), the European Commission and the social partners organized the Employment Summit to develop measures to limit the impacts of the financial crisis in Europe. 10 suitable measures for short-term and long-term challenges on national and European level were suggested. Measures should mainly include flexible job arrangements for employees and further training. For young unemployed new concepts for professional integration and an increase of VET places are demanded. Special attention should be paid to the young disadvantaged.

## DATES

### ***National Workshop in Germany, Berlin, 15 September 2009***

The national workshop on quality standards and methods of quality assurance for disadvantaged young people will take place with experts and stakeholders. It is organized by the two German project partners, BBJ and Helmut Schmidt University. Please contact BBJ for further information ([info@qualimovet.eu](mailto:info@qualimovet.eu)).

### ***National Workshop in Austria, Vienna, 17 September 2009***

The national workshop in Austria will be on 17 September. Prospect and the adult education centre VHS Meidling will welcome national experts to present QualiMoVET and to discuss first results. Please contact Prospect for more information (Michaela Friedl-Schafferhans: [m.friedl-schafferhans@pro-spect.at](mailto:m.friedl-schafferhans@pro-spect.at))

### ***QualiMoVET project meeting, Budapest, 30 September -2 October 2009***

The next project meeting will take place in Budapest, 30th September until the 2nd of October 2009. Here the project partners will present the main studies and discuss them. Moreover, they will discuss recommendations for actions the last day for their further work. Please find more information on the project website: [www.qualimovet.eu](http://www.qualimovet.eu)

### ***QNW Conference in Vienna, 5 October 2009***

The Austrian reference point for quality assurance in VET (ARQA-VET) is organizing a conference to raise awareness on quality and to inform on new developments in the field. Target group is teachers and directors of VET schools, managers working in the field of VET, quality managers in institutions, representatives of ministries, representatives of companies and all others interested in quality in VET. Please find the programme (in German) here: [http://www.arqa-vet.at/arqa\\_vet/qnw\\_konferenz2009/#c1031](http://www.arqa-vet.at/arqa_vet/qnw_konferenz2009/#c1031)

### ***Conference on “Qualifications for lifelong learning and employability” by CEDEFOP, Thessaloniki, 5 and 6 October 2009***

The conference focuses on three main issues: qualifications and its stakeholders; qualifications as currencies and expressions of value; qualifications and lifelong learners. More information here: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/news/default.asp?idnews=4513>

### ***Workshop on “Sectoral dynamics and European Qualifications Framework”, Brussels, 5 and 6 November 2009***

CEDEFOP organises a peer learning workshop that is linked to the European Qualifications Framework. It addresses EQF/LdV pilot projects (2007/2008) as well as social partners, ngos and representatives of the European Commission.

### ***Official Launch of EQARF and ECVET, Brussels, 17-18 November 2009***

### ***ENQA-VET Conference “Quality VET in the Recession: luxury or necessity for survival?”, Stockholm, 3 and 4 December 2009***

The ENQA-VET Conference 2009 will be hosted jointly by SKOLVERKET and the SECRETARIAT and is an associated activity of the Swedish EU Presidency Programme. It will focus on different areas of VET and will also be a platform for disseminating the results of the various activities undertaken during the ENQA-VET Work Programme 2008-2009. (<http://www.engavet.eu/conference-making-vet-more-attractive.html>)

**Thanks for your interest in the newsletter!**

*The newsletter team wishes you a nice summer.*

The QualiMoVET newsletter presents news on the project and informs on developments in the field of VET. Any comments or suggestion on the newsletter should be submitted to the following address: [info@qualimovet.eu](mailto:info@qualimovet.eu).

**QualiMoVET website: [www.qualimovet.eu](http://www.qualimovet.eu)**



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