

QualiMoVET Newsletter – January 2010



Dear Readers,

The team of QualiMoVET wishes you and your colleagues all the best for the year 2010!

We look forward to the next months of the project and to finalizing the steps that we started last year. We hope to reach many interested organisations and individuals with this issue.

We want to draw your special attention to the fact that QualiMoVET is currently preparing its follow-up. Therefore we intend to apply for a grant from the European Commission in the *Leonardo da Vinci Programme*. Please see the next pages for further details. In case your organisation is interested in cooperating we look forward to hear from you.

Besides important dates and news on the project, you will also find a description of our Polish Partner the Bydgoszcz Vocational Training Institution (BZDZ).

Here is again link to our website www.qualimovet.eu that is updated regularly.

We very much hope that you will enjoy reading our newsletter! The next QualiMoVET newsletter will be published in March.

Manfred Schneider, project coordinator of BBJ Servis gmbH

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 AND PROJECT NEWS

As the QualiMoVET funding period is finishing in November 2010 we are currently preparing a follow-up project in order to disseminate the results of QualiMoVET in several countries. Therefore we are looking for old and new partners who are willing to participate. Below you can find a basic concept note. We look forward to hear from you!

You are also very welcome to forward the information below in your networks.

Follow up project for QualiMoVET

The BBJ Servis gGmbH is currently carrying out the project *QualiMoVET- Quality Signet for Modular VET for socially disadvantaged young people*.

Nine partners from Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Austria and Spain are participating and are supported by the European Commission (Lifelong Learning Programme- Leonardo da Vinci, Development of Innovation). The project runs from 12/2008- 11/2010.

The objective of QualiMoVET is to support high quality ways for the integration of socially disadvantaged young people into the educational systems and labour markets. The project It will generate recommendations for action on how to improve the quality of courses for the target group. Indicators and sources of verification are so far defined for several dimensions (e.g.: entrance conditions, curricula, support-systems, etc.)

BBJ Servis gGmbH intends to apply for a grant (Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation) offered by the European Commission in order to implement and disseminate the recommendations for action of QualiMoVET in a follow-up project.

Objective of the new project:

The objective is to promote the accreditation of VET courses for socially disadvantaged young people in several EU-countries.

Therefore, it is first of all necessary to introduce the results of QualiMoVET to new partners and maybe also to new partner countries. To guarantee that the topic of quality appears on the political agenda it will be an essential part of the follow-up project to involve decision-makers in the project. Hence, central activities will include lobbying, exploiting and disseminating results in order to create an interest in the political sphere Furthermore, it is important to cooperate with organisations that work with the target group for the implementation phase.

Project duration: October 2010 till September 2012

Funding from the European Commission: up to 300 000€ for 24 month for the whole consortium

Consortiums own funding: up to 100 000 € for 24 months for the whole consortium

Depending on the number of partners and on the tasks carried out the grant will be shared among all partners.

Project language will be English

Tasks:

- to develop a national implementation strategy along with other national partners from that is adequate for the respective country
- To involve at least two strategic partners in each country (with letters of intent) that support the project with their guidance and dissemination activities.
- develop translations of the project's website into the national languages
- to involve/build networks in the partner countries
- to contribute to newsletter
- to organise three national workshops in each country
- to participate in four project meetings of the consortium. The project meetings might be accompanied by study visits on good practice in the hosting countries
- to contribute to all reports (interim and final) and invoice on a regular basis

Partners:

A consortium of at least three partner countries is required. It is desirable to have at least two partner institutions from each country that represent a variety of stakeholders. It is crucial that the partners have powerful networks so that the project has a strong impact in the field of VET.

Contact details: Juliane Kobelt: info@qualimovet.eu 0049 331 7212939

Please send your letter of intent **until February 5th 2010** at the latest

PRESENTATION of partner organisations

In this section, we are presenting each of the partner organisations in the different six countries. In this issue, the Polish partner BZDZ is presented.

Bydgoski Zakład Doskonalenia Zawodowego (BZDZ) – Bydgoszcz Vocational Training Institution

www.bzdz.pl

BZDZ is an educational association with over 50 years of tradition and experience in VET. The head office of BZDZ is located in Bydgoszcz from the very beginning of 1990's. In the whole Kuyavian-Pomeranian region there are 11 branches of BZDZ providing different kinds of vocational courses and trainings. BZDZ is also in charge of several schools, both for youth and adults.

Field of activity

BZDZ operates in the field of permanent and vocational education. In its offer one can find various types of schools and courses that make it possible for people to gain new and complete their qualifications in more than 150 professions and specialities. BZDZ also offers courses in the field of office work, management, marketing and upgrading personnel skills, which may prove helpful in the job-searching process.

The BZDZ branches specialize in many different fields. For example, the Staff Training Center (CKK), among other courses, trains teachers and instructors in various specialities.

The institution also specialises in courses enabling people to obtain licences in the field of carrying hazardous materials, welding, operating power engineering equipment, etc. Those licenses are recognised both in Poland and abroad. Trainings are carried out in its own, well-equipped offices, laboratories and simulation establishments. All the pedagogical personnel employed in BZDZ are highly qualified teachers and instructors of secondary and higher education or experienced experts recruited from the leading institutions or enterprises.

BZDZ has also 3 State Examination Commissions:

Regional Welding Examination Commission;

State Examination Commission for power certificate (Polish equivalent of NICEIC Certificate);

State Examination Commission for vocational and master titles in the following vocations: seller, short-orders cook, hairdresser, farmer, bee-keeper;

BZDZ cooperates with state and local administration bodies, educational institutions, associations of employers and entrepreneurs and with many foreign partners.

EU projects

BZDZ executes projects financed from the EU Structural Funds. It cooperates with Voluntary Labour Corps, Caritas and job offices from the region as a subcontractor. The association organizes trainings and job counselling for socially disadvantaged young people.

Besides being a partner in the QualiMoVET project BZDZ is also a partner in the *TRANS-VAE* multilateral project led by GIP-FCIP ALSACE from France. The aim of this particular project is to transfer the methodology and the process of validating the competencies acquired in non-formal or informal ways. In the course of this project special Validation Commissions should be established in the partner countries.

FOCUS

The European Qualifications Framework and its translations in national contexts – latest developments

Currently, the process of translating the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) in National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) is in development in the 25 member states of the EU plus two EER-Countries (IS, NO) and two candidate countries (HR, TR). The way in which the NQFs are developed and the stage of implementation differs from country to country, but the challenges which are experienced during this process are similar in many countries. In this issue, we would like to give an overview about the stage of implementation of the EQF in the different countries.

General trends that can be identified are:

- The intention to make the NQFs most encompassing, respecting all recognised qualifications.
- The predominance of learning outcomes orientation.
- The EQF is mainly understood as an instrument for improving transparency of the national education systems and facilitating the communication, rather than a means of regulation, but nonetheless are the NQFs increasingly seen also as instruments for introducing national reforms.
- In most countries, the structure of the NQF consists of 8 levels.
- The introduction of NQFs is perceived of as a long-term process which is best implemented in a pragmatic way via an incremental process.
- In most countries, the Ministries of Education are coordinating the process (In IT and PT the Ministries of Employment are responsible for coordinating the process)
- The NQFs present a platform for cooperation, bringing together actors from different areas that otherwise would not cooperate.

Major political objectives are:

- Positioning the national qualifications in relation to the EQR.

- Facilitating the understanding of the national qualification systems on a national and international basis.
- Capturing the analogies and distinctions of qualifications.
- Supporting the process of lifelong learning by uncovering ways of learning and facilitating access, progress and participation.
- Creating a reference point for quality assurance

OTHER NEWS

New Secretariat to support the implementation of the EQARF Recommendation

The new Secretariat to support the implementation of the EQARF Recommendation, located within FETAC (the Further Education Training and Awards Council of Ireland) has commenced its work in January and held its first meeting with the Commission.

The first major event to be organised is the annual meeting of the network which will be held on 22-23 April. Member States' nominations to the network are currently underway. When this process has been completed members will receive formal invitations and notification of this meeting which is likely to take place in Madrid.

Meanwhile the Secretariat is working on preparing a draft work programme and schedule of activities to support the development of a robust process to support quality assurance in VET through the effective implementation of the EQARF Recommendation.

www.fetac.ie

Conference Report from ENQA-VET Conference is online

The ENQA-VET Conference 2009 "Quality VET a key to success" was held in Stockholm on 3-4 December 2009.

The aim of this conference was to bring together key VET actors: policymakers, social partners, employers, providers and learners in order to reflect creatively on the challenges faced by VET systems today which are testing the capacity of quality management approaches and European policies to influence and support policymaking and implementation in the difficult contexts in which countries and systems find themselves.

The results of the work undertaken in the ENQA-VET work programme 2008-2009 provided a background against which conference participants reflected on how a stronger culture of cooperation between key actors could help in responding to the challenges faced by VET systems.

The conference included an ENQA-VET Fair where participants had an opportunity to meet with thematic group members and experts in order to discuss the outcomes of work undertaken in the areas of Indicators, Making VET more attractive, Peer Review and Developing common guidelines for the implementation of the EQARF/CQAF.

<http://www.engavet.eu/conference-making-vet-more-attractive.html>

Commission Progress report towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and Training - Indicators and Benchmarks 2009 and draft 2010

Despite a general improvement in education and training performance in the EU, progress is too slow, which means that the majority of the reform targets set for 2010 will not be reached. The economic downturn underlines the urgency of reform and continuous targeted investment in education and training systems to meet core economic and social challenges. These are the main conclusions from two reports on the progress of education reforms and European co-operation presented by the European Commission

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1816&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion has been launched

The European Commission and the Spanish Presidency of the EU has launched the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion on 21 January 2010. According to the slogan "Stop Poverty Now!", the campaign aims to put the fight against poverty – which directly affects one in six Europeans – centre stage across the EU during 2010.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=637&langId=en&furtherNews=yes>

The Lifelong Learning Programme- applications still possible

The European Commission has announced a call for proposals in October 2009 for participation in the lifelong learning programme in 2010 and published a guide to the programme as well as a document on strategic priorities. Organisations interested in submitting a proposal or which would like to participate in other ways are recommended to read the documents that are listed on this website.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lfp/doc848_en.htm

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.

QualiMoVET website: www.qualimovet.eu



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."