

2010

# Quality Assurance Outline



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## Quality assurance of the DECiPHEr VET programme – An outline of the QA framework

The main objective of the DECiPHEr VET programme is to equip city level decision makers with knowledge, skills and tools to save money and improve population health by prioritising their city level investments. The specific objectives of this training programme are to provide a methodology and new tool for prioritising investment in public health at a city level; to equip city level decision makers with knowledge and skills to use a decision making aid - Sheffield Health Effectiveness Framework - SHEFTOOL that allows comparison between financial and health impact of various city level public health interventions; and to provide city level decision makers with skills to present an economic argument for investing in public health.

Quality assurance of the DECiPHEr VET programme will be performed through assessment of the practical results of the training and by validating if the objectives of the training were met. The quality assurance focuses on the outcome and is thus a method for judging the value of the training programme at the end of the VET activities.

The aim of the initial quality assurance process is to develop a framework that meets the requirements specified by the European Union, and is relevant to the DECiPHEr project. The current European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQARF-VET, Source: *Official Journal of the European Union* 8.7.2009; *Fundamentals of A 'Common Quality Assurance Framework' (CQAF) for VET in Europe*, The European Commission) was presented and discussed during the DECiPHEr meeting in Helsingborg 12-13 April 2010 (see the enclosed Powerpoint presentation). The DECiPHEr project will use the EQARF-VET framework for quality assurance of the training

The EQARF-VET framework proposes descriptors and indicators that are to be used on a purely voluntary basis; thus the framework should be regarded rather as a 'toolbox', from which users may choose those descriptors and indicators that they consider most relevant. The EQARF-VET framework proposes the following 10 indicators:

1. Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers
2. Investment in training of teachers and trainers
3. Participation rate in VET programmes: Number of participants in VET programmes, according to the type of programme and the individual criteria
4. Completion rate in VET programmes: Number of persons having successfully completed or abandoned VET programmes, according to the type of programme and the individual criteria
5. Placement rate in VET programmes
6. Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace
7. Unemployment rate according to individual criteria
8. Prevalence of vulnerable groups
9. Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market
10. Schemes used to promote better access to VET

The project group has agreed that the QA framework needs to be adjusted to be relevant to the DECiPHEr VET programme. For instance, indicators 1-2 and 7-10 might be considered too over-arching and/or general, whereas indicators 3-6 are relevant and specific quality and outcomes indicators. The on-going QA framework process will clarify which, and to what extent, indicators that are relevant for validating if the objectives of the training were met.

The project group has also agreed that the QA needs to include how the DECiPHEr VET programme addresses significant gaps in the education and training provision for current and

prospective city level decision makers and planners; and who are the potential beneficiaries of the training programme.

In order to carry out the QA process and to collect information and evidence, identification and running of focus groups and/or interviews with relevant city level decision makers, health services representatives, politicians, employers at the city level, those responsible for the education sector etc, will be performed.

The QA framework process will also include the experiences from the VET pilot training sessions in Udine, Turku and Sheffield.

The final report of the quality assurance of the VET programme, including a communication plan, will be available on 31 August 2010.