



**Qualification as a Way to Quality: Certification of
Persons Holding Functions in Quality
Management Systems in Initial VET and in Adult
Education (VET-CERT)**

Final Report

Public Part

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VET-CERT

Qualification as a way to quality: Certification of persons holding functions in quality management systems in initial VET and in adult education.



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Executive Summary

VET-CERT (Qualification as way to quality: Certifications of the persons holding functions in the quality management system in initial VET and in adult education) is a Leonardo da Vinci project developed and coordinated by ARQA-VET in the OeAD in cooperation with 4 national, 3 international and 5 associated project partners who, on the one hand, brought their vast expertise in developing certain products (e.g. competence profiles, certification procedures) through national and international development projects and who, on the other hand, had an interest in fostering and contributing to the EQAVET framework implementation process at national and European level. The aim of the VET-CERT project was to foster the competence development of persons in quality management functions in initial VET and in adult education in Austria. To further support the professional implementation of the Quality Initiative VET (QIBB) and the implementation of the Ö-CERT framework in adult education as well as the implementation of the European reference framework for quality assurance in VET (EQARF) in both sectors. Through the development work and developed products and results, professionally qualified and certified persons (principals, school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, quality managers in adult education etc.) received, and will in future receive, a comprehensive understanding of quality management tools and the possibilities they offer.

The two main aims thus were: 1) to guarantee that persons dealing with quality management in VET institutions have the necessary competencies 2) to make these competencies visible through a certification process. The following main products were developed within the VET-CERT project: a) competence profiles for persons holding functions in QM systems at the different system levels, b) proposals for a curricular framework and c) a concept for the certification which takes into consideration the validation of non-formal and informal competences and learning. To ensure the sustainability of the developed products recommendations for the implementation of the products and results were developed.

For the successful implementation of the project and for the sustainability of the products, the involvement of various stakeholders and target groups in the project activities from the beginning of the project was crucial. Therefore the main focus of the project during the first year of the project concentrated firstly in building up the supportive structure for the project implementation (incl. website, Kick-off Conference, QA plan, dissemination plan, dissemination materials, Midterm Conference) and secondly, to develop and produce two of the core products: Stocktaking Report and the Competence Profiles in close cooperation with the stakeholders and target groups. During the second project year two remaining core products were developed; Curricular Framework and Concept for Certification. Also the work on the recommendations for the implementation was conducted successfully and they were published by the end of the project.

Following the principle involvement by working, VET-CERT aimed for effective sustainability of the products and results after the project's life time. For successful implementation and exploitation of the project's products and results, active involvement of different interest groups was vital. Through the use of various means of media, the VET-CERT project informed its stakeholders and target groups and also opened up possibilities for various stakeholders and target groups to participate in the work of the project. Three organized conferences with interactive workshops for the further development of the products, several group interviews and working with the development team with representatives from all target groups, stakeholders and other interest groups are some examples of successful events organized and methodologies used by the project consortium. For the future exploitation of the products and results, the project planned also a pilot training program based on the developed curricular framework which will start in the fall of 2013. Also one TOI project application for the further exploitation of the results in EU has been prepared by one partner. More information available at the project website: www.vet-cert.at.

Table of Contents

- 1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES..... 6
- 2. PROJECT APPROACH 7
- 3. PROJECT OUTCOMES & RESULTS..... 13
- 4. PARTNERSHIPS 15
- 5. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE 17
- 6. CONTRIBUTION TO EU POLICIES 18

1. Project Objectives

In the project application the following aims and objectives are defined for the VET-CERT project:

- 1) to ensure that those who are responsible for quality management in VET institutions have the required competences and
- 2) to make these competences visible through a certification process.

As a consequence, competence development of those who hold functions in quality management (QM), the image of QM in VET itself, and mutual trust within different sectors of VET will increase.

VET-CERT project concentrated to foster the competence development of persons in quality management functions in initial VET and in adult education with the aim to support the professional implementation of the Quality Initiative VET (QIBB) and the implementation of the Ö-CERT framework in adult education as well as the implementation of the European reference framework for quality assurance in VET (EQARF) in both sectors. Professionally qualified and certified persons (principals, school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, quality managers in adult education and other experts in the field of apprenticeship training) should receive a comprehensive understanding of quality management tools and the possibilities they offer.

From the beginning of the project the involvement of different target groups, stakeholders and other interest groups was considered as a key issue for the successful and sustainable implementation of the project. In addition to conventional desk top research, a wide range of research and development methods were used which based on the close involvement and active participation of the different groups. For the development of the stocktaking report several interviews with key stakeholders were conducted, for developing the competence profiles six group interviews were conducted whereby the groups were composed from representatives from all target and future beneficiary groups representing all different VET school types in Austria. A special development team was established for the development of curricular framework and certification concept. In this development team 14 members representing all major target and beneficiary groups were present as well as experts in the field of QM in VET. By using participative research and development methods the project achieved to build up an active network for the support of the project representing all levels (practice –policy-research) of the various stakeholder groups.

For dissemination purposes various methods were used which also aimed to enhance the involvement of the target user groups as well as other interests groups. The core channels for the dissemination were the established encompassing project website (www.vet-cert.at) which was updated constantly, 4 issues of VET-CERT Newsletter in German and in English and three conferences, Kick-off in March 2011, Midterm Conference in January 2012 and Final Conference in December 2012 together with numerous project presentations directly to the target groups.

To ensure the sustainability of the projects achievements, recommendations for the future implementation of the results both in the national and international contexts were developed. Basing on these recommendations a pilot training program (QALI-QIBB) for QM personnel in VET was designed and national financing for the pilot secured. The pilot training program will start in fall 2013.

2. Project Approach

VET-CERT aimed to develop new tools for the use of QM in Austrian VET. We were aiming to develop truly concrete products which will be implemented on the field of Austrian VET in the future. In order to achieve the set aims and produce the planned products and results, appropriate approaches and methods were necessary.

2.1. Development of the key products

As a general approach, the division of work inside the project consortium has been done in a way that the various skills and competencies of different partners are put in the use of the project in the best possible way. When needed also external expertise was used for the benefit of the project. In all development and research activities the focus has been in the involvement of all target and stakeholder groups from all levels (policy-practise-research) as well as the project consortium. Active and participating workshops have been organised within in the project consortium as well as with the different target groups and stakeholders. By this chosen approach it was ensured that not only all necessary actors on all levels (practice-policy-research) were involved in the development phase but it also benefited the future exploitation of the products and results, thus enhancing the sustainability of the products and results of project VET-CERT.

2.1.1. Stocktaking Report

To develop the Stocktaking Report both desk research and research interviews with various stakeholder groups and policy decision makers were carried out by the partner 2/öibf. For the research work an analytic framework were developed at the beginning of the project and the results of the analysis were presented in a form of a Stocktaking Report. By using “feedback loop” the report was then validated by the research target groups including the Steering group for QIBB in the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture, before it was officially published as Stocktaking Report (in German) and in summaries (in German and in English). During the development work one national workshop was organised as well as several working meetings within the partnership.

2.1.2. Competence Profiles

Based on the results of stocktaking, the development work on the competence profiles was started by the leading partner öibf. With the help of desk research and 7 group interviews, a survey on competence requirements and training and qualification needs among persons holding quality functions were conducted by the leading partner. The procedure for competence profile development, as chosen by öibf, builds on Gianni Ghisla’s CoRe model - a well established method of VET research for curriculum development. This model provides for four modelling phases: modelling of the action field; identification of situations of occupational action, of everyday life and of resources; definition of competences and the competence profile; and development of the educational plan.

The analysis and reporting of the results were then done in cooperation with the leading partner, coordinator and other project partners including also the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture. For this purpose one national workshop was organised as well as several working meetings within the partnership. As a result

five different competence profiles were developed: for school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, federal quality process managers, principals and representatives of school inspectorate. By using “feedback loop” the results were validated and also officially accepted by the QIBB steering group.

All competence profiles follow a common structure. The first four competence categories correspond to the different phases of the quality cycle (Plan-Do-Check-Act) In addition, from phase 3 to phase 4 overlapping competences were defined during the development of the competence profiles, whereby the 8th category is seen solely for the actors on strategic level. The developed competence profiles form also the basis for the future work on the development of the curricular framework

Structure of the competence profiles:

1. PLAN: Planning of quality activities
 2. DO: Implementation of Q-measures and Q-projects
 3. CHECK: Evaluation of Q-measures and Q-projects
 4. ACT: Deduction and planning of measures from evaluation results; documentation
 5. Information about QIBB and quality management
 6. Motivation to carry out quality activities
 7. Ensuring further and continuing training with QM focus
-
8. Setting up and organising structures of cooperation in the field of quality

For more information, please visit:

www.vet-cert.at/fileadmin/VET-CERT/03b_Concept_Competence-profiles_END.pdf).

2.1.3. Curricular Framework “Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training”

Based on the results of the WP 2, the next development phase was started with the leading partner 3s research laboratory. The curricular framework for the programme “Quality management in vocational education and training” defines the objectives and contents of the training of people whose work involves – or who in the future want to deal with – issues related to quality assurance and development within the Austrian VET system. The curriculum provides the conceptual basis for planning and preparing training events (such as at university colleges of education, universities, adult education providers).

The development of the core elements of the programme (target group, activity field, competence profile, curriculum with modules, didactic bases) was carried out in a development team comprising 14 experts representing different subject expertise as well as different stakeholder and target groups of the project VET-CERT. Feedback loops between the core team, where contents were elaborated, and the development team, which discussed the prepared versions, aimed to safeguard economic efficiency, feasibility and the adaptation of contents to current developments in the professional field. Leading partner 3s research laboratory also provided a special coherence analysis, based on desk top research, on the current situation concerning

various further education and training programmes for QM personnel both in Austria and other German speaking countries.

The Curricular Framework includes for school quality process managers (SQPMs) a basic programme “Quality Management in VET” (offered as extra-occupational programme at university colleges of education or universities) with 12 ECTS credits. Particular attention is paid to the recognition of qualifications and previous knowledge. The basic programme comprises four modules (including QIBB, Instruments and Methods for Quality Management, Change Management and Communication as well as Process- and Project Management) and one module related to project work/practical phase. For people with strategic tasks in quality assurance, such as principals and school inspectorates, a separate programme was designed with 6 ECTS Credits. It comprises two modules, with both target groups sharing module 1 “Quality management and QIBB”.

Overview of the curricular framework

	Target group: School quality process managers, regional quality process managers, quality managers in VET, etc.	Target group: Principals, school inspectorate, heads of units, etc.
Quality management in VET Basic programme 12 ECTS credits Certificate of attendance “Quality management in vocational education and training”	M 1: Quality management and QIBB M 2: Instruments and methods in quality management M 3: Change management and communication M 4: Process and project management M 5: Project work/practical phase Total: 12 ECTS credits	M 1: Quality management and QIBB M 6: Quality management for principals and school inspectorate Total: 6 ECTS credits

Source: Presentation by 3s

More information available at: www.vet-cert.at/products/curricular_framework//EN/

2.1.4. Certification Concept

In an additional step, a certification concept was also developed, which on the one hand ensures credit transfer of competences already acquired by people active in quality management and on the other hand contributes to the higher qualification of quality managers. A programme with a focus on quality management is, of course, especially required to assure and develop its own quality. For this purpose, the VET-CERT project has - from the beginning - foreseen the development of a relevant concept in addition to the curricular framework. The certification concept summarises these considerations as recommendations for quality assurance and certification for the implementation of the curricular framework “Quality management in vocational education and training”.

The concept was developed in the course of two meetings of the development team which was also elaborating the curricular framework and in the course of two national

project workshops and meetings. The objectives of this current concept mainly comprise the following aspects:

- Quality assurance: One major goal of the recommendations is the outlining of a procedure to ensure the quality of the planned programme, such as by external accreditation of the programme.
- Professionalisation: The curricular framework lays down learning outcomes and competences which guarantee professional quality assurance and development in school-based VET. Certification of these competences aims to contribute to the professionalisation of the work of quality managers at school, regional and federal level, and provides a “quality label” (visible distinction) for graduates of the programme.
- Further training: Certification and especially recertification aim to ensure that the graduates of the programme “Quality management in vocational education and training” are obliged to take part in CET measures on a regular basis.

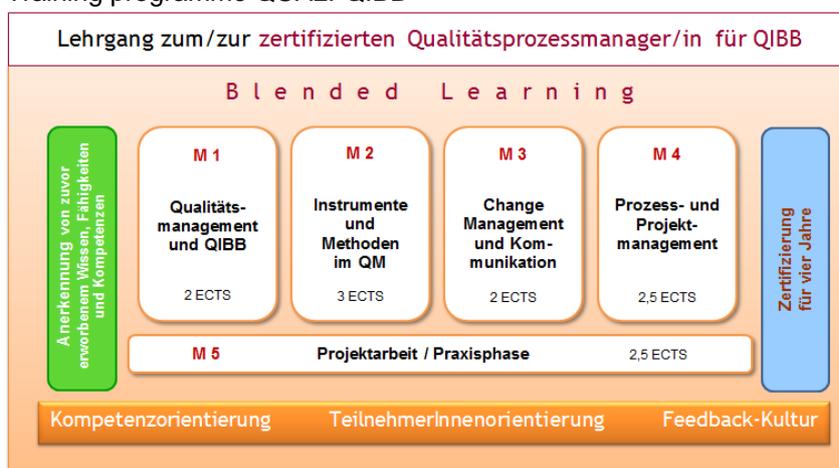
More information on the certification concept is available at:

www.vet-cert.at/products/certification-concept/EN/

2.1.5. Recommendations for VET-CERT Implementation

It was one of the assignments of the project coordinator to develop recommendations for an implementation plan at national level including timeline, responsibilities, implementation proposals for different VET sectors, considerations about piloting projects etc. The work started after the first year of the project and was conducted intensively throughout the second project year. The project went also a couple steps further and in addition to the developed recommendations, designed and started preparations for a training programme QUALI-QIBB for QM personnel within the Austrian VET which has been already approved by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture. This was seen as a necessary step in order to ensure the sustainability of the results and products. The recommendations were also discussed and processed within the development team as well as at the final conference, measures which on their part assured the successful mainstreaming of the VET-CERT project results to the policy-makers and potential users at local, regional, national, and international level. Recommendations for VET-CERT implementation are available in German at: www.vet-cert.at/produkte/

Training programme QUALI-QIBB



2.1.6. Recommendations for VET-CERT Transfer

As last product recommendations for VET-CERT transfer were developed with the lead of the German partner BiBB. In the matter of exploitation of the results and products of the VET-CERT project, the aim was not only to ensure the future use of the results and products in the national context (Austria) but also look for ways to assure the transfer of the developed procedures, products, and outcomes to the partner countries involved in the project. The main responsibility for the development of this product was taken by BiBB in Germany. Based on desk top research and analysing the developed VET-CERT products as well as results on two international work shop concerning the transferability of the VET-CERT products (at the Midterm Conference and at the Final Conference), the leading partner produced a report on the recommendations for VET-CERT Transfer. In addition, as a result of the high quality of the main products and co-work during the project, one international partner decided to apply for transfer of innovation project, which aims for implementation of the VET-CERT competence profiles and curricular framework in Slovenia and Romania.

The report of recommendations for VET-CERT transfer is available at:

www.vet-cert.at/produkte/

2.2. Quality Assurance

For project VET-CERT an own quality assurance plan was created which had the aim to ensure the quality assurance of the VET-CERT project's procedures, results, and products. The leading partner for QA/WP4 was the University of Graz, which concentrated only on the QA work package and did not undertake any other tasks within the VET-CERT project in order to maintain appropriate independence and to avoid conflicts of interest concerning the quality assurance of the project. Quality assurance was permanently accompanying activity within all project phases and work packages. The leading partner developed criteria and indicators to measure process and output quality of the VET-CERT project and provided also appropriate methods for the use of project evaluation. Evaluation activities and measures were undertaken in all project phases. The leading partner analysed the results and gave feedback to all project partners. Based on the evaluation results and discussion within the partnership, the project consortium planned and executed improvement measures accordingly. Several interim and one final quality assurance report were produced. The reports refer to the defined quality criteria and/or indicators and give an overview about the evaluation results. The undertaken improvement measures out of evaluation results were also described and discussed in the reports. All results are published also on the project website, mostly on the project intern section.

2.3. Dissemination

Generally, as defined in the project application, the dissemination strategy was based on appropriate information material and on concrete dissemination plan. From the beginning of the project the involvement of different target groups, stakeholders and other interest groups was considered as a key issue for the successful and sustainable implementation of the project. In order to create and enhance involvement, the project invested a lot to the effective communication and dissemination activities and measures. Dissemination activities were based on well established ICT-strategies (homepage www.vet-cert.at), presentations in workshops

and conferences, and by means of direct target group addressing with the help of newsletters, project folders, posters and presentations. The main part of the national dissemination was done by using coordinators tools and instruments (e.g. website www.arga-vet.at). The EQAVET network and its homepage (www.eqavet.eu) was also used for the European dissemination of the VET-CERT project results when appropriate. All partners presented the VET-CERT project and its results as often as possible in adequate workshops, conferences, or stakeholder meetings of any kind (for example expert conferences, principals' conferences, school inspectorates' conferences, meetings of policy decision makers).

During the whole project several dissemination activities have been conducted. Project website was opened in February 2011 and they were kept updated and maintained on daily basis www.vet-cert.at. The Kick-off Conference was held on the 17th of March 2011 in Vienna with approx. 60 participants whereby the introduction of the project, project partner and the forthcoming work was on spotlight. Midterm Conference, which was decided to be necessary to further enhance dissemination, the involvement and interest of the various interests and target groups, was organised in January 2012 in Vienna with around 65 participants. It also served as an international workshop for the further processing of the competence profiles as well as the recommendations for the VET-CERT transfer. As the VET-CERT Final Conference from December 2012 proves, with its almost 200 participants, the dissemination activities and the participating approach in developing the products have been successful and effective. In addition, 6 national or international partner workshops were organised during the project.

VET-CERT also participated in scientific conferences where the project and its results were presented more closely to the community of VET research. At the "16th Hochschultagen" in Osnabrück, Germany in March 2011, VET-CERT took part in the Poster Exhibition. In July 2012 project achievements and future goals were present in a form of a scientific poster at the Austrian Conference on Vocational Education and Training Research. The poster is available at:

www.vet-cert.at/fileadmin/VET-CERT/VC_Poster_BBFK2012_web.pdf

The first issue of the project Newsletter was published in December 2011 and further 3 issues in German by the end of the project. Three issues were also published in English. The project partnership have also published articles about VET-CERT on other Newsletters and digital forums e.g. EQAVET Newsletter 12/11, OeAD i-news, OeAD News and Cedefop/Refernet website. VET-CERT used also the means of social media for the purposes of dissemination. On the VET-CERT Facebook account numerous postings about current issues concerning the project has been published and by using the Twitter account of ARQA-VET, wider audience was kept informed about the latest activities of the project. Cooperation with the other EQAVET projects served also as a forum for dissemination, especially at the European level. VET-CERT also used the possibilities for further communication and dissemination of the project which were made possible through the "Promotion and development of the use of EQAVET framework" Unit and MENON, e.g. the project website www.eqavetprojects.eu/.

More information about some of the VET-CERT dissemination activities are to be found at: www.vet-cert.at/project/dissemination//EN/ or in the Annexes of the Confidential Part.

3. Project Outcomes & Results

Through the work of the project partnership, the following main products were developed:

- 1) **Stocktaking Report/ WP2:** stocktaking of the current situation regarding the proposed topic in the different educational sectors (IVET in schools and colleges, company training within the dual system, adult education,) in Austria. In order to get an overview an analytic framework was developed at the beginning by interviewing key stakeholders and groups. The results were important asset to following development work on competence profiles.
- 2) **Competence Profiles/ WP2:** aim was to develop module based and comprehensive competence profiles for persons holding functions in QM within QIBB, considering the following functions: principals, school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, regional school inspectorate, federal quality process managers and QIBB steering group members. . As a result five different competence profiles were developed: for school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, federal quality process managers, principals and representatives of school inspectorate. By using “feedback loop” the results were validated and also officially accepted by the QIBB steering group. All competence profiles follow a common structure. The first four competence categories correspond to the different phases of the quality cycle (Plan-Do-Check-Act). In addition, from phase 3 to phase 4 overlapping competences were defined during the development of the competence profiles, whereby the 8th category is seen solely for the actors on strategic level. The developed competence profiles form also the basis for the future work on the development of the curricular framework.
- 3) **Curricular Framework/ WP3:** aim was to develop a framework curriculum for the training of the different target groups, taking into account the following aspects: training contents, training methods and training institutions. Through the workshops with a development team and bringing together the results of the stocktaking and the competence profiles, desktop research, comparison with other concepts in other countries, especially partner countries, the proposal for Curricular Framework “Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training” was developed. The Curricular Framework includes a basic programme “Quality Management in VET“(offered as extra-occupational programme at university colleges of education or universities) with 12 ECTS credits for school quality process managers (SQPMs). Particular attention is paid to the recognition of qualifications and previous knowledge. The basic programme comprises four modules (including QIBB, Instruments and Methods for Quality Management, Change Management and Communication as well as Process- and Project Management) and one module related to project work/practical phase. For people with strategic tasks in quality assurance, such as principals and school inspectorates, a separate programme was designed with 6 ECTS Credits. It comprises two modules, with both target groups sharing module 1 “Quality management and QIBB”

- 4) **Concept for Certification/ WP3:** aim was to develop a concept for the certification of persons holding quality functions after finishing the proposed trainings: certification procedures, validation of prior learning, certifying organisations, duration of the certification and rules for re-certification. A certification concept was developed, which on the one hand ensures credit transfer of competences already acquired by people active in quality management and on the other hand contributes to the higher qualification of quality managers. A programme with a focus on quality management is, of course, especially required to assure and develop its own quality. For this purpose, the VET-CERT project has - from the beginning - foreseen the development of a relevant concept in addition to the curricular framework. Certification concept summarises these considerations as recommendations for quality assurance and certification for the implementation of the curricular framework “Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training”. The concept was developed in the course of two meetings of the development team which was also elaborating the curricular framework and in the course of two national project workshop and meeting.

Because of the very different current situation in VET in Austria not all products were developed for all VET sectors. The curricular framework and concept for certification were developed for VET schools and colleges.

In addition to the above mentioned core products, VET-CERT project developed and produced following supporting products:

- 5) **Quality assurance plan/** WP 4: see more in Chapter 2,
- 6) **Project website,** www.vet-cert.at WP5: see more in Chapter 2,
- 7) **Project folders in German and in English/** WP5: see more in Chapter 2,
- 8) **Project posters in German/** WP 5,
- 9) **Project newsletters**
- 10) **VET-CERT Conferences /** WP 5: see more in Chapter 2,
- 11) **Recommendations for VET-CERT Implementation/** WP 6: including also developed Training programme for QM personnel “QUALI-QIBB” - see more in Chapter 2,
- 12) **Recommendations for VET-CERT Transfer/**WP 6: see more in Chapter 2.

All VET-CERT project products and publications are available at the project website: www.vet-cert.at.

4. Partnerships

The project aims, products and results were achieved and produced by an international project consortium that brought together various skills and competencies at different levels. As a general approach, the division of work inside the project consortium has been done in a way that the various skills and competencies of different partners are put in the use of the project in the best possible way. When needed also external expertise was used for the benefit of the project. In all development and research activities the focus has been in the involvement of all target and stakeholder groups from all levels (policy-practise-research) as well as the project consortium. Active and participating workshops have been organised within in the project consortium as well as with the different target groups and stakeholders. By this chosen approach it was ensured that not only all necessary actors on all levels (practice-policy-research) were involved in the development phase but it also benefited the future exploitation of the products and results, thus enhancing the sustainability of the products and results of project VET-CERT.

Further, all the international partners in the consortium were entrusted with the EQAVET framework implementation in their countries and due to their active participation in the former network ENQA-VET as well as through their national expertise, thus being also important partners on the policy level. International partners had also a key role in producing the recommendations for the VET-CERT transfer (BiBB from Germany acting as a leading partner for the development of the recommendations for transfer) as well as performing a constant source of feedback concerning the developed products. The social partner organisations, which were part of the consortium, formed part of this group too.

It is to be noted that the consortium consisted also of national VET provider representatives, whose active participation in all phases of the project and involvement in the development of the core products was crucial to the project as the practicability of the tools and products that were developed, needed also be tested and looked at from a practical point of view. In addition, for the sake of dissemination and exploitation of the products, the role of the provider level, i.e. practice level, was of utmost importance.

In addition to the policy and practitioner level, there were two partner institutions responsible for developing products and qualification procedures for QM in VET from a theoretical and research point of view (öibf, 3s). University of Graz had the lead of the QA of the project. These three dimensions: policy – practice – research proved to be an effective combination in order to develop, disseminate, and implement the outputs of the project. By using different participating methods, e.g. development team, group interviews, workshops, it was possible to create a working climate which contributed to the successful implementation of the project as well as for the future exploitation of the project's results and products.

Subcontracting was foreseen only for translation (at conferences and of some of the outcomes and the project flyer), for the design and layout of the webpage and the flyer and finally for the desktop research done in WP1: stocktaking concerning the Austrian dual system. However, during the project it was seen that in some cases, e.g. curricular development for QM, an external expertise was bringing added value to the work of the development team. All other work was performed by the project

partners themselves. The project coordinator (OeAD/ARQA-VET) had the main responsibility for the whole project.

The project consortium possessed a vast experience in working various European partnerships. During the project all partners met during the conferences, workshops and working meetings according to the project work plan. Good, continuous and meaningful communication between the partners and within the partnership was one key issue for the success of the project consortium.

Table of partners:

Partner number	Country	Legal name
P1	AT	OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst)-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung - Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH)
P2	AT	The Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training (öibf)
P3	AT	3s research laboratory
P4	AT	Higher secondary college of engineering Steyr, Austria
P5	AT	University of Graz, Department of Business Education and Development
P6	DE	BIBB – Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training
P7	IE	FETAC – Further Education and Training Awards Council (later QQI)
P8	SI	CPI - National Institute for VET

Table of associated partners:

Country	Organisation name
AT	Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture, General Directorate II for Vocational Education and Training, Adult Education and School Sport
AT	University College of Teacher Education, Burgenland
AT	Austrian Chamber of Labour, Vienna
AT	Austrian Federal Economic Chamber
AT	BFI (Berufsförderungsinstitut Österreich) – Institute for the Promotion of Trainings

5. Plans for the Future

The basis was the future exploitation of the results and products of the project beyond the project's life time was already laid during the project and are documented in the two products of the WP6. As described in Chapter 2, the recommendations for the implementation at the national level and the recommendations for the transfer at the international level, there are not just plans but already concrete and existing elements for the sustainability of the products and results of VET-CERT.

After the first year of the project the work for the future implementation of the products and results started and it continued throughout the second year of the project. After the negotiations with the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture the financing for a pilot training programme for QM personnel in QIBB was agreed. The project went also couple steps further and in addition to the developed recommendations, designed and started preparations for a training programme "QUALI-QIBB" for QM personnel within the Austrian VET which has been already approved by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture. The training programme is based on the results of the VET-CERT project (competence profiles, curricular framework and certification concept). This was seen as a necessary step in order to ensure the sustainability of the results and products. The recommendations were also discussed and processed within the development team and also at the final conference which have on their part assured the successful mainstreaming of the VET-CERT project results to the policy-makers and potential users at local, regional, national, and international level. During the last months of the project, first meetings (so called Train-the-Trainer seminars) for the future trainers for the training programme started. The pilot for the new training programme will start in October 2013. More information available at: www.arqa-vet.at/quali-qibb/quali-qibb or www.vet-cert.at. After the pilot programme, experiences and results will be viewed and if necessary modifications will be made for the future training programmes.

As a result of the good cooperation co-work within the partnership CPI (Slovenian partner) has applied for a transfer of innovation project which is based on the products and results of the project VET-CERT. The cooperation of CPI and ARQA-VET will also continue as ARQA-VET is one of the partners in this new project.

Furthermore, the comprehensive and user friendly project website of VET-CERT will be sustained and will be used further as a one channel for dissemination. In addition, project coordinator ARQA-VET will continue to disseminate the results and products through its networks and communication channels.

6. Contribution to EU policies

VET-CERT project contributed to the further EQAVET framework implementation in Austria and referred strongly to the Reference Framework, explicitly to:

- Indicative descriptors (implementation plans include specific support towards the training of teachers and trainers)
- Indicator No. 2 (investment in training of teachers and trainers) within the overarching indicators for quality assurance. The purpose of the policy in relation to the indicator (for example, promotion of ownership of teachers and trainers in the process of quality development in VET) is crucial for the whole project.

In the long term, VET-CERT will help to bring together the EQF/NQF, ECVET, and EQAVET framework implementation at national level: Well trained and certified persons holding quality management functions in VET will improve the implementation of quality management in VET. This will finally lead to better results of the whole VET system, and mutual trust and transparency will increase at national and European level.

The goals of the project aimed to support the following crucial objectives as expressed in the EQAVET Framework Recommendation:

- “developing concrete means to support a quality-improvement culture” (paragraph 12), “promoting ownership of teachers and trainers in the process of quality of training”, “promote a quality improvement culture at VET-provider level” (Annex 2, purpose no 1): this will be realised through developing standardised training courses and contents for the persons in charge of QM, and thus also in charge of implementing the recommendation.
- “responsibilities in quality management and development have been explicitly allocated”, “implementation plans include specific support towards the training of teachers and trainers”, “the strategic plan for staff competence development specifies the need for training for teachers and trainers” (Annex 1, indicative descriptors): this will be realised through developing proposals for equipping all main functions that deal with QM in Austrian schools and colleges of IVET with qualification profiles, training designs, and certification procedures. Adult education has a special role, due to its particular structures regarding QM. Here, the aim will be to explore how far the Ö-Cert proposal can be integrated into the overall design.

The VET-CERT project contributed to the above mentioned objectives by developing and producing concrete products and tools for the further certification and qualification of the persons who are holding functions in QM initial VET and in Adult education in Austria. QUALI-QIBB training programme, curricular framework, certification concept and competence profiles are developed products with which the project made an important contribution to the development of concrete means for the support of further development of QM in VET.

