

## **Quality circles for the development of a common awareness of quality and the origination of quality standards across all actors in vocational education and training (“Q<sup>3</sup> Qualität hoch drei” – Quality to the power three)**

In the pilot project, quality standards will be developed in collaboration with all actors involved in company-based training, in order to create a common awareness of quality as well as long-term communication and cooperation structures among the parties involved. To achieve these aims, quality circles are formed which support the exchange of experience and the development of common standards, and which are intended to exert proactive shaping effects on a lasting basis.

Transfer of the project outcomes will take place with a particular focus on the region; beyond this, the business and industry training academy FAW will make use of its nationwide structures to communicate the findings in the aim of achieving widespread transfer.

### **Procedure:**

Phase 1 serves to raise the awareness of the actors involved. A survey is conducted on quality in initial vocational training to support analysis of the outset conditions. Themes include the contents and procedures of IVET, the qualification of IVET instructors, the didactic-methodological design of vocational education, and how to ensure the employability of apprentices. On the basis of this all-round look at the status quo and the requirements of quality in IVET, action areas will be identified which the actors will address intensively in the context of workshops in Phase 2.

In the capacity-building phase, quality circles are deployed on different levels: in circle Q<sub>1</sub>, representatives of chambers and enterprises work on setting up cooperation and communication structures. Work in circle Q<sub>2</sub> focuses on the development of a common awareness of quality and the establishment of quality standards. Participants are IVET instructors and teachers from companies, part-time vocational schools and the FAW training academy. Circle Q<sub>3</sub> is the forum for apprentices, who receive methods training to strengthen them in their role as equal partners in the communication process. Links are forged between the three levels by means of joint annual conferences and other forms of expert exchange. In Phase 4 the results of the pilot project are secured, building on the latest advances in the academic debate on quality assurance and development: standards and indicators are originated which relate to the entire IVET process, taking account of the paradigm shift from the input to the outcome perspective.

### **Expected outcomes:**

The outcomes and products are documented during the implementation phase. The collaboratively developed positions, qualification modules and materials will be pooled in a “Q<sup>3</sup> data bank” and made available in the form of a manual including a CD-ROM, both on- and offline.

### **Project promoter:**

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