

Self-Assessment as a Basis for Accreditation and Certification in the Educational Sector

UK/11/LLP-LdV/TOI-413

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=8328>

Project Information

Title: Self-Assessment as a Basis for Accreditation and Certification in the Educational Sector

Project Number: UK/11/LLP-LdV/TOI-413

Year: 2011

Project Type: Transfer of Innovation

Status: completed

Country: UK-United Kingdom

Marketing Text: The ACES project sought to assist partner countries move to EQARF through transferring a previously developed online assessment tool and adapting it to the requirements of national and other quality frameworks in use in the partner countries. By extending an extant TQM model based on the requirements of CAF, EFQM and EQARF, the ACES solution helps enhance the benchmarking process in the VET sector across the EU.

Summary: This project sought to assist partner countries move to EQARF through transferring an online assessment tool, developed on a previous project to meet the needs of EFQM and ISO 9000, and adapting it to the requirements of national and other quality frameworks in use in these countries. By extending an already existing TQM model based on the requirements of both EFQM and EQARF, the ACES solution helps to allow a better approach to benchmarking in the VET sector across the EU.

After the piloting of the solution across the partner countries, a number of case studies were written up based on the findings of the testers.

Quality in Vocational Education and Training (VET) is one of the central issues of the Copenhagen Process towards more trust-based transparency and quality in VET and in the labour market. Due to its discourse-based total quality conception, the EFQM Excellence Model is one of the favoured quality schemes in the pedagogic field, after an initial rush for ISO in the 90ies.

The Leonardo Project SAETO (LI-05-B-F-PP-164510) developed a software-supported system for self-assessment in educational and training organisations (ETO) that translated the EFQM model to the educational sector and linked it with ISO 9000 using a single assessment tool, which is at the same time fully compatible with EQARF in VET.

This work, does however not guarantee by itself that the solution also fulfils the national and/or most common quality frameworks in each country. At present these would be validated separately. ACES therefore has 2 goals a) to validate SAETO for three new regions, namely UK, DA and CZ and b) to extend the existing solution to include other assessment needs of educational institutions, such as PAS 1037:2004 or the existing external quality arrangements for Scotland's colleges (HMIe). This will allow a single assessment process generate the data needed for a wide range of quality standards.

To support these goals, the proposed project aims to pilot the new solution in four regions, namely UK, DE, DK and CZ with at least 24 test cases. The partnership for this project consists of one ETO from each of the target regions.

As a result, SAETO will be enriched, updated, adapted and validated for 4 European regions and its implementation will help to strengthen the deployment of EQARF across the EU.

To further this, the project will implement the following dissemination actions:

Project Information

- The core results will be available through a website with a free entry version of the solution.
- The partners will organise ACES workshops and attend at least 3 big international events as speakers.
- The solution will be written up in at least in 3 magazines and presented at 3 international exhibitions.
- A minimum of 1.000 CDs with an introduction to the project's results and the free tools will be distributed.
- A handbook presenting the results and giving an overview of the case studies will be published

Description: The ACES project has taken the best features of the Leonardo da Vinci Projects SAETO and Trans-SAETO and built on them to fill a perceived gap in European Quality Assurance systems. The transfer to EQARF has been hindered as it has been perceived as yet another layer of quality criteria that ETOs would be required to meet. The ACES project proposes a solution to this by extending the SAETO single assessment tool to meet quality indicators not just of EFQM and ISO 9000 but also of the national and other systems in common use in the partner countries. This would assist the move to EQARF by providing a more 'level playing field' from which to proceed. The extended solution was then transferred to new regions through a series of pilots. The project thus allows ETOs prepare the documentation needed when applying for programme audit or system accreditation in accordance with the demands of the Bologna Process.

The reasons for the selection of SAETO as a starting point for ACES was therefore the growing need for quality management in the educational sector, which the SAETO projects have already gone some way to address.

For a quick and widespread deployment of the SAETO solution, the existing training modules were reformulated in such a way that they could be used by inexperienced TQM users and could be tailored for piloting and validation in the new regions. Since many ETOs look exclusively at their regional or national markets, it was important to generate enough pilots in each region to offer a reasonable number of reference installations for the local organisations. TUDO, a partner of the original SAETO project, was represented in the new project, and this facilitated a quick and concise transfer of existing results.

Throughout the planned process of evaluation and accreditation of all new training programmes (modules and supporting actions) and materials created by the key partners during the project implementation phase, we have liaised with national vocational training programmes and offered further development. By linking this approach with an EFQM based self-assessment, and thus with EQARF, an integrated quality management approach is implemented that links the demands of the VET sector with the auditing demands of the Bologna Process, thus helping to generate a broader and more inclusive quality framework which enables comparisons to be made across several quality systems.

ACES is innovative in:

- a. Bringing EQARF and EFQM together in an easy to use and understandable format for ETOs
- b. Linking self-assessment with the most common accreditation, auditing and certification processes for the educational sector
- c. its usage of new training and IT materials
- d. working with the direct beneficiary/participant of the training
- e. Transfer of the training programmes/training modules

This extension strengthens the existing SAETO product line and thus leads to a synergetic co-operation of the current project partners with partners of the previous projects who will all act as regional competence and support centres for the extended product.

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To date the project has defined the end user and stakeholder requirements for the partner regions, researched and clarified the enhancements required to cross match the framework indicators, identified the adaptations required for the partner regions and designed the reporting and validation processes for the pilot testing phases.

The SAETO tool has also been updated and adapted to meet these requirements and translation of the self-assessment materials and associated support packages into the languages of the partnership (German, Danish Czech and English) has begun and will be completed by January 2013.

Other project activity includes training of trainers in order to ensure that facilitators undertaking the piloting phase are fully conversant with the adapted methodology and tools. To that end, a comprehensive set of CBTs is being adapted and further developed for use in the partner countries. Again these materials require translation into the local languages. This work has started but is not yet completed.

The adapted software is currently being tested within the partnership and feedback is being provided to the implementing partner. This work will ultimately result in improvements and fine-tuning of both the self-assessment tool and the related training materials. This aspect is scheduled for completion by the end of November 2012.

Work has also begun on setting up an external advisory panel made up of quality experts (EQARF, EFQM, ESQF, ISO et al.) from the partner countries and on setting up the reporting mechanisms to ensure accurate and consistent testing and validation.

Work has also started on devising and maintaining a project website, disseminating information about the project at regional, national and international conferences. Marketing materials have been developed, press releases and project articles written and an initial business plan drawn up.

To date the project has completed Work packages 2 and 3 and work is currently active on WPs 1,4,5,6 and 9.

Work package reports 2 and 3 are on the project website.

In December the lead partner plans to update and revise the website and make some design changes in line with partner and stakeholder comment. A second set of information leaflets and posters will also be produced to meet the needs of particular markets such as private ETOs and also to make them more easily accessible for the general reader.

The next main phase of the project will be to accelerate the preparation and recruitment process for external pilot users and undertake basic assessor training with delegated staff.

Themes: *** Utilization and distribution of results
*** Quality
** ICT
** Others
** Lifelong learning
** Higher education
** Recognition, transparency, certification
** Continuous training
** Initial training
* Access for disadvantaged

Sectors: *** Education
** Administrative and Support Service Activities
* Other Service Activities
* Information and Communication

Product Types: material for open learning
modules
website
evaluation methods
transparency and certification
teaching material

Project Information

open and distance learning
procedure for the analysis and prognosis of the vocational training requirement

Product information: An enhanced on-line assessment tool to meet the quality assessment needs of several frameworks. the tool will be enriched, updated, adapted and validated for 4 European regions and its implementation will help to strengthen the deployment of EQARF across the EU.

- The core results will be available through a website with a free entry version of the solution.
- The partners will organise ACES workshops and attend at least 3 big international events as speakers.
- The solution was written up in educational magazines and presented at 3 international exhibitions.
- An e handbook presenting the results and giving an overview of the case studies was drawn up for publishing.

Projecthomepage: <http://aces.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk>

Project Contractor

Name: Central College Glasgow (now City of Glasgow College)
City: GLASGOW
Country/Region: Scotland
Country: UK-United Kingdom
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy
Homepage: <http://www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk>

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Partner

Partner 1

Name: University of Dortmund, Central Research Unit Sozialforschungsstelle (Social Research Centre) Dortmund
City: Dortmund
Country/Region: Nordrhein-Westfalen
Country: DE-Germany
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy
Homepage: <http://www.sfs-dortmund.de>

Partner 2

Name: Promentek ApS
City: SOEBORG
Country/Region: Kobenhavns Amt
Country: DK-Denmark
Organization Type: SME - small and medium-sized enterprise (up to 250 employees)
Homepage: <http://www.promentek.dk>

Partner 3

Name: IBK Management solutions GmbH
City: WIESBADEN
Country/Region: Hessen
Country: DE-Germany
Organization Type: SME - small and medium-sized enterprise (up to 250 employees)
Homepage:

Partner 4

Name: University of Economics, Prague
City: Prague 3
Country/Region: Praha
Country: CZ-Czech Republic
Organization Type: university/Fachhochschule/academy
Homepage: <http://www.vse.cz>

Project Files

8.1 Report Field test survey.doc

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/8.1%20Report%20Field%20test%20survey.doc>

Field test survey report

ACES_consolidated_presentations-CZ-FINAL.pptx

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES_consolidated_presentations-CZ-FINAL.pptx

Czech consolidated presentation

ACES_consolidated_presentations-ENG-FINAL01.pptx

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES_consolidated_presentations-ENG-FINAL01.pptx

English consolidated presentation

ACES-CS-API_UEP_FINAL_1.docx

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES-CS-API_UEP_FINAL_1.docx

Czech case study 1

ACES_Leaflet-CZ.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES_Leaflet-CZ.pdf

Czech promotional leaflet

ACES_poster-CZ.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES_poster-CZ.pdf

Czech promotional poster

ACES_training_presentation-CZ-FINAL-ver02.ppt

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES_training_presentation-CZ-FINAL-ver02.ppt

Czech training presentation

ACES_training_presentation-ENG-FINAL_ver02.ppt

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/ACES_training_presentation-ENG-FINAL_ver02.ppt

English training presentation

COGC CASE STUDY EXTERNAL.docx

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/COGC%20CASE%20STUDY%20EXTERNAL.docx>

UK case study of External pilot

COGC CASE STUDY INTERNAL.docx

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/COGC%20CASE%20STUDY%20INTERNAL.docx>

UK case study of internal pilot

LLP_ACES-CS-FOB UEP FINAL 2.docx

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/LLP_ACES-CS-FOB%20UEP%20FINAL%202.docx

Czech case study 2

Project Files

pmt CASE STUDY.docx

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prj/pmt%20CASE%20STUDY.docx>

Danish case study

Products

- 1 SAETO-ACES software tool extension and improvements
- 2 ACES Information Leaflets

Product 'SAETO-ACES software tool extension and improvements'

Title: SAETO-ACES software tool extension and improvements

Product Type: evaluation methods

Marketing Text: The ACES solution in its final form will be an extension of the pre existing SAETO tool which provides a single online questionnaire tool for assessing quality criteria against a range of quality frameworks in use within the partner countries and beyond.

The ACES solution is designed to meet the demands of specific user groups and the requirements of regional accreditation/auditing systems for HE/VET in the partner countries.

Description: The solution is currently available as a web version. Once all consortium partners decide that the required extensions and localisations work well, the new solution will be made available for the pilot action with field test users. At the same time, the tested solution will also be implemented on the new GOA-Web Platform. The result of this WP is available as a download under: <http://www.ibk.eu/GOA/Test/Install-GOA450EDU.zip> The download needs to be installed on top of a licensed GOA installation to become usable. After the internal test phase, this download will also become available as a "30-days Evaluation Copy" for the use of testing by other parties connected to the ACES project.

Target group: Quality professionals in the VET and HEI sectors as well as private ETOs. Also Quality lead bodies and accreditation bodies in the field of education.

Result: The internal testing & validation of the adapted tool and training solution and related feedback has been completed for the ACES specific Easy Assessment version. It has also begun for PlanEvalStaff and the generic web based version. An ACES specific adaptation for the web version will only follow after feedback has been received and acted upon for the PC based versions. Fine tuning of the tool & the related training content has been done and feedback on DE/DK/EN language versions completed.

The product is available in its web based version. The result is available as a download under: <http://www.ibk.eu/GOA/Test/Install-GOA450EDU.zip>

Area of application: The final version of the ACES solution will assist ETOs in both the public and private sectors undertake a one stop shop self assessment exercise which will meet the performance criteria for a range of quality frameworks and shorten the quality accreditation process.

Homepage: <http://aces.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk>

Product Languages: Danish
English
Czech
German

Product 'ACES Information Leaflets'

Title: ACES Information Leaflets

Product Type: distribution methods

Marketing Text: The ACES project aimed to further develop a software tool for the use of quality management professionals in the VET /HEI sectors. The tool enables the cross referencing of quality criteria and indicators across a range of quality frameworks and is a valuable instrument within this process. Leaflets introducing the ACES tool were produced early in the project and are available in English and Czech. The purpose of the leaflets was to explain the aims and objectives of the project and describe the potential value of the software tool to potential end users. Country specific versions giving the relevant contact details per partner country were also produced. Leaflets also contain user recommendations to help explain the benefits of the product to the general public.

Description: Posters and flyers were produced at several stages of the project. Early leaflets were devised to advertise the project potential to education delegates at various seminars and these were afterwards discussed further and revisions made so that leaflets were updated as each stage of the project was completed. The leaflets were also translated into Czech as English language versions were deemed insufficient for the Czech market. Later versions of the leaflets described the benefits of the tool in more detail and also included specific contact details for education specialists in each partner country.

Posters were also produced which were used as visual aids when giving short presentations about the project to interested parties at small workshops. These had more detailed and specific text than earlier versions.

Target group: Target groups included:-

delegates at international education and IT conferences in a range of countries

quality management professionals in the partner countries and in the sister project countries

lead body organisations in the fields of quality and quality management

quality staff in the partner organisations

VET/HEI staff in the partner countries

Result: The final leaflets produced were professionally designed and were successfully distributed to all of the partners for dissemination at conferences and seminars and also to individual partner contacts.

A numbers of pilot users were recruited through reading about the project via the leaflets.

Area of application: The leaflets will continue to be of use even post project as the project hopes to continue rolling out the ACES tool to quality professionals in the partner countries and also within the wider EU as the use of EFQM becomes more widespread in the education sector.

Homepage: <http://aces.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk>

Product Languages: English
Czech

product files

ACES 4pp 3rd A4 Leaflet_1.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prd/2/1/ACES%204pp%203rd%20A4%20Leaflet_1.pdf

ACES 4pp 3rd A4 Leaflet_2.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prd/2/1/ACES%204pp%203rd%20A4%20Leaflet_2.pdf

ACES 4pp 3rd A4 Leaflet_3.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prd/2/1/ACES%204pp%203rd%20A4%20Leaflet_3.pdf

ACES 4pp 3rd A4 Leaflet_4.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prd/2/1/ACES%204pp%203rd%20A4%20Leaflet_4.pdf

ACES A3 Poster_Dec 2012.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prd/2/1/ACES%20A3%20Poster_Dec%202012.pdf

Aces Leaflet.pdf

<http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/8328/prd/2/1/Aces%20Leaflet.pdf>

Events

Scottish Learning Festival

Date 25.09.2013

Description Presentation booth at the Scottish learning Festival which showcases Scottish education and training from primary to tertiary and VET levels

Target audience

- Adult education provider (EDU-ADLT)
- Company training department (EDU-COMP)
- General secondary school (EDU-SCHSec)
- Institution for in-service teacher training (EDU-InISrvTr)
- Schools associations (ASC-SCH)
- Teachers, trainers and other staff involved in any aspect of lifelong learning (TCH)
- VET providers associations (ASC-VET)
- Vocational or technical secondary school (EDU-SCHVoc)
- Vocational training centre or organisation (EDU-VET)
- Vocational training institute tertiary level (EDU-HEIVoc)

Public Closed event

Contact Information www.educationscotland.gov.uk/slf

Time and place Glasgow 25-26th September 2013

LEarnTEC 2013

Date 28.01.2013

Description Presentation Booth at LEarnTEC 2013 – International Exhibition for ETOs , 28.-31. Jan 2013 (D)

Target audience

- Adult education provider (EDU-ADLT)
- Company training department (EDU-COMP)
- General secondary school (EDU-SCHSec)
- Institution for in-service teacher training (EDU-InISrvTr)
- Schools associations (ASC-SCH)
- Teachers, trainers and other staff involved in any aspect of lifelong learning (TCH)
- VET providers associations (ASC-VET)
- Vocational or technical secondary school (EDU-SCHVoc)
- Vocational training centre or organisation (EDU-VET)
- Vocational training institute tertiary level (EDU-HEIVoc)

6.068

Public Closed event

Contact Information www.learntec.de

Time and place 28.-31. Jan 2013 (D) Karlsruhe

Events

Presentation Booth at WorldDidac 2012 (CH)

Date 24.10.2012

Description – International Exhibition for ETOs held in Basel(24.-26.10.12).

ACES and sister projects EVET and D4E shared a large stand and made 121 and small group presentations to delegates from business and education.

Target audience All education providers at primary secondary and tertiary levels and company training departments

Public Event is open to the public

Contact Information <http://www.worlddidacbasel.com>

Time and place Basel(24.-26.10.12).