



# Introduction to the European Peer Review

- the projects
- the procedure
- Peer Review and the CQAF

International Peer Review Conference

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# Overview

- Projects
  - Peer Review in initial VET
  - Peer Review Extended
- The European Peer Review Procedure
- Peer Review and the CQAF
- Outlook

# Peer Review in initial VET

- **Aim:** Transfer and adapt Peer Review to the initial VET sector in Europe
- **Project idea:** Mandate of the TWG Quality in VET (2003)
- **Project duration:** October 2004 – September 2007
- **22 (25) Partner institutions** from 11 European countries
  - AT, DE, DK, FI, HU, IT, NL, PT, RO, UK, CH;
  - 13 (15) Providers of initial VET
- **Main Products**
  - European Peer Review Manual
  - Peer Training Programme
- **Pilot phase 2006**
  - 15 Pilot Peer Reviews completed, Pool of Peers (92), evaluation, adaptation of Manual 2007
- **Current status**
  - Project completed, all tasks and deliverables completed

# Peer Review Extended

- **Aims:** based on results of "Peer Review in initial VET"
  - Extending Peer Review to new countries (DE,HU,ES)
  - Revision of European Peer Review Manual; practical Tool-box for VET Providers
  - Scenarios for implementation of Peer Review at national level (AT, IT, FI)
- **Project duration:** January 2007 – December 2007
- **9 partner institutions** from 6 European countries
  - 4 VET Providers (AT, DE, ES, HU), 2 Coordinating Partners (ES, HU), 2 Developing Partners (FI, IT)
- **Main Products**
  - (European Peer Review Manual revised), Tool-box
  - Papers: 1) National scenarios (see above) 2) Contribution of Peer Review to the CQAF
- **Current status**
  - Pilot phase Sept. – Oct. 2007
  - Products in development (Toolbox, national scenarios, paper Peer Review and CQAF)

# The European Peer Review Procedure

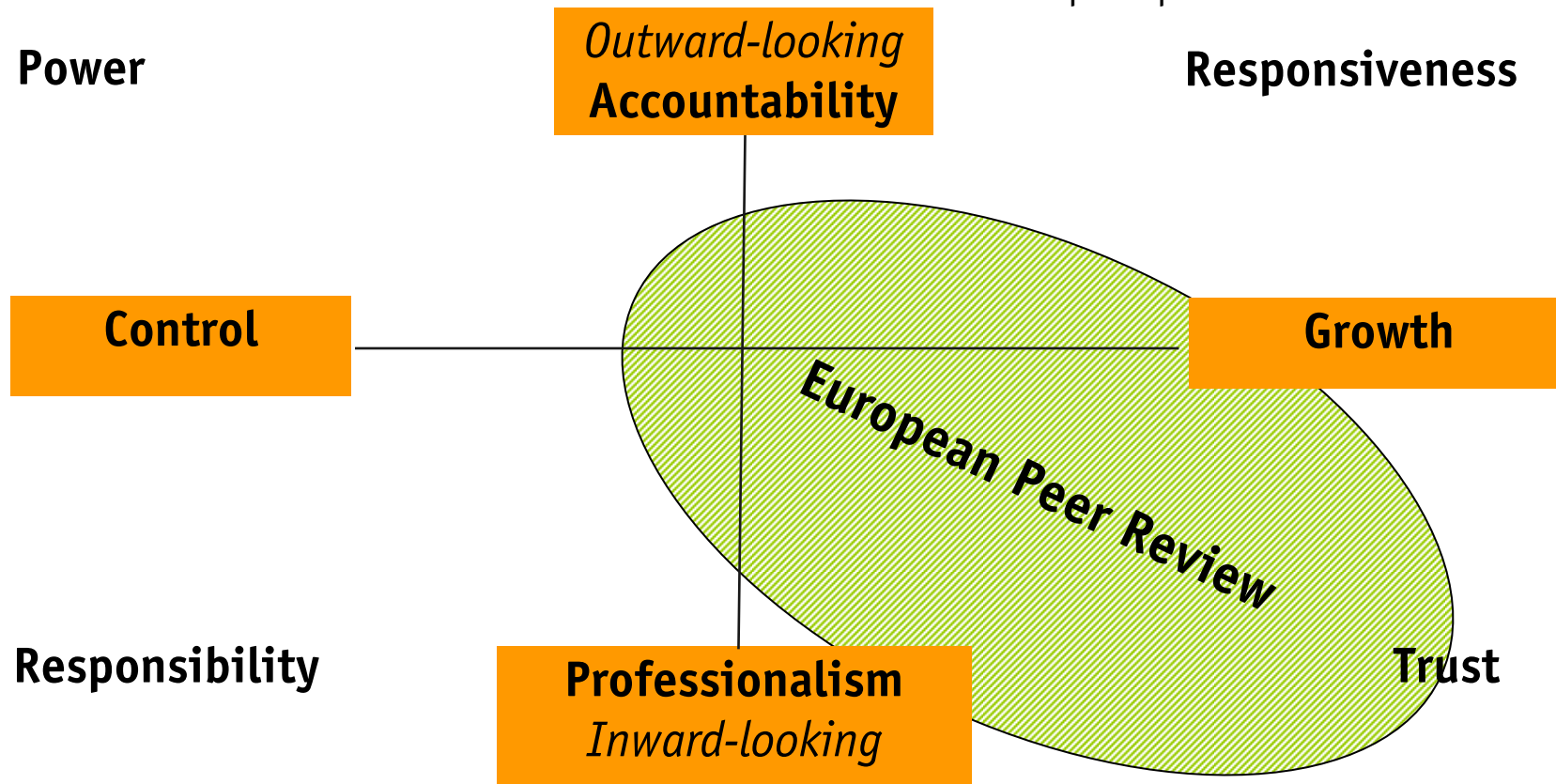
- Main characteristics
- Process – Phases of a European Peer Review
- Peers
- Quality Areas

# What is Peer Review?

- External evaluation
- Carried out by "**peers**", i.e. "persons of equal standing", colleagues
- Follows a **self-evaluation/self-assessment**
- Includes a **site visit** of the peers
- Prevalent in evaluation of **HE institutions** today

# Peer Review as a formative evaluation

Map adapted from Nisbet 1990



## Overview characteristics of Peer Review

- External formative evaluation
- in the profession = VET professionals/sector
- voluntary: decision by VET Provider, ownership of findings lies with VET Provider
- qualitative: qualitative evaluation methods, use of existing quantitative data
- in a network



# Phases of a European Peer Review



# Who is a Peer?

A Peer is a person,

- who is an equal of or is on equal standing with the person(s) whose performance is reviewed
- who works in a similar environment (and/or in a similar institution)
- who is external (i.e. from a different institution) and independent (has no personal/institutional "stakes" in the evaluation process)

and

- has specific professional expertise and knowledge in the field (shares values, professional competence and attitudes, language...)
- thus bringing to some extent "inside" knowledge of the object of review into the process and combining it with the external view of somebody coming from a different organisation ("external insider").

# Composition of Peer Teams

Number of Peers (4 Peers)	Occupational background	Required competences
2 "Real" Peers* (2 current teachers)	<b>Professionals from other VET providers</b> (teachers, counsellors, managers, quality experts, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge of Quality Areas reviewed</li> <li>▪ Experience in teaching &amp; learning</li> <li>▪ Experience in QA and QD procedures</li> </ul>
1 "Stakeholder" Peer **	<b>Representative from other stakeholder groups</b> (other educational levels, companies, social partners, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge of Quality Areas reviewed</li> <li>▪ Experience in QA and QD procedures</li> </ul>
1 Evaluation Expert*	<b>Professional evaluator/quality assessor</b> (e.g. from research institute/university, independent auditing/accrediting body, also from VET Provider)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expertise in evaluation, moderation and communication</li> <li>▪ Knowledge of VET system</li> </ul>

Additional: 1 Gender Mainstreaming Expert\*; 1 transnational Peer\*\*

\* required; \*\* recommended, \*\*\* required for transnational European Peer Reviews

## What is being evaluated?

- Institutions or parts of institutions  
(no evaluation of individual persons!)
- "European Quality Areas" for transnational  
Peer Reviews
- "Core business" learning and teaching"
- On national level, a European Peer Review  
can also be conducted using the relevant  
national quality framework.

# European Quality Areas

- QA 1: Curricula
- QA 2: Learning and teaching
- QA 3: Assessment
- QA 4: Learning results and outcomes
- QA 5: Social environment and accessibility
- QA 6: Management and administration
- QA 7: Institutional ethos and strategic planning
- QA 8: Infrastructure and financial resources
- QA 9: Staff allocation, recruitment and development
- QA 10: Working conditions of staff
- QA 11: External relations and internationalisation
- QA 12: Social participation & interactions
- QA 13: Gender mainstreaming
- QA 14: Quality management and evaluation

At least one of the Core Quality Areas (QA 1-4; key processes).

# Peer Review and the CQAF

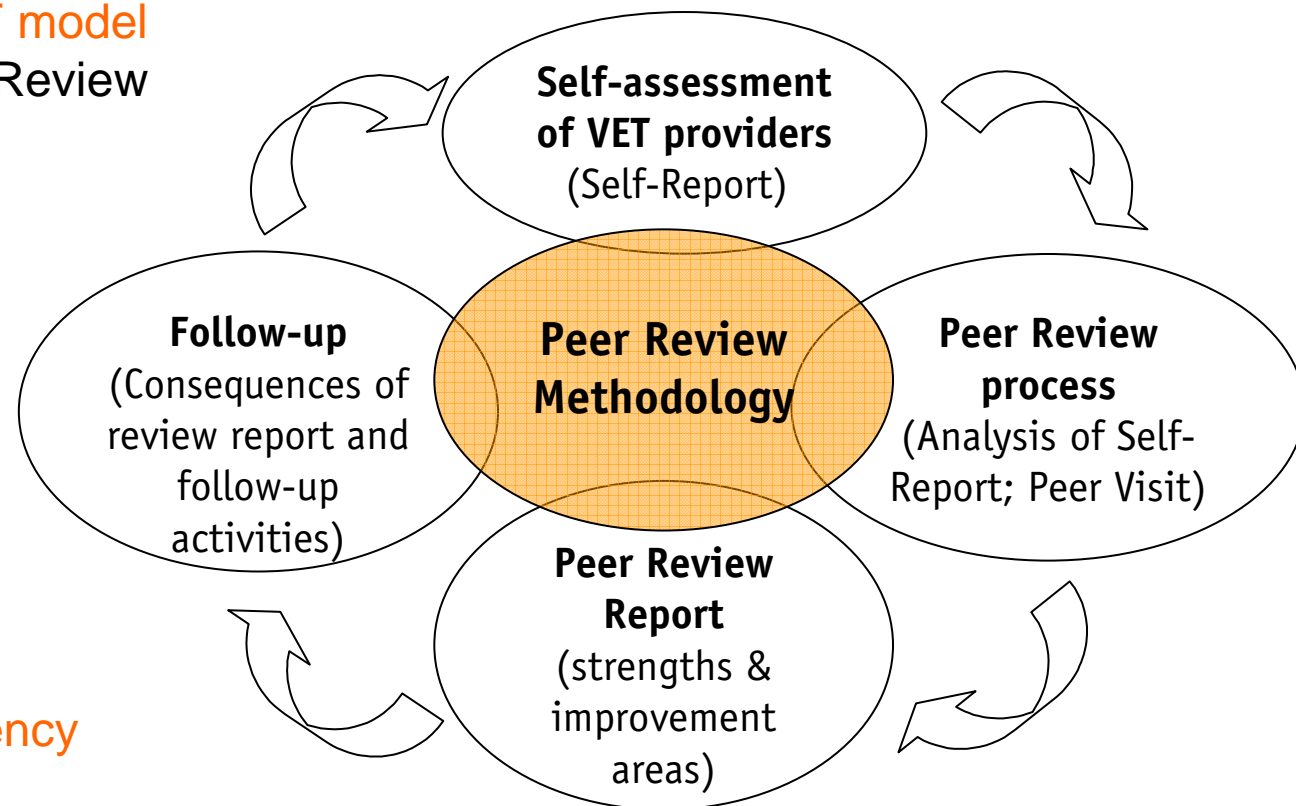
Elements of the CQAF model  
in the European Peer Review

Peer Review as  
methodology

Contribution to  
external monitoring

Use of indicators

Contribution to gains:  
mutual trust, transparency



## Peer Review as an evaluation methodology

- Peer Review as an instrument of **external quality assessment** (element 3 of CQAF model).
- Builds upon **strategies and activities of QA&D already in place** (esp. self-evaluation/assessment) – no duplication of efforts.
- **Easy to use** for VET Providers (also for "beginners" in external evaluation), flexible scope.
- **Combination of internal and external evaluation:** quality improvement and accountability.
- **Economical procedure.**

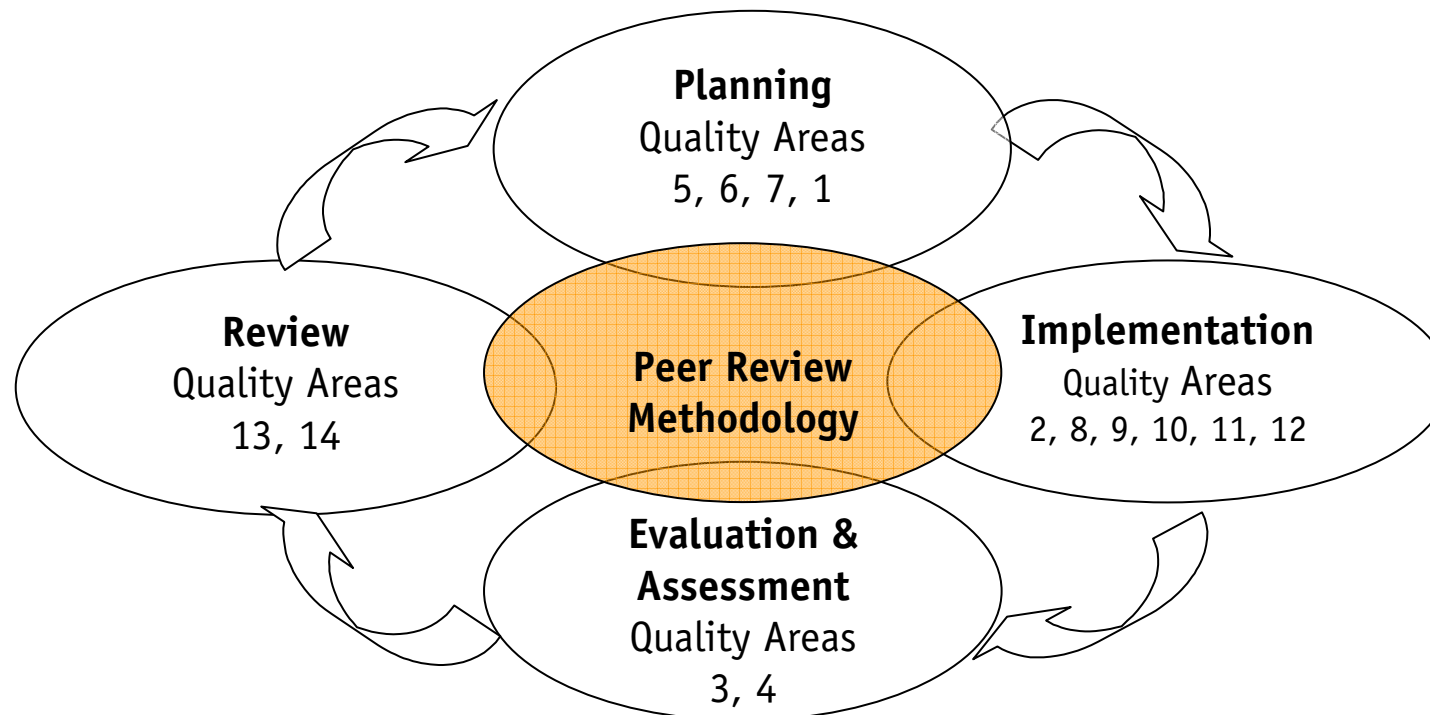
## Peer Review as an evaluation methodology

- **High use/usefulness** expected → efficacy/efficiency (contribution to element 4 of CQAF model):
  - Responsibility/ownership of VET Providers enhances efficacy.
  - **High acceptance** of the Peers by VET providers expected.
  - Recurring reviews enhance **continuing quality development**.
- **Innovation transfer and networking**
  - Openness, dialogue → **mutual learning** (benefits for all involved); expertise remains within the system.
- Quality ethos of VET Professionals developed bottom-up – fits in with decentralisation policies.



# The Quality Areas in the CQAF

1) Attribution of Quality Areas to elements of the CQAF model.



2) Quality circle observed in the assessment of each QA.

# Outlook

- Peer Review Extended II (?)
- Further activities to be discussed
  - VET Providers
  - VET Systems
  - Common European Area of VET