



Peer Review
in Initial VET

European Peer Review for (initial) VET

Convegno internazionale "Una rete per la qualità"

Maria Gutknecht-Gmeiner

Rome, Dec. 6, 2007

Topics

- the European Peer Review projects
- the European Peer Review procedure
- the European Peer Review and the CQAF
- Outcomes
- Outlook and open questions

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 in initial VET

- Aim: Transfer 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) VET Providers
- Main products and outcomes
 - European Peer Review Manual
 - Peer Training Programme
 - 15 Pilot Peer Reviews completed
 - Pool of Peers (92)

Peer Review Extended I & II

- **Peer Review Extended** (Jan. 2007 – Dec. 2007)
 - 4 Peer Reviews; extension to new countries (DE, HU, ES)
 - 9 partner institutions from 6 European countries (4 VET Providers)
 - practical Tool-box for VET Providers
 - Scenarios for implementation of Peer Review (AT, IT, FI, HU, ES/Catalonia)
 - Contribution of Peer Review to CQAF
 - Pilot phase Sept. – Oct. 2007 completed, products (almost all) completed
- **Peer Review Extended II** (Nov. 2007 – Oct. 2009)
 - 6 Peer Reviews (AT, DK, PT); extension to new countries (CZ, TR, SI)
 - 14 partner institutions from 9 European countries
 - Continuing VET/guidance and counselling (FI, PT, SI)
 - Peer Training

The European Peer Review Procedure 1

- What is the European Peer Review?
 - definition and main characteristics
 - The European Peer Review is a voluntary, formative, external evaluation procedure within the profession and in a network.
- How is a European Peer Review conducted?
 - the procedure
 - Combines self-evaluation with external evaluation.
 - Follows a systematic procedure (4 phases).
 - Relies on qualitative methods, makes use of quantitative data.

The European Peer Review Procedure 2

- Who evaluates? - **Peers**
 - Independent colleagues from other VET Providers who are on an equal standing with those whose performance is reviewed
 - Additionally a Stakeholder-Peer can be included and a transnational Peer (from another country)
- What is being evaluated? – **Quality Areas**
 - Institutional evaluation: VET Providers or parts of VET Providers
 - Learning and Teaching at the centre of each Peer Review
 - Transnational Peer Reviews: 14 European Quality Areas
 - Can also be used with any other quality framework.

Peer Review and the CQAF

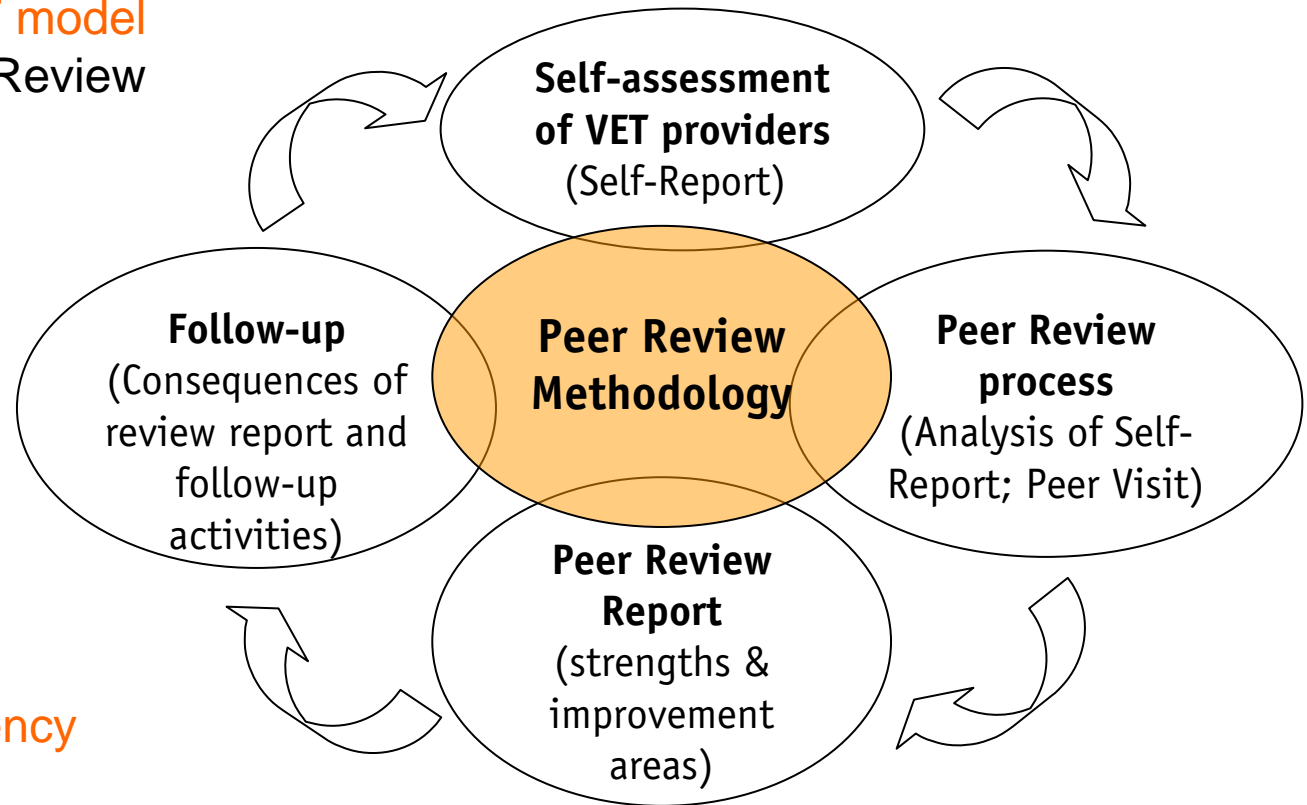
Elements of the CQAF model
in the European Peer Review

Peer Review as
methodology

Contribution to
external monitoring

Use of indicators

Contribution to gains:
mutual trust, transparency



Potential of Peer Review 1

- 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.**

Potential of Peer Review 2

- **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.
 - 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.

Outcomes

Pécs Conference Conclusions

- The European Peer Review can be easily adopted by VET Providers, it is a useful evaluation procedure for stimulating improvement and cooperation at the VET Provider level.
 - Implementation on the level of school/colleges res. in networks
 - National implementation (AT, FI, IT, ES, HU)
- Peer Review contributes to the further development of CQAF
- Further implementation of transnational Peer Reviews desired by VET Providers

Outlook and open questions

- Development of a sustainable structure on the European level (within ENQA-VET?)
 - Transnational Peer Reviews: support to VET Providers, Peer Register, Peer Training, monitoring
 - Peer Review Network (VET Providers)
 - Overall coordination structure for Peer Reviews on all levels (VET Providers, national, European): monitoring, exchange, further development,
- Contribution of Peer Review to a Common Area of VET
 - Peer Review as common European procedure for external evaluation of VET Providers
 - New forms of European cooperation comprising VET Providers (Peer Review Network), national and European level
 - Enhancement of transparency, comparability and mutual trust

Thank you for your attention

Dr. Maria Gutknecht-Gmeiner
Deputy Director

Österreichisches Institut f. Berufsbildungsforschung (*öibf*)
Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training

m.gutknecht-gmeiner@oeibf.at

www.oeibf.at

www.peer-review-education.net