Quality assurance in VET

The certification of VET providers in Portugal

MARGARIDA ABREU

Ministry for Economy and Employment (MEE)
Directorate-General for Employment and Industrial Relations (DGERT)
Department for Quality and Accreditation (DSQA)
THE PAST

Relevant milestones

1997
The Accreditation System for VET providers was created, “recommended” by the European Commission to regulate the access to public funds for VET projects

2007
A new legal framework for education and training was approved and the National Qualifications System (SNQ) was created. Quality assurance of VET is one of its strategic lines

2010
The accreditation system was reformed and gave place to a new Certification System for VET providers
THE PRESENT

Number of accredited vet providers in August 2011

2055

Estimated transition period: 1 year
CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR VET PROVIDERS

Objectives:

😊 Increase VET quality and the credibility of SNQ
😊 Promote the external recognition of VET providers
😊 Guarantee an appropriate use of the European and national public funds for VET

Responsible: Directorate-General for Employment and Industrial Relations (DGERT) Ministry for Economy and Employment
CERTIFICATION IS...

Quality label for VET providers

Recognizes the organisation capacity for developing VET activities in the thematic areas in which they operate
BENEFITS FOR VET PROVIDERS

- Recognition of quality in the market (by their clients)
- Certified education and training
- Access to public funding for training
- Tax benefits
- Public disclosure by DGERT
WHO CAN BE CERTIFIED AS A VET PROVIDER

Private organisations of all sectors

Public services (specific)

Must develop vocational and educational training (initial or continuous)
WHAT IS NEW IN CERTIFICATION

- The recognition of capacity in thematic areas of VET
- The standard is more organised, specific and “linked” to the principles of EQAVET
- Certification has no validity term
- DGERT evaluate VET providers by regular audits (maybe annual)
- Evaluation is based on results and not only on processes
CERTIFICATION STANDARD
(Specific for training activities)

Legal Requirements
- Legal constitution of the organisation and its activities

Quality Requirements
- Human and material resources, pedagogical practices, training management procedures, etc.
QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Divided in:

A – STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

B – TRAINING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

C – EVALUATION, RESULTS AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
A – STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

HUMAN RESOURCES WITH TECHNICAL AND PEDAGOGIC COMPETENCES

- TRAINING MANAGER
- PEDAGOGICAL RESPONSIBLE
- TRAINERS
- ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
A – STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

- SPECIFIC FACILITIES FOR DIFFERENT AREAS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SPACE MEASURES; ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY CONDITIONS; SPECIFIC EQUIPMENTS FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING
B – TRAINING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

ANNUAL PLANIFICATION:
- TRAINING NEEDS DIAGNOSIS
- OPERATIVE GOALS AND INDICATORS
- TRAINING PROJECTS
- PARTNERSHIP
- ...

STRATEGIC PLANING AND MANAGEMENT
DESIGN AND DEVELOPING TRAINING PROGRAMS

B – TRAINING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

GENERAL PHASES:

a. PLANNING AND DESIGNING TRAINING PROGRAMS AND PEDAGOGICAL MATERIALS

b. ORGANIZATION AND EXECUTION OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES (PARTICIPANTS SELECTION, PEDAGOGIC METHODS, TRAINEES SUPPORT...)

c. EVALUATION (TRAINEES RESULTS, PERFORMANCE OF VET PROVIDER....)
B – TRAINING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

RULES

- PARTICIPANTS APPLICATION AND SELECTION
- MATERIAL AND LOGISTIC RULES
- RESPONSABILITIES
- COMPLAINTS
- ...

Regulamento
B – TRAINING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

> ALL DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING EACH COURSE ORGANISED BY THE VET PROVIDER MUST BE ALWAYS UPDATED

...AND OTHER SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE B DIMENSION
ANNUAL EVALUATION:

- MEASURING TRAINING RESULTS AND IMPACT
  (EMPLOYABILITY, PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT, ...)
- MEASURING ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE
  (OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS ACHIEVEMENT, ...)
- SELF EVALUATION
- REVISION, IMPROVEMENT AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
- ...
CERTIFICATION PROCESS

INITIAL CERTIFICATION

APPLICATION
Submitted online @

TECHNICAL EVALUATION
(documentation or audit)

CERTIFICATION

PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS INDICATORS

REGULAR AUDITS

TOTAL OR PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL

TO MAINTAIN CERTIFICATION
Elements of application form:

- Human Resources Curricula
- Previous and Future Projects
- Methodologies and Instruments
- Monitoring and Evaluation Methods
- Organization Elements
- Pedagogic Materials and Logistic
- Facilities and Equipments
TO MAINTAIN CERTIFICATION

REGULAR AUDIT OF VET PROVIDERS

Focused on the compliance with the quality standard

Opportunity to stimulate results and continuous improvement

VET provider give self-evaluation / results indicators
THE FUTURE

New context

- New government in Portugal
- Huge reform of public administration
- Policies concerning VET are not yet completely defined

? Will the public sector continue to regulate this activity in order to guarantee the quality...or it will be left for the market to do it?

? And the articulation with relevant stakeholders to extend the quality assurances issues to all national qualification system?
Thanks for your attention!

margarida.abreu@dgert.mtss.gov.pt

http://certifica.dgert.mtss.gov.pt

Margarida Abreu
Portugal