VET-CERT NEWSLETTER 4 IN ENGLISH   (31-01-2013)

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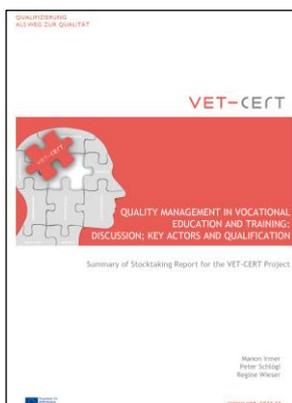**4) VET-CERT – the next step: Pilot project**

Dear readers,

welcome to the fourth and last issue of the VET-CERT Newsletter, the third issue in English!
In the previous issues, you have been able to follow some of the highlights and the good progress of the VET-CERT project. Today is the last day of our project and the time has come for the preliminary summary of the project. From the beginning of VET-CERT we have been working intensively and goal orientated in order to develop all the foreseen products. At this point we are proud to say that with the help of a devoted project team, we have achieved all the set aims. In this fourth issue of VET-CERT Newsletter we will present shortly the main products of VET-CERT, present the latest highlights of the project activities and also give you information about the future steps after the project, i.e. about the pilot project for the implementation of the developed curricular framework "Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training". We hope you enjoy reading the VET-CERT Newsletter. Your feedback is most welcome!

1) VET-CERT – 01.02.2011 – 31.01.2013

During the project VET-CERT new ways for the further professionalization of the implementation and conversion of quality management systems in the Austrian initial VET were sought. The past two years have been filled with intensive and versatile work in order to develop all the foreseen products during the lifetime of the project. You are most welcome to visit our project website, www.vet-cert.at, to catch a more comprehensive view about the project and achieved results but in the following we would like to present you some of the main products of VET-CERT.

1) Stocktaking Report

In the first phase of the project, öibf (Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training) produced a comprehensive Stocktaking Report which provides an overview of the status of quality discussions in Austria, followed by a first stocktaking concerning quality managers as a target group and their tasks on the one hand and concerning offers of education measures for this target group on the other. The study covers the school-based VET sector as well as company-based training and the adult education sector.

Stocktaking Report is available in English at:
www.vet-cert.at/products/stocktaking_report//EN/
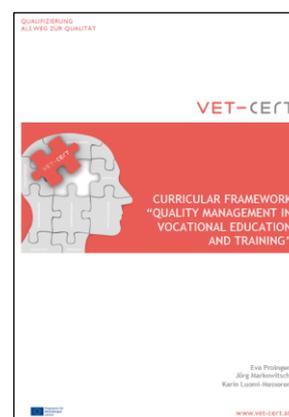
2) Competence Profiles

Furthermore, öibf (Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training) led the development of the competence profiles for quality managers in the school-based VET sector in Austria in collaboration with numerous stakeholders. These quality managers are actors at institutional level (schools) and at system or provider level (provincial and federal level) who are active in the operational or strategic areas as part of QIBB. The competence profiles for principals, school quality process managers, school inspectorate, regional quality process managers and federal quality process managers follow a common structure. The first four competence categories correspond to the different phases of the quality cycle (Plan-Do-Check-Act). In addition, from phase 3 to phase 4 overlapping competences were defined during the development of the competence profiles, whereby the 8th category is seen solely for the actors on strategic level. The developed competence profiles form also the basis for the future work on the development of the curricular framework.

All competence profiles are available at:
www.vet-cert.at/products/competence_profiles//EN/

3) Curricular Framework "Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training"

With the lead of 3s research laboratory and with the help of a development team, the curricular framework "Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training" was developed. The Curricular Framework includes for school quality process managers (SQPMs) a basic programme "Quality Management in VET" (offered as extra-occupational programme at university colleges of education or universities) with 12 ECTS credits. Particular attention is paid to the recognition of qualifications and previous knowledge. The basic programme comprises four modules (including QIBB, Instruments and Methods for Quality Management, Change Management and Communication as well as Process- and Project Management) and one module related to project work/practical phase. For people with strategic tasks in quality assurance, such as principals and school inspectorates, a separate programme was designed with 6 ECTS Credits. It comprises two modules, with both target groups sharing module 1 "Quality management and QIBB". The curricular framework includes also recommendations on access and admission requirements, recognition possibilities, examination regulations, and on the didactical design.

Curricular Framework "Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training" is available at: www.vet-cert.at/products/curricular_framework//EN/

4) Certification Concept

A further task of 3s research laboratory and the development team was to develop a concept of certification for the implementation of the curricular framework "Quality Management in Vocational Education and Training". A programme with a focus on quality management is, of course, especially required to assure and develop its own quality. For this purpose, the VET-CERT project has - from the beginning - foreseen the development of a relevant concept in addition to the curricular framework. This document summarizes these considerations as recommendations for quality assurance and certification for the implementation of the curricular framework "Quality management in vocational education and training".

Certification Concept is available at:
www.vet-cert.at/products/certification-concept//EN/

2) VET-CERT Final Conference, 3rd of December 2012 in Hotel Strudlhof, Vienna

VET-CERT Final Conference, „QUALIFICATION AS A WAY TO QUALITY - Professionalisierung von Qualitätsverantwortlichen in der Berufsbildung", which at the same time was the 4th Quality Network Conference for Austrian VET, took place on the 3rd of December 2012 in Hotel Strudlhof, Vienna. To the around 175 international participants the latest developments and product, the curricular framework "Quality management in vocational education and training", was presented. After the introduction to the curricular framework by Jörg Markowitsch, all interested had the possibility to get more closely acquainted with the curricular framework through six workshops. Each workshop in German concentrated on one module of the curricular framework with the aim to provide a concrete insight into the specific module by showcasing the content of a module. In addition, an international workshop in English was also offered for international participants where the transferability of the curricular framework into other national contexts was discussed.

At the VET-CERT Final Conference the next step for the implementation of the project results, was announced. The pilot project for the implementation of the curricular framework "Quality management in Vocational Education and Training" will start in the autumn semester 2013. More detailed information about the new pilot will be available in the next issue of ARQA-VET Newsletter.

We would like to warmly thank you all participants, keynote speakers and workshop leaders, as well as our project partners, the students of Hertha Firnberg Schulen and Hotel Strudlhof for a successful and productive VET-CERT Final Conference.

Conference documentation (mostly in German), including videos of the Keynotes, presentations and photos from the conference, is available at:
www.arqa-vet.at/arqa-vet/konferenz-2012/dokumentation/

3) VET-CERT in retrospect

VET-CERT workshop at the Final Conference of the EQAVET Projects
"European Conference on Quality in VET", Brussels 17. – 18.01.2013

"EQAVET Promotion and Knowledge Management Unit" organised on the 17. – 18.01.2013 an international final conference in Brussels where all five EQAVET projects had the possibility to present the results to an international audience. During the 2-day conference, the VET-CERT Team carried out two workshops, in which five different modules of the curricular framework "Quality management in Vocational Education and Training" was made familiar to the participants. Team VET-CERT, Helene Babel (BMUKK), Franz Reithuber (HTL Steyr), Franz Gramlinger (ARQA-VET), Michaela Jonach (ARQA-VET), Daniela Farkas (ARQA-VET) and Jouko Luomi (ARQA-VET, succeeded in making the curricular framework more familiar to the international audience in a highly interactive and inspirational way.

All presentations and documentation of the conference, as well as further information on the cooperation of the EQAVET Projects and about the "EQAVET Promotion and Knowledge Management Unit" will and are available online: www.eqavetprojects.eu.

4) VET-CERT – the next step: Pilot project

As the VET-CERT project comes to its end, it is also time to look forward. In the midst of the preparations of the final phase of the project, we have intensively been planning and preparing the next step after the project. The planned pilot project for the implementation of the curricular framework was announced at the VET-CERT final conference.

Shortly, more detailed information about the pilot project will be published on the ARQA-VET websites (www.arqa-vet.at) and VET-CERT project websites (www.vet-cert.at) as well as in the next issue of ARQA-VET Newsletter, so please stay tuned!

At the end of the VET-CERT project we would like to thank you all the numerous persons and organisations who have contributed their valuable experiences and work to the implementation of the project and thus made it possible to accomplish such impressive results and products. Dear project partners, associated partners, school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, principals, representatives of the school inspectorates and federal quality school process managers, members of the development team and all you others who were involved with VET-CERT in its various phases - with your support we made it! Thank you very much and until the next step and time!

Kind regards,
the VET-CERT Team

Responsible for the content are: Jouko Luomi, Franz Gramlinger and Michaela Jonach, Translation from German to English by Jouko Luomi.

If you find this newsletter and the project interesting, then please feel free to forward it (Newsletter can be subscribed through simple e-mail to: newsletter@vet-cert.at) – your subscription is most welcome! If you prefer not to receive further information of this kind, please let us know by sending an e-mail to the above address!

VET-CERT – Qualification as a Way to Quality is a Leonardo da Vinci project developed and coordinated by ARQA-VET in cooperation with 12 national and international project partners.

With the VET-CERT project the competence development of persons in quality management functions in initial VET and in adult education will be fostered. This will support the professional implementation of the Quality Initiative VET (QIBB) and the implementation of the Ö-CERT framework in adult education as well as the implementation of the European reference framework for quality assurance in VET (EQARF) in both sectors. Professionally qualified and certified persons (principals, school quality process managers, regional quality process managers, quality managers in adult education etc.) should receive a comprehensive understanding of quality management tools and the possibilities they offer.

More information about the VET-CERT project is available on the project website:
www.vet-cert.at