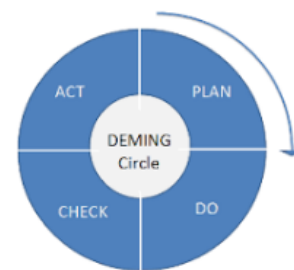


05- THE OPENQASS INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER CERTIFICATE

The development and implementation of the IQAM (Institutional Quality Assurance manager certificate) was the Outcome 05 of OpenQAsS. The certification programme was designed to focus on real needs of Quality Managers involved in vocational education. These requirements were gathered by conducting teacher surveys in five countries, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Scotland and Spain. The results showed clearly that the most common approach to quality management was a haphazard, informal one, in most vocational institutions, with no formal structure. With a clear need to address this, the OpenQAsS consortium created a syllabus, learning materials and certification to enable experienced Vocational and Further Education teachers to be educated in formal quality assurance and management techniques, and to earn a professional award in Quality Assurance, the IQAM. A thorough research programme was carried out to find existing materials to form the foundation of the certification programme, and a textbook for VET providers developed by CEDEFOP was considered to be the most appropriate base text for the course. A key component of the CEDEFOP philosophy is the PDCA cycle (Plan, Do, Check Act) for planning, implementing, evaluating and reviewing VET and FET education processes, supported by common quality criteria and indicators.



In 2009, in a cooperative effort among social partners and EU member states, developed a common framework for quality assurance in VET, EQAVET, (European Quality Assurance Reference Framework. EQAVET is a reference instrument designed to help EU countries promote and monitor the continuous improvement of their vocational education and training systems on the basis of commonly agreed references. Each module in the course has a forum, a description, a rationale and learning outcomes. A short intro video sets out objectives for each module. Each module is subdivided into short concise sections, richly illustrated with diagrams and charts backed with well-placed pertinent videos. Assignments for each section help to solidify the learning experience.



At the end of the course, one can test their knowledge by attempting a quiz. Questions, for the main part, are multiple choice, graded which is for personal information and not recorded or counted as part of the final assessment.

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Certified Quality Assurance Managers in Schools

QA activities are generally coordinated and implemented by a core quality team within a VET institution, including teachers with some quality responsibility and some experts, internal or external, under the overall responsibility of a Quality Manager.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein.

The certification course aims to equip the Quality Manager to:

- be responsible for the functioning and improvement of the quality system;
- design, approve and issue documents within the quality system;
- hold annual meetings to assess the functioning of the quality system;
- plan and organise internal audits of quality, and suggest revision and preventive actions;
- encourage staff to make use of the quality system and to submit proposals for improvement;
- manage the activities of internal auditors and quality representatives in departments and divisions.

IQAM Learning Modules

Module 1 - Planning an institutional quality management system

1.1 Quality improvement terms

1.2 The EQAVET Framework

1.3 Fields of quality management and the structure of a QMS

Module 2 - Developing an institutional quality management system

2.1 Core documents for a quality management system

2.2 Identification and description of processes

2.3 Definition of performance indicators and quality objectives

Module 3: Operating an institutional quality management system

3.1 Methodologies, evaluation approaches and ICT-tools for data collection

3.2 The Quality Cycle (PDCA) in practice

3.3 Self-assessment and feedback

Course Components

IQAM is a fully developed elearning course, delivered in Moodle, and including an interactive environment whereby teacher candidates can interact with a tutor and benefit from a peer support network of current students and graduates of the course on online fora, to ensure that they the optimum learning and shared experiences from all involved. This collaborative activity also earns students some points towards their certification, (20%).

Each of the three modules has one assignment to be completed, reflecting real life applications of the learning of the module, worth 10% each, (30%).

Finally, there is a terminal exam, taken online after completing all three modules, making up the final 50% of the total grade.

NEWSLETTER

Published by: ICS, IRL
Editor: Mary Cleary

1. ISSUE

August 2017

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Open Source Quality Assurance System for Vocational Education

The OpenQAsS project vision is to utilise the potential of today's networking technology in all areas of the implementation of the EQAVET Reference Framework principles, and so make the resulting tools part of the daily practice of institutional Quality Assurance in our VET schools.

Target groups

- Teachers and headmasters of VET schools; managers and trainers of VET provider companies;
- VET schools and VET providers;
- Researchers working in the field of the vocational education;
- Software developers joining the OpenQAsS.org community.

Objectives

- To improve the culture of quality assurance by involvement of VET teachers and trainers into online consultation in the partner countries;
- To develop Open Source Software toolkit (OpenQAsS) to promote and facilitate QA management in VET schools and adult educational VET providers;
- To develop a certificate – Institutional Quality Assurance Manager (IQAM) – for VET teachers and trainers who take responsibility for quality management tasks in institutions.

Programme: Erasmus+, Strategic Partnership, Vocational Education and Training

Participating countries: Hungary, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland

Project duration: September 2014 – August 2017

Project ID: 2014-1-HU01-KA242-002356

Project website:

<http://OpenQAsS.itstudy.hu/en>

Coordinator: iTStudy Hungary Ltd.

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Partners

Countries: Hungary, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland

