WELCOME

The OpenQAsS project aims to develop an open source software toolkit for supporting the management of QA systems in the vocational schools and training providers. The main goal of the second working phase was to carry out a deeper requirement analysis by involving VET teachers from the partner countries, and invite them for discussion on multiplier events. The leader of this working phase was iTStudy Hungary Ltd., who managed the technical implementation, content creation and translation as well. The Consortium elaborated an online questionnaire in four languages. We received altogether 266 samples (HU: 102, ES: 49, IE: 37, IT: 78).

Have you heard of the European quality assurance initiative, called EQAVET

- No, I have not heard about it — 63%
- Yes, I heard about it, but I do not have detailed information on this system — 26%
- Yes, I am aware of the EQAVET principles, defining quality criteria and indicators for vocational education — 9%
- I am fully aware of EQAVET, and implement the quality criteria and indicators it defines. — 2%
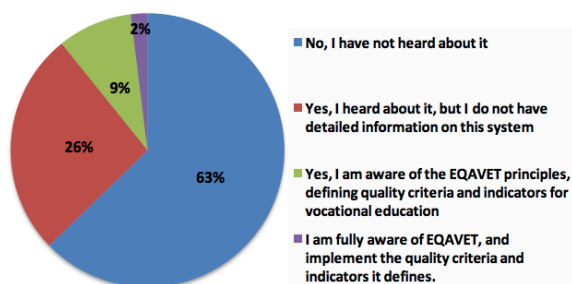
The participants expressed several barriers for effective implementation of QA in their VET programs and schools: lack of resources, overload of work (especially in management tasks) without recognition thus creates reluctance in the staff to adopt new roles and activities. Both the survey and the consultations resulted in the conclusions, that the VET teachers in the partner countries are not trained in quality management, they have no information about the European initiatives like EQAVET, and no systematic knowledge on Quality Assurance and Quality Management.

After recognising the very negative results, we decided to motivate the teachers much more intensively to understand this situation and to find handrails, before having started the Hungarian online consultation. We started the discussion with asking the teachers to watch relevant European and national video presentations[1] on ongoing research aimed to reveal the main factors of the quality of education and successful performance of VET students.

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[1] Andreas Schleicher: Use data to build better schools, TEDGlobal 2012 · Filmed July 2012 · 19:47, Judit Lannert: Schools' efficiency, successful schools, Educational conference, Eszterházy Károly Főiskola, Eger 30 of April 2015, (English version: http://bit.ly/1p1BgI4, Hungarian version: http://bit.ly/1Qvk86M) Mária Hartyányi: Built-in Quality Assurance - "The role of teachers in the field of quality of education" (https://prezi.com/yc8rw-heh43s/built-in-quality-assurance/, https://prezi.com/v-67ej75frxt/beepitett-minosegbiztositas/)

The main conclusion of the preliminary research for the consultation with teachers (studies, presentation) was in accordance with the idea agreed by the partnership in Milan: there are several factors effecting the performance of the school, of the students: the size of the classes, the quality of school management, spending per students, etc., BUT **the most significant factor is the quality of teaching staff.** This confirmed the Consortium in the idea we agreed in the partner meeting in Milan: **the focus of the system should be on supporting the work (lesson planning, self-reflection, etc.) of teacher.**

The most important result of the second working phase was the draft concept on OpenQAsS Toolkit: it will be a **Pedagogical Quality Management System of Teaching Staff, a web based application offering an own, closed working platform of every teacher, and supporting their daily work, as follows**

- Lesson planning, classroom management with several functions (like entering, editing, printing, exporting), including options for linking and sharing methods, digital contents, list of tools, and self-reflections;
- Searching among the lesson plans by several criteria, and creating reports (for instance with total hours of a certain topic);
- Creating a database of the linked digital learning objects (pictures, videos, presentations, etc.), with the option of making the objects private or public offering for further use by other teachers, and asking for external evaluation;
- Creating professional e-portfolios from the collection of lesson plans and the digital learning objects;
- Collecting feedbacks from students and parents (offering standard questionnaires, and online evaluation), from leaders and fellows;
- Supporting collaboration and knowledge sharing among the teachers on teaching methods, tools, resources and results of further trainings;
- Collaboration on quality goals, school' strategy at institutional level.
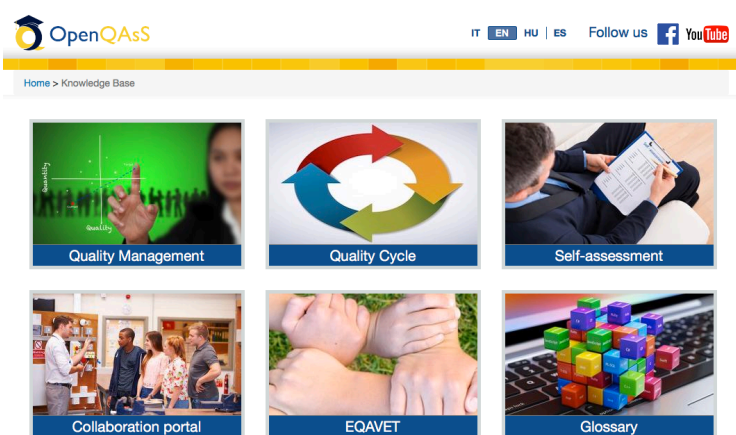
The application includes **an interactive QM Manual with the main concepts, methods, tools of quality management together with a database of standard QM documents and questionnaires, as the results of survey clearly declare the lack of knowledge of QA.**

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

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

Project website:
http://openqass.itstudy.hu/en

Coordinator: iTStudy Hungary Ltd.

Contact: Mária Hartyányi.
Email: maria.hartyanyi@itstudy.hu

Partners

iTStudy Hungary Educational and Research Centre for ICT - Hungary

Universidad de Alcala - Spain

AICA, Associazione Italiana per l'Informatica e il Calcolo Automatico - Italy

CAPDM Ltd. - United-Kingdom

SZÁMALK Szalézi Vocational High School - Hungary

National Research Council Institute - Italy

TREBAG Ltd. - Hungary

ICS-SKILLS Certification Body Of The Irish Computer Society - Ireland