ANNEX I Relevant legal acts in the field of skills, education and training

1. Council Decision of 2 April 1963 laying down general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy[[1]](#footnote-1).
2. Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning[[2]](#footnote-2) calls Member States to have in place arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning which enables individuals to obtain qualifications which comply with agreed standards that are either the same as, or equivalent to, the standards for qualifications obtained through formal education programmes.
3. The Joint Report of the Council and the Commission of 15 December 2015 on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) prioritised in the area of adult learning, inter alia, the provision of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and of sufficient second-chance opportunities leading to a recognised EQF qualification for those without EQF level 4[[3]](#footnote-3). That Joint Report also includes medium-term deliverables for vocational education and training, including enhancing access to qualifications for all through more flexible and permeable vocational education and training systems, in particular by offering efficient and integrated guidance services and making available validation of non-formal and informal learning.
4. The Council Recommendation of 19 December 2016 on Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults[[4]](#footnote-4), calls on Member States to boost access to and take up of quality learning opportunities offered to adults with low levels of skills in three key steps: skills assessment, tailored learning offer and validation and recognition of the skills acquired.
5. The Council Recommendation of 22 May 2017 on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning[[5]](#footnote-5) ensures that qualifications with an EQF level are underpinned by common principles for quality assurance (Annex IV of the EQF Recommendation) and that common principles for credit systems are used when qualifications with an EQF level are built on credits (Annex V of the EQF Recommendation).
6. The Council Recommendation of 20 November 2017 on tracking graduates[[6]](#footnote-6) calls upon Member States to improve the availability and quality of data about vocational education and training and higher education graduate outcomes by 2020.
7. Decision (EU) 2018/646 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 April 2018 on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass)[[7]](#footnote-7) establishes a platform that will support the documentation and description of skills and qualifications and offers an e-Portfolio tool for users (e.g. job-seekers, learners) to store information on their skills and qualifications, create CVs and job applications. It will also serve as a web portal with information on qualifications and qualification systems, guidance, validation, recognition and other topics related to skills and qualifications. The new Europass service will also support use of authentication services (e.g. digital signatures/certificates).
8. The Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning[[8]](#footnote-8) stresses the need for addressing the development of key competences in a lifelong learning perspective and to ensure support at all levels of education, training and learning including through the further development of initial and continuing vocational education and training.
9. The Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad[[9]](#footnote-9) invites Member States to put in place the steps necessary to achieve, by 2025, automatic recognition of higher education and upper secondary qualifications, as well as recognition of the outcomes of learning periods to work towards a European Education Area. This Recommendation stresses the need to further develop quality assurance instruments in vocational education and training in line with the European Framework for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training and its further developments with a view to foster transparency and build trust in each other's secondary education and training systems. To facilitate mobility and recognition of the outcomes of learning periods abroad, the Recommendation also calls on extending the use of the EU tools developed in vocational education and training: such as those made available through the Europass online platform and the Memorandum of Understanding and Learning Agreement that are part of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training.
10. The Council Conclusions on moving towards a vision of a European Education Area[[10]](#footnote-10) stress “that initiatives included in the concept and future actions to be proposed and undertaken as a part of a European Education Area … should include all levels and types of education and training, including adult education and vocational education and training”.
11. The Council Resolution on further developing the European Education Area[[11]](#footnote-11) to support future-oriented education and training systems recalls that “the area should be underpinned by the life-long learning continuum, from early childhood education and care to school and vocational education and training, to higher education and adult learning”.
12. The 2019 Council Conclusions on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults[[12]](#footnote-12) stresses the need to put in place sustainable long-term measures for adult upskilling and reskilling as part of a broader strategic approach to lifelong skills development.
13. The 2019 Council conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing also invites Member States to promote comprehensive, life-long learning policies as well as skills and competence development throughout life.
14. A Commission Communication on ‘Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020’[[13]](#footnote-13) sets the priorities for transforming the Union into a sustainable economy, driving the twin digital and green transition, transforming our Social Market Economy to ensure that Europe remains the home of the world’s most advanced welfare systems and is a vibrant hub of innovation and competitive entrepreneurship. It places a strong emphasis on the need to strengthen investment in skills and reforms of education and training systems.

ANNEX II - The EQAVET Framework

**Part A. EQAVET indicative descriptors**

The EQAVET indicative descriptors aim to support Member States and VET providers when implementing the EQAVET Framework. They are structured by phases of the quality cycle: *Planning – Implementation – Evaluation – Review*. They can be applied to both initial and continuing VET and are applicable to all learning environments: school based provision and work based learning including apprenticeships schemes.

| **Quality Criteria** | **Indicative descriptors at VET-system level** | **Indicative descriptors at VET-provider level** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Planning reflects a strategic vision shared by the relevant stake­ holders and includes explicit goals/objectives, actions and indicators | Goals/objectives of VET are described for the medium and long terms, and linked to European and Sustainable Development Goals taking into account environmental sustainability considerations Social partners and all other relevant stakeholders participate in setting VET goals and objectives at the different levelsTargets are established and monitored through specific indicators (success criteria)Mechanisms and procedures have been established to identify the training needs of the labour market and society An information policy has been devised to ensure optimum disclosure of quality results/outcomes subject to national/ regional data protection requirementsStandards and guidelines for recognition, validation and certification of competences of individuals have been definedVET qualifications are described using learning outcomesMechanisms are established for the quality assurance of the design, assessment and review of qualificationsVET programmes are designed to allow flexible learning pathways and to respond quickly to changing labour market needs | European, national and regional VET policy goals/objectives are reflected in the local targets set by the VET providersExplicit goals/objectives and targets are set and monitored, and programmes are designed to meet themOngoing consultation with social partners and all other relevant stakeholders takes place to identify specific local/ individual needsResponsibilities in quality management and development have been explicitly allocatedThere is an early involvement of staff in planning, including with regard to quality developmentProviders plan cooperative initiatives with relevant stakeholdersThe relevant stakeholders participate in the process of analysing local needsVET providers have an explicit and transparent quality assurance system in place Measures are designed to ensure compliance with data protection rules  |
| Implementation plans are devised in consultation with stakeholders and include explicit principles | Implementation plans are established in cooperation with social partners, VET providers and other relevant stakeholders at the different levelsImplementation plans include consideration of the resources required, the capacity of the users and the tools and guidelines needed for supportGuidelines and standards have been devised for implementation at different levels. These guidelines and standards include assessment, validation and certification of qualificationsImplementation plans include specific support towards the training of teachers and trainers, including for digital skills and environmental sustainabilityVET providers’ responsibilities in the implementation process are explicitly described and made transparentA national and/or regional quality assurance framework has been devised and includes guidelines and quality standards at VET- provider level to promote continuous improvement and self-regulation | Resources are appropriately internally aligned/assigned with a view to achieving the targets set in the implementation plansRelevant and inclusive partnerships, including those between teachers and trainers, are explicitly supported to implement the actions plannedThe strategic plan for staff competence development specifies the need for training for teachers and trainersStaff undertake regular training and develop cooperation with relevant external stakeholders to support capacity building and quality improvement, and to enhance performanceVET providers’ programmes enable learners to meet the expected learning outcomes and become involved in the learning processVET providers respond to the learning needs of individuals by using a learner – centred approach which enable learners to achieve the expected learning outcomesVET providers promote innovation in teaching and learning methods, in school and in the workplace, supported by the use of digital technologies and online-learning toolsVET providers use valid, accurate and reliable methods to assess individuals’ learning outcomes |
| Evaluation of outcomes and processes is regularly carried out andsupported by measurement | A methodology for evaluation has been devised, covering internal and external evaluationStakeholder involvement in the monitoring and evaluation process is agreed and clearly describedThe national/regional standards and processes for improving and assuring quality are relevant and proportionate to the needs of the sectorSystems are subject to self-evaluation, internal and external review, as appropriateEarly warning systems are implementedPerformance indicators are appliedRelevant, regular and coherent data collection takes place, in order to measure success and identify areas for improvement. Appropriate data collection methodologies have been devised, e.g. questionnaires and indicators/metrics | Self-assessment/self-evaluation is periodically carried out under national and regional regulations/frameworks or at the initiative of VET providers, covering also the digital readiness and environmental sustainability of VET institutionsEvaluation and review covers processes and results/outcomes of education and training including the assessment of learner satisfaction as well as staff performance and satisfactionEvaluation and review includes the collection and use of data, and adequate and effective mechanisms to involve internal and external stakeholdersEarly warning systems are implemented |
| Review | Procedures, mechanisms and instruments for undertaking reviews are defined and used to improve the quality of provision at all levelsProcesses are regularly reviewed and action plans for change devised. Systems are adjusted accordinglyInformation on the outcomes of evaluation is made publicly available | Learners’ feedback is gathered on their individual learning experience and on the learning and teaching environment. Together with teachers’, trainers' and all other relevant stakeholders’ feedback this is used to inform further actionsInformation on the outcomes of the review is widely and publicly availableProcedures on feedback and review are part of a strategic learning process in the organisation, support the development of high quality provision, and improve opportunities for learners.Results/outcomes of the evaluation process are discussed with relevant stakeholders and appropriate action plans are put in place |

**Part B. The reference set of EQAVET Indicators**

This section defines a set of reference indicators which can be used to support the evaluation and quality improvement of national/regional VET systems and/or VET providers when implementing the EQAVET framework.

| **Indicator** | **Type of Indicator** | **Purpose of the Policy** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Overarching Indicators for Quality Assurance** |
| ***Number 1***  |
| Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers:(a) share of VET providers applying internal quality assurance systems defined by law/at own initiative(b) share of accredited VET providers | Context/Input indicator | Promote a quality improvement culture at VET-provider levelIncrease the transparency of quality of trainingImprove mutual trust on training provision |
| ***Number 2*** |
| Investment in training of teachers and trainers:(a) share of teachers and trainers participating in further training(b) amount of funds invested, including for digital skills | Input/Process indicator | Promote ownership of teachers and trainers in the process of quality development in VETImprove the responsiveness of VET to changing demands of labour marketIncrease individual learning capacity buildingImprove learners’ achievement |
| **Indicators supporting quality objectives for VET policies** |
| ***Number 3*** |
| Participation rate in VET programmes:Number of participants in VET programmes[[14]](#footnote-14), according to the type of programme and the individual criteria[[15]](#footnote-15) | Input/Process/Output indicator | Obtain basic information at VET- system and VET-provider levels on the attractiveness of VETTarget support to increase access to VET, including for disadvantaged groups |
| ***Number 4*** |
| Completion rate in VET programmes:Number of persons having successfully completed/abandoned VET programmes, according to the type of programme and the individual criteria | Process/Output/Outcome indicator | Obtain basic information on educational achievements and the quality of training processesCalculate drop-out rates compared to participation rateSupport successful completion as one of the main objectives for quality in VETSupport adapted training provision, including for disadvantaged groups |
| ***Number 5*** |
| Placement rate in VET programmes:(a) destination of VET learners at a designated point in time after completion of training, according to the type of programme and the individual criteria[[16]](#footnote-16)(b) share of employed learners at a designated point in time after completion of training, according to the type of programme and the individual criteria | Outcome indicator | Support employabilityImprove responsiveness of VET to the changing demands in the labour marketSupport adapted training provision, including for disadvantaged groups |
| ***Number 6*** |
| Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace:(a) information on occupation obtained by individuals after completion of training, according to type of training and individual criteria(b) satisfaction rate of individuals and employers with acquired skills/competences | Outcome indicator(mix of qualitative and quantitative data) | Increase employabilityImprove responsiveness of VET to changing demands in the labour marketSupport adapted training provision, including for disadvantaged groups |
| **Context information** |
| ***Number 7*** |
| Unemployment rate[[17]](#footnote-17) according to individual criteria | Context indicator | Background information for policy decision-making at VET-system level |
| ***Number 8*** |
| Prevalence of vulnerable groups:(a) percentage of participants in VET classified as disadvantaged groups (in a defined region or catchment area) according to age and gender(b) success rate of disadvantaged groups according to age and gender | Context indicator | Background information for policy decision-making at VET-system levelSupport access to VET for disadvantaged groupsSupport adapted training provision for disadvantaged groups |
| ***Number 9*** |
| Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market:1. information on mechanisms set up to identify changing demands at different levels
2. evidence of the use of such mechanisms and their effectiveness
 | Context/Input indicator (qualitative information) | Improve responsiveness of VET to changing demands in the labour marketSupport employability |
| ***Number 10*** |
| Schemes used to promote better access to VET and provide guidance to (potential) VET learners:(a) information on existing schemes at different levels(b) evidence of their effectiveness | Process indicator (qualitative information) | Promote access to VET, including for disadvantaged groupsProvide guidance to (potential) VET learners Support adapted training provision |

1. OJ : JOP\_1963\_063\_R\_1338\_01 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. OJ C 398, 22.12.2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See Annex II of the EQF on Descriptors defining levels in the European Qualifications Framework [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. OJ C 484, 24.12.2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. OJ C 189, 15.6.2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. OJ C 423, 9.12.2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. OJ L 112, 2.5.2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. OJ C 189, 4.6.2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. OJ C 444, 10.12.2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. OJ C 195, 7.6.2018, p. 7-10 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. OJ C 389, 18.11.2019, p. 1-6 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. OJ C 189, 5.6.2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. COM(2019) 650 final [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. For IVT: a period of 6 weeks of training is needed before a learner is counted as a participant. For lifelong learning: percentage of population admitted to formal VET programmes. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Besides basic information on gender and age, other social criteria might be applied, e.g. early school leavers, highest educational achievement, migrants, persons with disabilities, length of unemployment. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. For IVT: including information on the destination of learners who have dropped out. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Definition according to ILO: individuals aged 15-74 without work, actively seeking employment and ready to start work. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)