

Declaration of Interest

to join the 'European Network on Quality Assurance in Higher VET' (QA HiVETnet)

Quality assurance is a key issue in VET and thus also in higher VET. With the establishment of the 'Network on Quality Assurance in Higher VET', which is led by UEAPME (www.ueapme.com), the project partners of the Erasmus+ project QA HiVETnet (2014-1-AT-01-KA202-000951, www.qa-hivet.net) want to underline the significance of this issue and contribute to its promotion and implementation.

What is higher VET?

Within the Network **higher VET** is defined as follows:

- Higher VET qualifications are allocated to those NQF levels which are referenced to the EQF levels 5 to 8.
- These qualifications are usually acquired outside the higher education sector and therefore also outside the Bologna system.
- Higher VET is consistently demand-driven. Critical are the specific qualification needs of the companies providing the impetus for developing new or adapting existing qualifications.
- The higher VET sector is characterised by a governance structure with close ties to the economy. Professional and business associations as well as chambers and social partners are the driving and controlling forces behind the development and implementation of qualifications and therefore the guarantee for proximity to the labour market and demand orientation.
- Higher VET is characterised by the direct involvement of professional practitioners from the companies, who contribute their expertise throughout the entire "lifecycle" – from the development and implementation of a qualification up to its evaluation.
- Higher VET makes it possible to provide tailor-made further and higher qualification for people who, as a rule, already have a relevant IVET qualification and/or several years of experience in company-based practice, with different regulations applying in the national systems.
- At the foreground of the qualifications provided in higher VET are practical work and experience-based learning, supported or complemented by the theoretical knowledge required for action competence.
- One major focus when providing qualifications in higher VET is to deepen and/or expand specialist competence, thus enabling graduates to perform complex tasks, including in combination with unforeseeable situations at work which prompt certain actions, at their own responsibility, or to coordinate the performance of these tasks.
- Graduates in higher VET additionally acquire managerial skills which enable them to lead project teams, fields of work or organisational units as well as to set up companies. In addition, they are able to assume responsibility for staff and often to carry out the company-based training of junior employees as well.

- The provision of specialist and managerial competences is complemented practically by the strengthening of key soft skills (such as communicative skills, the ability to deal with conflict, enthusiasm, problem-solving ability, creativity, innovation capacity) to further expand the professional competence.
- Qualifications provided in higher VET are not geared specifically towards companies but open up to graduates a wide activity field in the economy.

What are the goals of the Network?

The **goals** of this Network are to

- promote the topic of higher VET, especially the aspect of quality assurance of higher VET, at the European and national level,
- contribute expert knowledge on higher VET, particularly regarding quality assurance in higher VET, to related discussion processes at the European and national level,
- further develop the European Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Higher VET,
- encourage the application and implementation of the European Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Higher VET,
- participate in the exchange and transfer of expert knowledge, experience and best practice examples in higher VET, especially regarding quality assurance in higher VET, inside and outside the Network, such as by participation in events or the dissemination of information.

What is expected of the Network members?

Any organisation playing an active part or being interested in higher VET, in particular in quality assurance in higher VET, as defined above is welcome to join the Network. In accordance with the aims of the Network members are **expected** to

- contribute their expert knowledge of different aspects of higher VET, especially aspects of quality assurance in higher VET,
- take part in discussions about higher VET, especially regarding quality assurance in higher VET,
- share information, knowledge and expertise with other members of the Network,
- implement the European Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Higher VET and encourage their implementation,
- contribute to the further development of the European Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Higher VET.

If you want to join the Network, please fill in the information below.

The QA HiVETnet project (www.qa-hivet.net) was financially supported by the European Union. This does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the project partners. The EU cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Details on the organisation (Network member) and the contact person

Organisation:

Address:

Country:

Website:

Name of the contact person:

E-Mail:

Telephone number:

Type of organisation and role in (quality assurance in) higher VET

Please tick the appropriate field(s) [listed alphabetically]:

- Certifying body
- Institution involved in the governance structure of higher VET qualifications
- Ministry
- Qualification provider
- Research institute
- Sectoral organisation
- Social partner
- Training institute
- Other, please specify:

Area(s) of expertise

Please tick the field(s) in which you can bring in your expertise in the Network:

- Needs analysis
- Development and modernisation of higher VET qualifications
- Teaching the education content
- Assessment procedures
- Evaluation
- Governance issues

Please send this form to Liliane Volozinskis, Director Social Affairs and Training Policy at UEAPME.
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