Self-assessment in Vocational Education and Training in Finland

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For education and learning

Decentralised government
- **Parliament of Finland**
- **Ministry of Education and Culture**
- **Finnish National Board of Education**
- **VET providers:** Federation of Municipalities, Municipalities or private organisations
- relatively autonomous VET providers
- providers have been merged to form larger entities (also in the future)
- 134 VET providers (2000: 212 providers)

No inspectorate system in Finland

Self-assessment in Finnish VET

- National system of steering VET
  - **Law** - self-assessment of VET providers and participation in national external evaluations
  - A Quality Management Recommendation since late 1990s includes recommendations for self-assessment/evaluation
  - **VET quality strategy 2011-2020**
    The provider can choose the methods of quality management and self-assessment.
  - **By 2015 VET providers should have effective quality assurance and quality improvement system/operational system. (The Parliament)**
  - Ministry of Education and Culture appointed committee of key stakeholders e.g. to prepare a set criteria for evaluation.
  - **Common criteria** for self-assessment include criteria for evaluation/self-assessment

Self-assessment in Finnish VET

- **By 2015 all VET providers completed a self-assessment** based on the common criteria. The national evaluation report is ready and the further development of QA systems based on results at VET provider level is taking place.
- Common criteria for evaluation/self-assessment will be further developed based on experiences.
- VET Strategy: **Systematic and long-term support** will be given to VET providers at different stages of their QA work. This will develop their quality management by means of self-evaluation and peer learning as well as peer review, recognition and incentives.
- FNBE as Quality Assurance National Reference Point (QANRP) in Finland supports VET providers.
- Support is given to regional QA networks and a national QA Network, Yearly Quality seminar for VET providers etc.
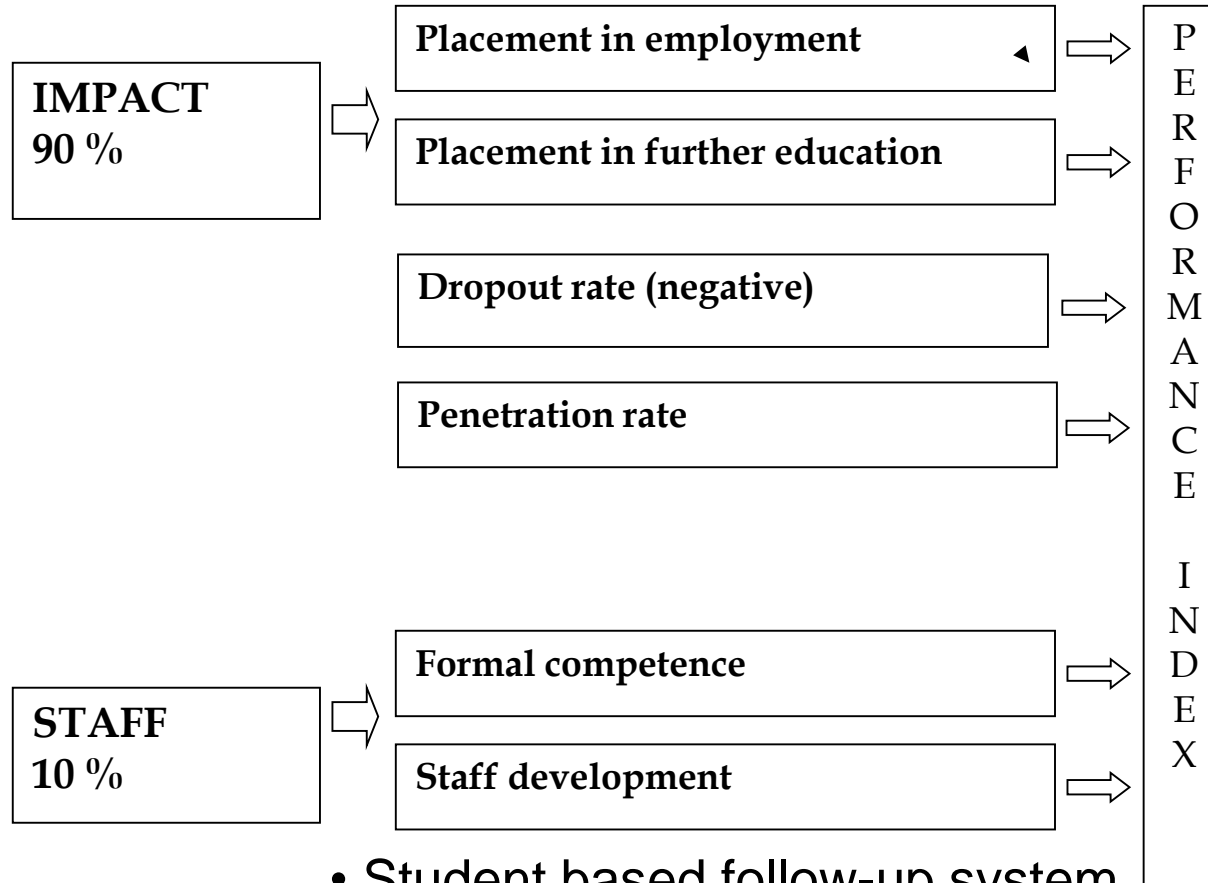
Self-assessment in Finnish VET

- All salient findings relating to the quality and impact of VET will be published. (QA strategy for VET). Self-assessment results of VET providers were published on the webpage of FNBE.

- The next national evaluation of QA systems, based on self-assessment of VET providers, will be in 2019.

- Quality management of VET providers
    - Providers can choose their method of self-assessment
    - Many of them use the Excellence Model for an overall self-assessment
    - Peer reviews (including self-assessment) for assessment of specific topics or education fields
    - Benchmarking of results on a voluntary basis etc.
    - Development plans are based on self-assessment results and their follow-up (to cover the weak points).

Output oriented Quality Assurance performance-based financing at the moment

IMPACT 90 %	⇒	Placement in employment ◄	⇒	P E R F O R M A N C E I N D E X
		Placement in further education	⇒	
		Dropout rate (negative)	⇒	
		Penetration rate	⇒	
STAFF 10 %	⇒	Formal competence	⇒	
		Staff development	⇒	

• Student based follow-up system

• Performance–based financing system takes account of background factors (education, student and local environment)

• The results are published on the website of FNBE.

Self-assessment in Finnish VET

- External evalution of VET
    - Since May 2015 a new independent government agency, the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC), which is responsible for the national evaluation of education.
    - The key principle is that evaluation data can be used as part of the education providers' self-evaluation.
    - In many cases one part of the national external evaluation is the self-assessment of VET providers.
    - The evaluation information is used in the development of education at the national and education provider levels.

    - Quality assurance in VET will be practised and actively developed in collaboration with national and international partners. (QA Strategy for VET)

Thank you!

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