Self-assessment in Vocational Education and Training in Finland

Ms. Leena Koski, Counsellor of Education

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Counsellor of Education
Finnish National Board of Education
Email: leena.koski@oph.fi
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

- 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 evaluation 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!

Contact:
Leena Koski
Finnish National Board of Education
Hakaniemenranta 6
FIN-00531 Helsinki
Leena.koski@oph.fi