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EDUCATION AND TRAINING



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An initiative to expand the international peer review of vocational educational institutions

by developing The Transnational Peer Review Partner Search System
and making it possible to apply for funding for transnational peer
review travel expenses

4.7.2023

The joint EQAVET NRP-project 2021-2023 with Finland, Croatia, Estonia, and Slovenia
ERASMUS-EDU-2021-EQAVET-IBA

Background

During the EQAVET projects 2019-2023, with the VET providers in project countries Croatia, Estonia, Finland and Slovenia, we have

- ✓ promoted the method of peer review and specially the use of transnational peer review among the VET providers
- ✓ made the handbook on the European Peer Review Quality Areas and Criteria for VET
- ✓ trained peers and VET providers to be reviewed
- ✓ offered opportunities for VET providers to try and use the method in practice (online and onsite)

● The PLA 21 April 2023 on Transnational Peer Review was open to all countries in Europe: there were registered participants from 16 countries and from EQAVET Secretariat.



Observed practical factors preventing the use of the transnational peer review method

- 1) **How to find** a VET provider familiar with the method and interested in cooperation from another country.
- 2) **How to finance** the travel expenses of peers from the budget of the VET provider when there is no project money. Getting to know learning environments brings added value to peer review and mutual learning.





Solution proposal: Developing The Transnational Peer Review Partner Search System



The Transnational Peer Review Partner Search System

- An open, online, simple and centralised service is needed. It would serve as the first contact, based on which a VET provider can be found with which the conversation can be continued in more detail.
- The system does not contain personal data of peers. It only contain public organisation-specific information.
- Only needed the VET provider's organisation-wide email address and the website address, where you can find more detailed contact information. In addition, some general background information about the VET providers is needed, based on which the search can be targeted.
- The service would be open to everyone, including those institutions who are not available as peers, but want to use the transnational peer review method and gain experience with it before becoming a peer.

The Transnational Peer Review Partner Search System

Updating the data

Depending on the country's own decision and the technical implementation of the system, the VET providers' information is updated either

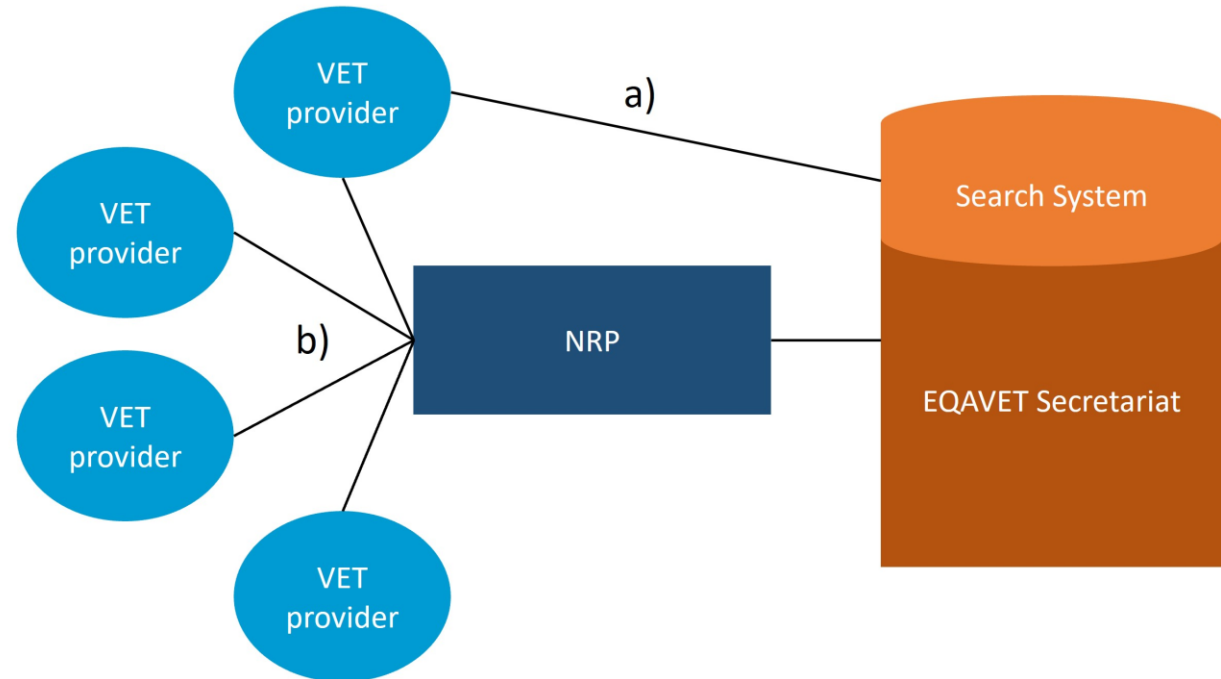
- a) directly from the VET provider to the system or
- b) VET providers deliver the information to NRP, which delivers the information to the system.

Since the countries' situations are different, both options are needed.

Requirement and data content

See the Concept Note.

Updating the data



Our proposal is that the service would be developed and owned by the Commission, and maintained, for example, by the EQAVET Secretariat.

Solution proposal: Making it possible to apply for Erasmus+ funding for transnational peer review travel expenses



Making it possible to apply for Erasmus+ funding for transnational peer review travel expenses

- The onsite Peer Review between VET providers brings added value, e.g., getting to know the local quality culture, learning environments and colleagues, and it deepens mutual learning. The challenge is travel-expenses of peers, which are not provided for in the budgets of VET providers.
- If it were possible to finance peer review travel expenses, for example, by applying for Erasmus+ funding, it would increase the equal opportunities for all VET providers to make use of the method and develop their quality through transnational peer review.
- The transnational peer review event can be planned as part of VET providers' annual operational development plan, in which case this implementation could be anticipated with a view to applying for funding. The question to be considered is whether the organizing organisation (host) or the peer organisation would make the application.



Photo: NASA

Benefits

The initiative

- promotes the wider use of peer review in vocational institutions and enables the emergence of new partnerships between VET providers
- offers the opportunity to develop monitoring data and statistics to create a situational picture of how widely transnational peer review is used and how its use is expanding among VET providers
- offers the opportunity to add the desired question to the background information of VET providers to support evidence-based decision-making
- helps the NRPs to promote EQAVET framework and the transnational peer review method, which supports the quality assurance of VET across Europe

More information:

The EQAVET NRP's joint project team of 2021-2023

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