

<PORTUGAL>National strategy paper



Introduction

The objective of the paper is to state the way that particular country can elaborate/adjust their national strategy. The strategy should be based on the outcomes of the project, and of national conferences on QA policy in VNFIL to debate the value of Peer Reviews with the national networks.

The national strategy papers should be drawn up between December 2017 and May 2018 in all partner countries. It will take up from the Synthesis report (O 1) and all the experiences and outputs of the project.

The national coordinators are responsible for writing them, the Lithuanian Education Trade Union (P 10) will guide the process, analyse country papers and compile a synthesis for the whole project.

1. Lessons learned / experiences from the project on the institutional and national level

- The peer review methodology will strengthen the link between VNFIL providers.
- In a context of financial constraints, allows each CQs, with a low investment, to have expert feedback on the quality of their interventions
- Peer Review potential is related to the fact that this approach results from a set of existing good practices (cooperation between CQs). This will possibly reduce the resistance in the implementation phase
- It is necessary to capture regulatory body (ANQEP) interest
- Peers Training is very important. Creating a Peer Team competent that ensure transparency and confidence
- Inform, motivate and engage stakeholders to the importance of this methodology that enables a consistent and continues improvement opportunities, perform self-assessment followed by external evaluation by experts in the field.

- Ensure that service providers implement the improvement actions plan and conduct peer review continuously.
- To have greater sharing practices among VNFIL providers in order to ensure greater harmonization, better understand of organizational context in which they are inserted and better understand of customer needs. Must define an evaluation model to ensure comparability of processes to give confidence to stakeholders and assure the transparency and credibility of the work developed.
- The existing self-assessment needs must be complemented by external evaluation.
- All stakeholders must agree on the requirements / areas of quality.

2. Added-value of Peer Review (national and transnational) for VNFIL providers in the country

- Feasible, however, raises many issues of peer involvement, availability of team members with a limited number of hours spent on VNFIL providers and also at the level of indicators.
- A way to improve (human) resources and to grow up. A good contribution to continuous improvement.
- Transnational Peer Review is a potential instrument but a main challenge is to conciliate the different practices VNFIL in several European countries. Another main challenge are also different languages.

3. Potential and challenges for implementing Peer Review as a formative external evaluation for VNFIL into the QA system for VNFIL in the country:

3.1. Basic validation features

The only providers of VNFIL in Portugal are CQs. They can be promoted by public schools of primary and secondary level, vocational training centers from IEFP, local authorities or private training providers.

The VNFIL system is financed by public budget in the case of the public schools and vocational training centers from IEFP. Local authorities and private training providers need to assure their own budget. It is possible to present a candidacy to European funds in the program Portugal 2020.

3.2. Conditions for developing and implementing validation

Disseminate the activity developed by VNFIL providers to the main stakeholders

Guarantee that the financing of VNFIL providers not depends on the public budget

Ensure the credibility and recognition of VNFIL processes

Extend VNFIL processes to higher education

To attract candidates to the RVCC process, defining a centralized strategic policy of divulgation

Ensure there are consistent training offers for candidates who obtain partial certification

Attract employers to engage their employees in VNFIL processes

Ensure the availability of resources so that the VNFIL service is available in a comprehensive manner, for anyone wishing to improve their qualifications. This involves stabilizing the network CQs and respective teams

3.3. Validation contexts

VNFIL providers are structures of the National Qualifications System that play a key role in building bridges between the worlds of education, training and employment, in a perspective of learning throughout life.

Portuguese VNFIL providers are accompanied by the National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education (ANQEP), which is responsible for coordinating the implementation of education and training policies for young people and adults and ensure the development and management of the system of recognition, validation and certification of skills.

The CQ aims to provide young people and adults an information service, guidance and referral in order to obtain an academic and/or vocational qualifications. The Centre also develops recognition, validation and certification of competences (RVCC) acquired by adults throughout life by formal, informal and non-formal means, in their school or professional dimension.

3.4. Plans for further use of Peer Review for VNFIL in the country

Create connections with ANQEP
Involve remaining partners and stakeholders. Promote mentoring activities
Disclose the potential of using the Peer Review methodology
Integrate this methodology into the current quality management systems of the VNFIL provider

3.5. Potential and challenges of building up a Peer Review Network in VNFIL on the European level.

With the change of government, it is possible that there will be a strengthening of learning policies throughout life.

- It is necessary to ensure the fulfilment of Europe 2020 objectives
- Guarantee the existence of standards for all professions
- Continue to develop tools to support VNFIL teams

4. Further dissemination of Peer Review in the country (including concrete activities and target groups)

- Using the National Stakeholder Committee to disseminate the project results to their networks.
- National meetings and training given by ANQEP will be privileged moments to attract and engage other providers
- The participation of ANQEP the national committee will be essential to ensure the dissemination of peer review with the entire national network.