

Peer Review: The Adaptability of The Italian Experimentation in Other Contexts

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Abstract

The European Peer Review methodology for VET providers is a mix of internal evaluation, based on a self-assessment report, and external evaluation which involves a group of experts called Peers. From 2019 to 2022, starting from the background provided by the European Peer Review methodology, the Italian EQAVET National Reference Point carried out national qualitative research. First of all, a national network of schools and VET providers was established, and innovative integrated tools were elaborated, by merging the European instruments with the tools used in the National Evaluation System. Secondly, the new integrated tools, based on common quality areas and indicators, were piloted through the National network. In total 14 Peer Review visits were hosted and more than 50 Peers (manly teachers and trainers) were involved in the National experimentation that included 3 different Italian Regions (Veneto, Lazio and Puglia). The paper will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the national piloting. Displaying how all the teachers and trainers, acting as Peers that participated in the experimentation of the integrated Peer Review, found the Italian experimentation very enriching and wanted to encourage the collaboration in this way for a better understating, a higher exchange and a future cooperation on common quality assurance measures. Moreover, the experimentation has allowed to define the key principles for ensuring that the European Peer Review methodology is agile in different teaching and learning settings that it adapts swiftly to diverse training needs and provides quality learning opportunities for those that use it alike.

Keywords: criteria, descriptors, indicators, quality area, self-assessment