



## KICK OFF OF THE QUAL4T2 PROJECT

Zwolle (NL), November 2016 - Dear reader, in this first newsletter you can find the latest news of the QUAL4T projects. You get informed about the kick-off of the new project, QUAL4T2, and the upcoming project meeting in Zwolle, NL. (please mind that below this newsletter you will find the partners in the first QUAL4T project, the new partners group will be introduced in the second news item!).

Please continue your readings on the website [www.qual4t-project.org](http://www.qual4t-project.org) as you can still download from there all instruments from the first project for free.

We hope that you enjoy reading all news items, and if any questions arise, please contact one of the project partners! The next newsletter will be delivered in June/July 2017.



## ABOUT THE NEW QUAL4T2 PROJECT

The QUAL4T2 project: “**Further Quality Improvement for VET, guiding teacher Teams in Europe in strategic planning**” is funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ KA2 Grant program. It supports teacher teams in VET schools in their use of quality assistance mechanisms like the Plan Do Check Act cycle and runs from 11 November 2016 / 10 May 2019. We aim to use a bottom-up approach when getting teams aware of quality mechanisms and address teachers in teams as the professionals that they are. The development of prototype products mixed with indispensable teacher feedback tends to lead to a further change of quality culture and a set of final quality tools that help teams in further development of their quality mechanisms.

### QUAL4T1 and 2

After the successful implementation of the QUAL4T project, that focused on quality awareness by individual teachers, it deemed only a small step to a follow-up project named: Further Quality Improvement in European VET, guiding teacher Teams in their strategic planning (QUAL4T2). The value of the first project but also the needs for the follow-up project were clearly expressed in the final feedback of teachers and trainers from The Netherlands, UK, Spain and Italy, where the pilots took place. In QUAL4T2 the project partners aim to contribute directly to the improvement of outcomes of quality systems in Europe's institutes, by investing in teachers' professionalization to develop more effectiveness and involvement of teachers/trainers in the quality strategic planning.

### Needs

Teams in VET education are facing the problem of prioritizing how they spend their work day. Teachers need to teach, coach, visit companies, prepare lessons, but also meet as a team to evaluate student results and other outcomes. As a follow up teams need to set aims and plan actions for further improvement in their team plans. It is crucial that the right aims are chosen and the right actions planned! Teachers stated in their feedback in the first QUAL4T project, that they still feel they don't have enough knowledge and tools to write a good year plan and follow the PDCA-cycle. And this definitely is needed to connect the institutes' long term strategy and policy with the short term actions on the 'work floor' by the teams.

### Target group

The main project target groups are educators: **teachers in their teams**, supported by quality staff and management. These educators will be approached as professionals, triggering them to further develop in the topic of quality improvement of their own program in the classroom, but also as a team.

The project aims to introduce and further implement a bottom up approach for the design of strategic planning in VET institutions by teams. Setting good targets for continuous improvement of their education programs is not an easy job for teacher teams! By providing teams with good and easy accessible material to help them in their strategic planning, the project partners expect teams to write better and sustainable team plans. Thus in the end leading to a better use of their working hours, a better performance towards the students and finally to a more efficient use of their financial funds.

### Products

We will provide teams with three main products, that will be downloadable for free:

- A quality guide with chapters on how to build up an effective year plan, and several tools to help teams get there, including model-s) for the plan itself
- A book with best practices from the pilots that we performed
- A training program that we will use within our own organizations, and a shorter program that all VET organizations can use to train their own teams, or can even be used by teams themselves

### Project

The project will start with a short research and the designing of the pilot version of the Quality Guide. Then four pilots take place, in Netherlands, Spain, Denmark and Italy. Based on the feedback from teams and teachers the final version of the Quality Guide will be made, best practices will be gathered and the five day training program will be developed and given. Both the prototypes as the final products will be published on the website free for use. Besides the implementation in our own institutes we aim to reach schools and policy makers in our partner and other countries and also Higher Education, educating student teachers.

EU priorities

We address the following European priorities:

Further developing quality assurance mechanisms in VET (VET priority)

Sustainable investment, performance and efficiency in education and training (HORIZONTAL priority)

Extending and developing educators' competences (ADULT EDUCATION priority)

### Partners are

Landstede Groep - NL, represented by Margrieta Kroese (coörd.)  
and Bert Hamhuis

Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierrri - ES, represented by Anabel Menica

CIOFS-Formazione Professionale – IT, represented by Francesca di Paolantonio

IDEC SA – EL, represented by Natassa Kazantzidou

Køge Handelsskole – DK, represented by Gitte Dyrlov



## NCP EQAVET AGAIN ASSOCIATED PARTNER!

Zwolle (NL), November 2016 - The partnership of QUAL4T2 is very proud to announce the NCP EQAVET as associated partner in the new project!

We welcome Marloes van Bussel as contact person in our partnership. Marloes and Alie Kamphuis have both been working with Landstede on quality issues before. The partners will use the opportunity to ask Marloes advise on topics to be discussed and products to be designed.

The National Coordination Point EQAVET is in the Netherlands the central point for the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training. The link between European policy developments, national policy and the national practice. An important task for us is to bring together, to inform and to activate the different stakeholders and actors.

If you are interested and want to know more about de work of the NCP EQAVET you can contact: Alie Kamphuis or Marloes van Bussel, [mbussel@cinop.nl](mailto:mbussel@cinop.nl)



## ARTICLE IN DUTCH E-MAGAZINE AS KICK OFF

Zwolle (NL), 1 November 2016 - The QUAL4T2 project coordinated by Landstede had a nice kick-off with the publication of an article in the Dutch e-magazine Zin Mag.

This is the link to the article: <http://www.zinmag.nl/zinmag-editie-9-2016/>

The article has been used by Margrieta Kroese to warm up the organization for the kick off of the second QUAL4T project: QUAL4T2. Starting date is 11 November 2016. The first project focussed completely at the TEACHER / TRAINER. This new QUAL4T2 project focusses on the teacher or trainer TEAM.

The Italian, Spanish, Greek and Danish partners meet at Landstede just before the X-mas holidays, to have the kick-off meeting. NRP EQAVET (represented by Marloes van Bussel) is associated partner in this project.



## QUAL4T2 PRESENT AT EFVET 2016

Valencia (ES), 26-29 October 2016 - In the last week of October, as is the tradition, the EfVET conference took place. This year it was organized in Valencia, at the east coast of Spain.

More than 200 participants were involved, taking actively part in discussions, work groups, round tables, poster sessions, and more. Target group for this conference is VET education, this is thus the best conference to attend when you are VET teacher or manager or involved as policy maker and interested in VET activities.

To point out the importance of the quality improvement culture in educational teams in VET-organizations, QUAL4T2 Coordinator Margrieta Kroese (Landstede, NL) tried to include this topic in the list of main factors for qualitative VET in Europe. The importance of this theme was repeated by former EfVET president Pete Hodgson (UK) later on in the discussion.

In the plenary meetings all participants listened to presentations of - amongst others - Mrs. Soledad Iglesias Jiménez, Deputy-Director General for Guidance and VET - Ministry of E.C.S. Spain. Another interesting speaker was Mr. Andy Warren from Jaguar/Landover, who is involved in skills challenges in robotics.

Margrieta Kroese: "Although the new QUAL4T2 project was not even started yet, several participants already approached me to be informed about the products that the project is going to deliver and the connection of it with quality culture. These products can be used for professionalization of teacher teams, to improve the work with team year plans. The Spanish partner was represented at EfVET by Anabel Menica, and the Danish partner was represented by Gitte Dyrlov, both members of the steering board of the QUAL4T2 project.



## TCA CULTURE OF QUALITY

Zandvoort, NL - 21-23 September 2016: QUAL4T has been invited to an international seminar. The TCA Seminar Culture of Quality in Vocational Education and Training took place in Zandvoort and was organized by the Dutch Erasmus+ NA.

The TCA program was formed around 4 rounds, one of these being for QUAL4T and an introduction of the upcoming follow up project QUAL4T2

Each of the rounds took about 2 hours for the same mission: Presenting the core concept of how culture of quality is addressed. A hands on session with the participants using tools and cases in smaller subgroups.

Gathering the results in a short plenary session to reflect what individual participants can learn /use and identify connections with similar projects, line of thinking, initiatives.

The participants were very satisfied with the workshop of QUAL4T given by Natassa Kazantzidou (IDEC, Greece) and Margrieta Kroese (Landstede, The Netherlands).

To let the audience experience how one of the tools from the Quality toolkit for teachers works, all played KaHoot! This also was a new experience for almost all participants.

Extra Dutch participants on Friday

On Friday 23 September additional Dutch staff of VET providers and policy officers were invited to join in to participate and network.

## The partners

**Landstede Groep**

Landstede (NL)



**CIOFS/FP**

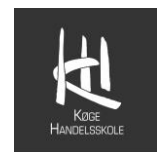
CIOFS-Formazione  
 Professionale (Italia)



Politeknika Ikastegia Txorierri  
 (Spain)



IDEC SA (Greece)



Koge Handelsskole (Denmark)