

Lessons Learned: The Ti-Saeto Project in Turkey, Germany, Belgium and Latvia.

Quality in Vocational Education and Training (VET) is one of the central issues of the Copenhagen/Brugge Process towards more trust-based transparency and quality in VET and in the labor market. The tool developed by the Leonardo Project SAETO (LI-05-B-F-PP-164510) which supports system for self-assessment in educational and training organizations (ETO) that translates the EFQM model to the educational sector and links it with ISO 9000 in one assessment effort. The adaptations and localizations for country/ETO specific needs can only make it possible to benefit from these tools. And the project's aim is to achieve that together with 5 partner from 4 countries, namely, Turkey, Germany, Belgium and Latvia.

In order to be competitive in the globalizing knowledge economy, countries need to invest in their innovative VET systems at the national and regional levels. As countries are turning their production towards value-added segments and knowledge-intensive products and services, there is greater dependency on access to new technologies, knowledge and skills. And, with the parallel processes of globalization and localization, the local availability of knowledge and skills is becoming increasingly important.

For VET to be able to play their role, they must do more than simply educate and research – they must engage with others in their regions, provide opportunities for lifelong learning and contribute to the development of knowledge-intensive jobs which will enable graduates to find local employment and remain in their communities. This has implications for all aspects of these institutions' activities – teaching, research and service to the community and for the policy and regulatory framework in which they operate.

Within scope of the project, activities in partner countries with regard to localization and adaptations has been summarized to provide full picture of works accomplished under the following heading:

- EFQM, Quality in Vocational education and GOA software, and benefit to ETOs,
- The current status of the project, a brief presentation
- The education system as a whole;
- Quality management practices by regions and comparison of them with EFQM criteria
- A brief description of the educational institutions and providers of educational services that participate the project
- A brief presentation of newly developed software, “Central Repository Database” for comparison of ETO who wants to compare themselves with peer groups,
- Recommendations for developing high quality, VET by nurturing the unique assets and circumstances of each institution, particularly in developing knowledge-based innovative curriculum that meets the need of both sector and participants.