

Towards an Integrated Quality Assurance Model: Insights from European Centers of Vocational Excellence

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ABSTRACT

INAPP conducted qualitative research on quality assurance measures implemented by Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs), key players in the European Education and Training agenda. This research focused on two expert-led focus groups involving professionals engaged in managing and participating in various European CoVEs. These discussions revealed a variety of approaches and distinctive quality assurance strategies while also highlighting shared perspectives and opportunities for collaboration and mutual learning. By closely listening to professionals from diverse sectors, INAPP initiated a reflection on quality assurance mechanisms rooted in the actual practices of CoVEs. This reflection, shaped by the focus group participants, offers an initial framework for understanding how quality processes are co-developed within these centres.

The research findings first capture the insights of selected CoVEs representatives and then compare them with existing studies on quality assurance in the Higher Education sector. This comparison aimed to deepen the analysis and broaden the discussion.

The emerging reflections have allowed INAPP to identify tools and methodologies that could serve as a foundation for further investigation and collective action. Ultimately, these results suggest pathways toward a more integrated quality assurance model tailored to Higher Education Institutions involved in European Centres of Vocational Excellence.

Keywords: quality assurance, centre of vocational excellence, higher education, mutual learning