

## The European dimension

The transnational co-operation in the field of quality assurance (co-operation by means of an exchange of models and methods, development of general criteria and principles for quality in VET) was defined as a fundamental goal of the **Copenhagen Declaration** in 2002. Against this background the European Commission founded the „European Network for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training“ - **ENQA-VET** - in 2005 in order to promote co-operation in the field of quality assurance in vocational education and training in the EU. Austria has been one of the so far 23 members - and a very active member - from the very beginning.

In 2007 ENQA-VET was endowed by the European Commission with the necessary funds to promote the establishment of an operationally functional European network for quality assurance in vocational education and training. In December 2007 Jürgen Horschinegg (General Directorate for Vocational Education and Training of the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture) was elected chairman of the board.



More information about ENQA-VET and the European quality - dimension at:

[www.arqa-vet.at/enqa\\_vet](http://www.arqa-vet.at/enqa_vet)

Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance  
in Vocational Education and Training  
at the Austrian Exchange Service (ÖAD)



The ARQA-VET Team

AUSTRIAN REFERENCE POINT  
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING

ARQA-VET

[www.arqa-vet.at](http://www.arqa-vet.at)

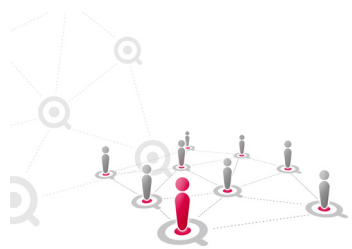
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## Who / What is ARQA-VET?

Since October 1st, 2007 ARQA-VET, the **Austrian Reference Point for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training**, has been established within the ÖAD, Agency for International Co-operation in Education and Research.

The main task of ARQA-VET is to promote quality culture in the Austrian vocational education and training landscape and to cross-link the stakeholders. **Networking** takes place both at national level and in the EU context of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (ENQA-VET). Thus ARQA-VET actively supports the enhancement of a European vocational education and training area and strengthens the attraction of the Austrian vocational education and training system.



At national level our **stakeholders** are the actors in vocational education, the social partners, apprenticeship companies and

companies that offer training and further education as well as VET-providers. At international level these are ENQA-VET and the national reference points for quality in vocational education and training.

## Our aims and tasks

We see ourselves as a service institution that wants to support the actors in vocational education and training in Austria as well and as comprehensively as possible by means of providing services and with know-how in the fields of quality assurance and quality development.

Our objective is to cross-link our stakeholders and to play an active role as an intermediary facilitator from and to the European level. As one of so far 21 national reference points we want to act in a pro-active and innovative way in the EU network.

The following fields of activity are at the beginning of our work:

- Information of the national stakeholders about the activities of the European network and vice versa.
- Active support of the implementation of the work programme of ENQA-VET.
- Development of specific measures to support quality assurance and quality development in the field of vocational education and training.
- Awareness-raising amongst the stakeholders for the advantages of the application of the principles, methods and tools of quality assurance.
- Operational support of section II Vocational Education and Training of the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture in the implementation of QIBB and the national and European activities of ENQA-VET.

## The first few concrete projects

After the start-up phase the first few concrete operational activities have been started.



Amongst these are:

- The commissioning of a feasibility study for the implementation of the European Peer Review procedure in the Austrian VET system and - together with QIBB and the öibf - the conception and implementation of a pilot study on the same topic
- Active participation in the QIBB steering committee
- Conception and creation of an expert database
- Up-to-date information on the homepage [www.arqa-vet.at](http://www.arqa-vet.at) about quality in vocational education and training
- The ARQA-VET newsletter - subscription at [www.arqa-vet.at/newsletter](http://www.arqa-vet.at/newsletter)
- Establishing contacts with other national reference points in order to provide national customers with information
- Establishment of ARQA-VET as a contact point for the “quality dimension” of various educational topics such as EQR/NQR or ECVET