

- European Peer Review
- ▲ Quality Areas
- ◆ and Criteria
- for VET providers



What is a peer review?

A PEER REVIEW IS a form of external evaluation that supports the reviewed VET provider in its quality assurance efforts through a dynamic and motivating process of mutual learning that benefits both VET providers and peers. During peer reviews, colleagues from other VET providers (called peers) assess and provide feedback on the quality of VET provision to the reviewed provider. Transnational peer reviews involve international peers that assess VET providers alongside national peers.

Who benefits from peer reviews?



PEER REVIEW IS INTENDED for VET providers that implement internal quality assurance procedures and self-evaluation and who want to obtain feedback from colleagues on the quality of certain aspects of VET provision or the VET provider. VET providers participate in peer reviews voluntarily.



Who is a peer?

PEERS ARE COLLEAGUES from other VET providers, independent and equal to persons whose performance is assessed. Working in a similar environment, they have specific professional expertise on the evaluated subject.

Peers are sometimes also called 'critical friends'. They generally include teachers/trainers, counsellors and quality coordinators at VET providers and have experience in reviewing areas related to VET provision, teaching and training, quality assurance and quality development.

Transnational peer reviews are conducted in a team of at least four peers, at least one of whom is from a different country than the VET provider reviewed.

counsellors

teachers

'critical friends'

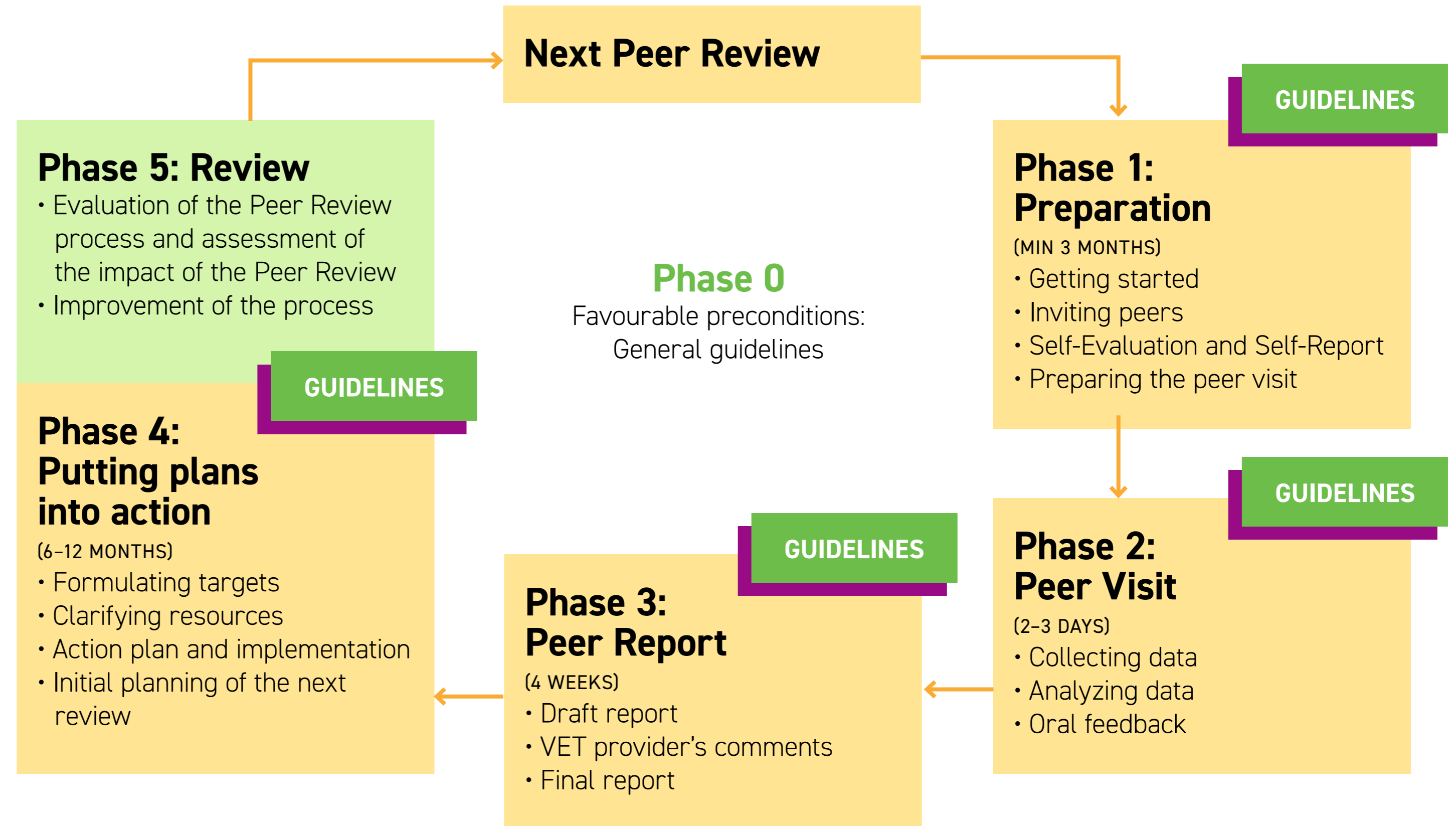
colleagues

trainers

other professionals

How are peer reviews organised?

PEER REVIEWS COMPRISE THE following stages: preparation, peer visit, reporting, improvement actions and evaluation.



Phases of the European Peer Review

Source: Gutknecht-Gmeiner, M. (ed.) (2007). European Peer Review Manual for initial VET. Vienna: öibf – Österreichisches Institut für Berufsbildungsforschung.

Why participate in a peer review?

VET PROVIDERS BENEFIT FROM PEER REVIEWS BY:

- confirming the quality of VET provision
- receiving critical, yet supportive feedback on the quality of VET provision from peers
- presenting strengths and achievements
- enhancing accountability towards stakeholders
- identifying blind spots and weaknesses,
- mutual learning and sharing best practices with peers
- establishing networks and cooperation with other VET providers
- sharing best practices across countries and obtaining an international perspective on the quality of VET provision through transnational peer reviews

Peer reviews rely on:

- confidentiality
- impartiality
- transparent criteria
- assessment without advising or judging
- focus on the needs of VET provider under assessment
- committed, open and inquisitive attitude as a prerequisite for mutual learning
- culture of continuous quality improvement

Peer review methodology

PEER REVIEWS RELY ON quality areas (QA), each defining the corresponding criteria, indicators and sources of evidence. VET providers can select the criteria and indicators that suit their development goals and needs. For transnational peer reviews, the following quality areas have been developed:

QA 1	Strategic planning and development
QA 2	Quality assurance
QA 3	Knowledge management
QA 4	Management and leadership
QA 5	Management of infrastructure, facilities and finances
QA 6	Planning and management of human resources
QA 7	Equality and equal opportunities
QA 8	Internal relations
QA 9	External relations

QA 10	Internationalisation
QA 11	Pedagogical framework and planning the pedagogical processes
QA 12	Teaching and learning
QA 13	Work-based learning (WBL) outside the school
QA 14	Assessment and certification
QA 15	Learning results and outcomes

The methodology builds on the initial peer review concept developed in the Leonardo da Vinci project Peer Review as an Instrument for Quality Assurance and Improvement in initial VET. The methodology has been revised in line with new developments in VET and in consideration of the EQARF and EQAVET+.

More information and contact

TRANSNATIONAL PEER REVIEW IS an initiative implemented through the Erasmus+ project European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training National Reference Points (EQAVET NRPs) in partnership of EQAVET NRPs in Croatia, Estonia, Finland and Slovenia from 2019–2021, following earlier implementation in Austria, Croatia, Finland and Slovenia from 2017–2019.

AUSTRIA

ARQA-VET Austrian Reference Point
for Quality Assurance in VET
<https://www.arqa-vet.at>

CROATIA

Agency for VET and Adult Education
(ASOO)
<https://www.asoo.hr/en/>;
<https://qavet.hr/en/>

ESTONIA

Estonian Quality Agency for Higher
and Vocational Education (EKKA)
<https://ekka.edu.ee/en/>

FINLAND

Finnish National Agency for Education
(EDUFI)
<https://www.oph.fi/en>

SLOVENIA

Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for
Vocational Education and Training (CPI)
<https://cpi.si/en/>
<https://www.eqavet-nrp-slo.si/en/>



ARQA-VET



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