



**QATRAIN**

# Quality assurance in training and education

(Quality Assurance and Accessible Training)

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Accessible mainstream VET and employment

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[www.qatrain.eu](http://www.qatrain.eu)

French and Burt Ltd

# QATRAIN and Quality

QATRAIN reflects two aspects of quality

- Enabling quality in mainstream education and training
- Delivering quality for its users
  - Testing and review with users has been central to project development

# Aims of this presentation

- To show why QATRAIN is needed
- To show some evidence about user-responses
- To show how the products of QATRAIN work
  - In particular, how they enable teachers to deliver quality

# Some challenges

- In the UK households with one or more disabled people have incomes 20-30% lower than the average
- Across the EU only 40% of disabled people are employed, compared to 64% average
- 41% of disabled people in the EU have no educational qualifications, compared to 18% of non-disabled people

# European policy on education and training

- VET seen as a key to the future for Europe “the world’s most dynamic knowledge based economy by 2010”
- Education must be open to all because
  - Education helps enable people to obtain their individual rights
  - It is a pre-condition of “full participation in society and the economy”
  - Education raises aspirations

# Access to the mainstream

- Only mainstream VET offers disabled students the full range of opportunities
- “The inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream education is an obligation for member states”
- “The EU directive on equal treatment obliges training providers to foresee (*i.e. plan in advance*) reasonable accommodations”

# The purpose of QATRAIN

- To help overcome barriers for disabled people in mainstream VET
- These barriers
  - Restrict choice and therefore limit opportunities
  - Lead to low completion rates and results that under-represent the individual's real ability
- Some examples
  - Physical access to buildings
  - Technological – websites, lab equipment
  - Matters of pedagogy
  - Inappropriate assessment systems.

# Beneficiaries and users

- Long-term beneficiaries
  - Disabled people
  - Everyone else
- Project users
  - Teachers and trainers
  - Course planners
  - Education and training providers

# QATRRAIN overall

- It builds on a UK model - SCIPS
  - Strategies for Inclusive Programmes of Study
- It provides five national SCIPS sites, each fully adapted for the national context
  - UK project promoter (University of Worcester)
  - Bulgaria (MCA)
  - Poland (Jagiellonian University)
  - Greece (University of Ioannina)
  - France (ORT – Paris)
- Plus a summary of European policy

# Each national site provides

- Information about disabilities and 'challenges to learning'
- Information about how these challenges can be met and how other teachers have dealt with them
- Each site is organised around a set of 6 subjects (some university-level, some pre-university)
- But much information is transferable to other subjects

# Testing and development

- QATRAIN builds on success of the original UK project
  - In Australia, USA, Canada (among others) as well as in the UK
- QATRAIN has been developed in close collaboration with users in each partner country
- QATRAIN has been tested with users in each partner country
- Testing carried out in more than 20 training providers, with well over 250 respondents

# Results of testing

- Development process was very positive
- Testing shows excellent response
  - Teachers aware of national policy changes leading to increasing access for disabled students
  - And of their need for support to meet this challenge
- Testing produced valuable feedback
  - New case studies
  - Suggestions about target users
  - Proposals for extension of SCIPS
  - Suggestions for improvements
- Increasing use of national SCIPS sites

# Some representative opinions

“It’s really easy to navigate and provides straightforward, easily understandable information”

“Excellent work – I hope you will be able to continue so that you can fill in more subjects”

“We believe something is changing in our country for the education of our children, even in the universities. We wish you to continue all the effort”

# Future plans

- Respond to demand for
  - Maintenance of national sites
  - Expansion of subjects covered
  - Development for other levels of education and training
- Extend to new countries
  - ‘The moment is right for this initiative’



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