



EQUASS Newsflash

Welcome to the new issue of the EQUASS Newsflash! This publication is an initiative of the European Quality in Social Services to provide you with regular updates regarding the most recent developments and achievements of the EQUASS System.

EQUASS in Practice project results & launch of the EQUASS Manual

EQUASS in Practice is a two-year project, funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme of the European Commission. The project held its closing meeting on the 18th October 2010 in Oslo, Norway.

The main point of the agenda was the presentation of the project results:

The EQUASS Core documents have been translated in Portuguese, Slovenian, Lithuanian and Norwegian.

EQUASS License Holder have been identified in Slovenia and Lithuania.

☆ Auditors from Norway, Ireland, Portugal, Lithuania and Slovenia have been trained.

A web-based EQUASS manual for EQUASS Assurance in VET services has been published, and includes a description of the EQUASS implementation strategy, elaborations and clarification of the EQUASS indicators for VET service providers, a FAQ section and a glossary.

The EQUASS Manual will be available and downloadable on the EQUASS web site www.equass.be.

Upcoming EQUASS events and contributions

- **9–10 November 2010:** European Conference on Rehabilitation 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark
- **16 November 2010:** Prometheus Dissemination Workshop, Brussels, Belgium
- **17–18 November 2010:** Prometheus European Awareness Conference, Brussels, Belgium



EQUASS in Estonia: project updates and Corrigo Centre consensus meeting

Project pilots meeting

On the 19th October 2010 representatives of all 6 pilots met at the Astangu Vocational Rehabilitation Centre to discuss the progress of the implementation of EQUASS Assurance in the different sites. The representatives had the opportunity to clarify the contents of the criteria and indicators by asking questions to Guus van Beek, the EQUASS Manager.

During the meeting the pilot site exchanged experiences with:

1. Implementation planning of EQUASS by the social service provider

2. Various discussion topics such as quality of life, empowerment of service users, code of ethics, rights of person served

3. The need for more practical supporting materials for the implementation process

Guus van Beek also presented the web-based benchlearning instrument developed in the framework of the Prometheus project. He urged the participants to start using the instrument once it is operational, in January 2011. The web based benchlearning instrument may give some inspiration developing tailor-made solutions for social service providers in meeting the EQUASS Assurance criteria.



50 employees of the Corrigo Centre participated in the consensus meeting

Corrigo Rehabilitation Centre

On the 20th October 2010, the Corrigo Rehabilitation Centre carried out a consensus meeting in the framework of an EQUASS Assurance self-evaluation process. Based on the outcome of the process, Corrigo will start up the preparation on external auditing on the EQUASS Assurance criteria in 2011. If the Centre keep on with their hard work, there is little doubt that they will achieve an EQUASS recognition soon.

Both meetings were highly appreciated by the participants.



Recent EQUASS external contributions EQUASS impact in Portugal and Germany

The past couple of months have been a busy period for the external representations of EQUASS and the EQUASS quality certification programmes. Three important events stood out.

BAG BBW leiterdagung.

The Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Berufsbildungswerke (BAG BBW) is a German association of VET-providers for persons with a disability. The BAG BBW has adopted the EQUASS approach on Quality and included the EQUASS requirements for quality in their curriculum descriptions. Guus van Beek (EQUASS Executive manager) and Frits Kreuger (EQUASS consultant in Germany) presented the EQUASS approach on quality at the annual meeting of CEOs of the 52 VET-providers for persons with a disability.

Die Berufsbildungswerke 

NEW EQUASS Assurance Certified Organisations

- * Lipro AS
- * Innovi AS
- * Åspro AS
- * Arbeidskompetanse & Service AS
- * Industriprodukter AS
- * Aktør AS
- * Rosenvik AS
- * Movimento de Apoio ao Diminuído Intelectual (M.A.D.I.) de Vila do Conde
- * Yttre Namdal Vekst AS
- * OSCSC - Obra Social e Cultural Sílvia Cardoso
- * Kompetanseutvikling Grenland AS (GREP)
- * NAMAS Vekst AS

FORMEM international Conference



Guus van Beek (EQUASS Manager) contributed to an international Conference on the 11th October 2010 in Lisbon. The conference was organised by FORMEM, the national association for Vocational Rehabilitation Service Providers in Portugal. Many of the service providers are involved in the implementation of EQUASS Certification via the Arquimedes Project.

Guus van Beek explained the EQUASS concept of Quality and the requirements for the EQUASS certification programmes. He also emphasised that price should not be the only criteria in selecting a service provider for rehabilitation services: quality criteria, proven results in the past and benefits for service users are just as important and must be taken into consideration.

Caritas Autumn meeting in Mulheim a/d Ruhr .



Guus van Beek was given the opportunity to present the EQUASS approach on quality at the autumn conference of the Caritas-sheltered work for Persons with a disability in Nordreihn Westfalen and Niederstachsen (Germany).

The participants got to learn about the EQUASS certification scheme and how they can prove their quality services for person with a disability. Most of the organisations are certified with the ISO certification for quality. The organisers of the Caritas conference showed interest in the EQUASS approach because EQUASS emphasizes the rights of persons served and person centeredness in the provision of rehabilitation services.

Auditor training held in Germany and Portugal

EQUASS auditor trainings took place on the 28th and 29th September 2010 (Olsberg, Germany) and on the 12th and 13th October 2010 (Porto, Portugal). The training events have been organised by the EQUASS License Holders in Germany (JG Josefsheim on behalf of the Brusseler Kreis) and Portugal (APQ). 20 participants from Germany, Norway, Portugal and Lithuania received training in the method of auditing to be followed through the whole EQUASS Assurance process.

All participants have also been informed about the result of the CEN Workshop, and in particular about the Common Quality Framework for Social Services of General Interest developed within the Prometheus project. They learned about the impact of the results on the EQUASS certification programmes.

The results of the evaluations showed that, as usual, the trainings were highly appreciated by the participants.

