



Quality of Foreign Practice Placements Instruments used in the Netherlands

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Topics to discuss



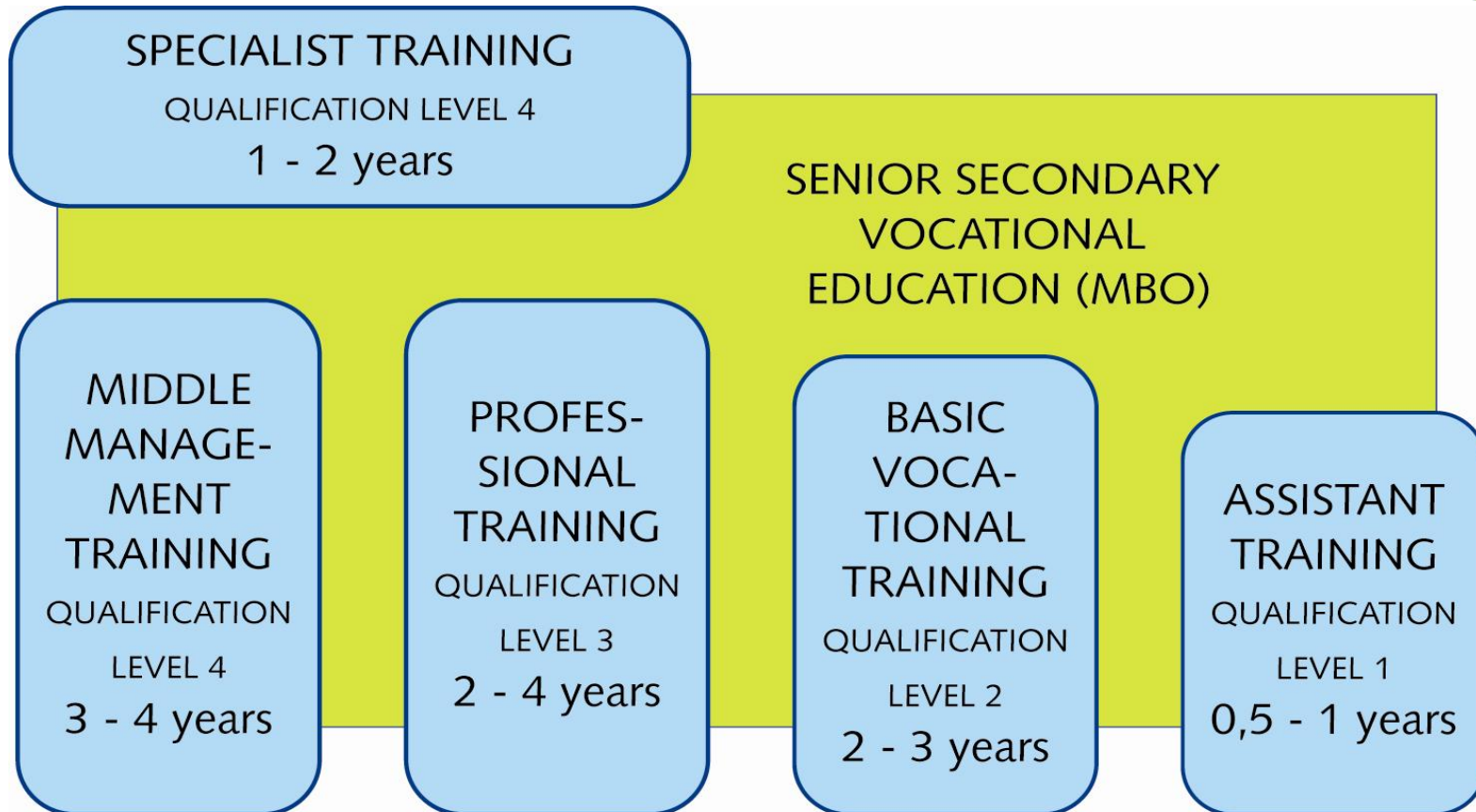
- VET education in the Netherlands
- Instruments to assure quality of practice placements
- How are these instruments applied to foreign practice placements
- Challenges in foreign practice placements
- European instruments to assure quality

Characteristics of Dutch VET system



- All parties legally connected by Law on Vocational Education (from 1996 onwards)
- Funding: governmental, acting: bottom-up
- Parties guard their own interests
- Cooperation is contract based
- System of mutual trust
- Overall target: balance in labour market needs and career opportunities provides individual and collective well being

VET in the Netherlands



What is a Centre of Expertise VET?



- 17 Centres of Expertise on VET, similar to IHK and HWK
→ Colo is the umbrella organisation
- Are organised around sectors (42 in total)
- Managed by social partners and representatives of educational institutions, subsidy from MoNE
- Legal tasks: developing VET qualifications and assuring availability and quality of practice placements

Work placement in the Netherlands: accreditation process



- Practice placement protocol between all stakeholders
- Centre of Expertise will check the following aspects:
 - Sufficient training opportunities
 - Safe learning environment
 - Experienced in-house workplace trainer
 - Willingness to cooperate with VET institute and Centre of Expertise
- All accredited companies in www.stagemarkt.nl
- Contract between student, company and school → no legal format
- At least once a year quality check

Work placement in the Netherland: incentives for the employer



- Tax deduction
- Promotion of the company
- Accreditation is 'cool'
- Effective HR tool
- Students can do tasks or research for which regular employees do not have the time
- Students can bring innovative ideas to the company

Quality assurance of foreign practice placements



- National principle of accreditation is leading → currently 6200 foreign companies accredited
- Informing foreign companies on Dutch VET and on accreditation principles
- Difficult for Centres of Expertise to visit companies
- Solutions:
 - Cooperation with partner organisations
 - Contracts → i.e. Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen
 - Foreign practice placement is part of the “elective section” within the VET program
 - Accreditation on basis of written documentation

Challenges in foreign practice placement



- Good agreement necessary when working with partner organisation
- Can you trust paper?
- Not all countries have a quality assurance system for practice placements
- Dutch quality assurance system can compete with foreign quality assurance system
- Some companies are only used by one single student

European instruments to assure quality



- Credential evaluation – ENIC NARIC and NRP
- European Directive 2005/36/EC (for the level of VET)
- EQF, ECVET, EQA-VET
- Europass instruments for VET:
 - Certificate Supplement
 - Europass Mobility

Europass CS and mobility



Europass Certificate Supplement:

- short and to-the-point description of skills and competences of VET qualifications
- the instrument to explain differences in VET in Europe
- the supplements are a perfect transparency instrument for a large group of stakeholders (also mobility)
- In the Netherlands: CS is based on content of qualification files

Useful websites



Contact details: i.vonoven@colo.nl

- www.colo.nl
- www.workplacement.nl
- www.nlirp.nl

Thank you for your attention