Q-PLM – QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR VET PROVIDERS USING
PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT

NEWSLETTER 4

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PLM IN VET AS A CHANCE

Active product lifecycle management, including the use of suitable PLM software, is a useful tool for monitoring and controlling the product portfolio of an educational institution. It can be recommended not only for reasons of quality assurance, but also for the facilitation of product development, for more transparency in strategic business areas and, last but not least, for maintaining the competitiveness of VET providers. There is a high demand for a coherent and practical instrument to monitor the lifecycles of VET products, taking several key success factors and indicators into consideration which have an influence on vocational training and educational programmes.

WHAT IS THE PRODUCT LIFECYCLE? WHAT IS PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT?

Lifecycle refers to the period from the product's first launch onto the market until its final withdrawal, and it is split up into phases. Product lifecycle management is a conceptual approach taking a product into consideration throughout its entire lifetime. Product lifecycle management can be an appropriate tool for the measurement of indicators of a VET product and the management of its lifetime. Active PLM facilitates product control, -planning, -adaptation and product innovation, thus enabling a market orientated approach of the portfolios in further education.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT FOR A VET PROVIDER?

VET products have a lifecycle and the concept of the product lifecycle plays an important role in the portfolio of a VET institution. Active Product Lifecycle Management is a tool to monitor and to control the product portfolio of a vocational educational institution.
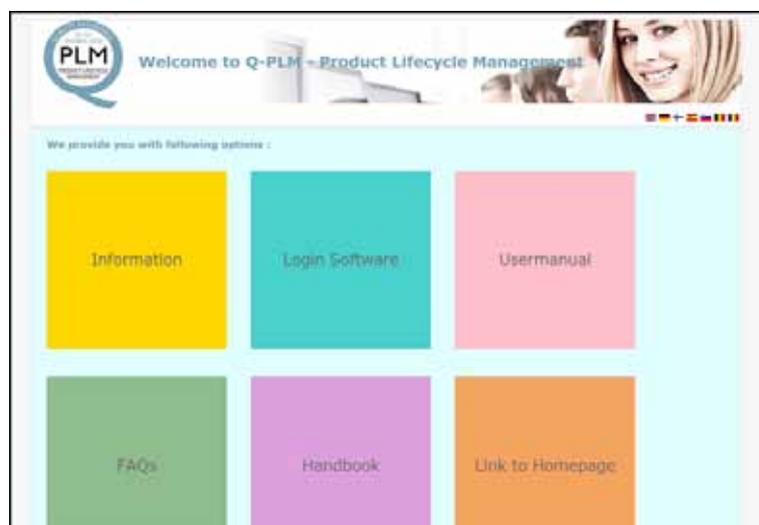
It can be recommended not only for reasons of quality assurance, but also for facilitating product development, for more transparency in strategic business areas and for maintaining the competitiveness of VET providers. It can be recommended to:

- adapt VET programmes more easily to the requirements of the labour market
- allow early and immediate reaction to the rapidly changing VET market
- assess changes and their impact on VET offers
- better control the product portfolios of VET providers
- facilitate the product development for VET providers
- improve quality assurance for VET providers
- maintain the competitiveness of VET providers
- monitor several key success factors and indicators influencing the performance of a VET service / offer
- monitor the lifecycle of VET products
- respond better to the pressure of innovation in VET

Q-PLM SOFTWARE AND HANDBOOK FOR VET PROVIDERS – NOW AVAILABLE

The Q-PLM-software is now ready and available for the coordination of training programmes on the VET market and for controlling the processes and product portfolios of training providers, thus making it easier to monitor and better visualize the business processes and the product itself.

The final version of the Q-PLM handbook will be available in September 2015 in printed version, on CD Rom and as a download on the Q-PLM webpage.

4TH PROJECT MEETING IN LJUBLJANA / SLOVENIA

The entire partnership met in Ljubljana / Slovenia in June 2015, where the final decisions were made. The provisional version of the Q-PLM software was presented, the partners from Finland presented the results from the evaluation phase and all partners discussed in workshops the sustainable use of the project's outputs after the end of the funding period.

FINAL CONFERENCE IN GRAZ / AUSTRIA ON THE 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Bfi Steiermark and the entire partnership of the Q-PLM project have the pleasure of inviting you to the Final European Q-PLM Conference "Quality Management for European VET Providers" at the Hotel Europa in Graz / Austria on the 17th September 2015.

Through a number of international key notes and a podiums discussion, different aspects of quality management in vocational educational training will be discussed. The final versions of the Q-PLM outputs (the Q-PLM software and handbook) will be presented and made available for wider dissemination throughout the VET sector in Europe. The conference will be accompanied by a project exhibition, allowing selected projects to be showcased. Furthermore, there will be plenty of opportunity for networking and discussion.

The participation at the conference is free of charge. Please register by email: karin.wiedner@bfi-stmk.at. Registration closes on 15th September 2015.

For further information
please take a look at the
project website
www.q-plm.eu
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