

IQAVET is the Irish National Reference Point for European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training.

The inaugural seminar of IQAVET took place in the Marker Hotel, Dublin on 21 June 2016.

The aims of the seminar were to consider available data and information in the context of self-evaluation; mechanisms for benchmarking and gathering participant's own data sustainably and consistently with participant's own quality objectives, context and scope.



What data, what evidence?

Evaluating quality assurance practice.

21 June 2016

**WHAT DATA?
WHAT EVIDENCE?**

Fáilte

Dr Pdraig Walsh, QQI

**Blue Skies – reclaiming
the space!**

Andrina Wafer, QQI

**Using data, skills
forecasting and
employment projections**

John McGrath, SLMRU

**PLSS and the data that
might assist self-
evaluation**

Fiona Maloney, ETBI

Using QQI data
Dr Ray O'Neill, QQI

Predictive Analytics
Prof Alan Smeaton, DCU

**Data Collection and
Interpretation for Self-
Evaluation in Quality
Assurance**

Louise Clarke, CMETB

**From Data to Wisdom –
an informed Quality
Assurance Practice**
Alan Hogan, LCETB

**Are we Asking the Right
Questions, in the Right
way and Can we find all
the Right Answers?**
Trea Brannick Ó'Cillín



- Agenda Item**
- Welcome**
 10:00 Dr Padraig Walsh, Chief Executive, QQI.
 Andrina Wafer, Head of Access and Lifelong Learning QQI.
 Blue Skies — Reclaiming the Space. A workshop considering data needs for diverse practitioners within ETBs, Andrina Wafer.
- 10:20** Using data, skills forecasting and employment projections: John McGrath, Skills and Labour Market Research Unit, SOLAS
- 10:50** PLSS and the data that might assist self-evaluation, Fiona Maloney, ETBI.
- 11:15** Health break
- 11:30** Using QQI data, Dr Ray O' Neill, QQI.
- 11:40** Predictive Analytics, Professor Alan Smeaton, DCU.
- 12:00** Q&A
- 12:30** Lunch
- 12:45** Case studies from various ETBs looking at aspects of data collection and current use followed by time for reflection and questions from the floor.
- 13:30** Facilitated workshop (1)
 The workshop looks at questions such as
- How best to exploit diverse data sources?
 - What infrastructure is needed?
 - How do we know which external or internal data is valid in informing our evaluation of the effectiveness of what we do?
- Table feedback (2 key points to be identified per table)
- Facilitated workshop (2)
 The workshop looks at
- The purposes of self-evaluation,
 - Targeting improvement planning,
 - What data assists,
 - How data is collected within individual ETBs,
 - How best to embed the collection of relevant data within existing structures in sustainable ways.
- Table feedback, questions and next steps (2 key points to be identified per table)
- 15:00**
- 15:40** Close



Participant Sentiment

Participants provided their opinions and responses within a participant sentiment survey. Participants were asked to identify key words or phrases that reflected how they found the seminar sessions.

Twenty-five participants responded to the survey. The most popular responses were

- Interesting 19
- Thought provoking 18
- Beneficial 16
- Well organised 14
- Learned a lot 12
- Practical 11

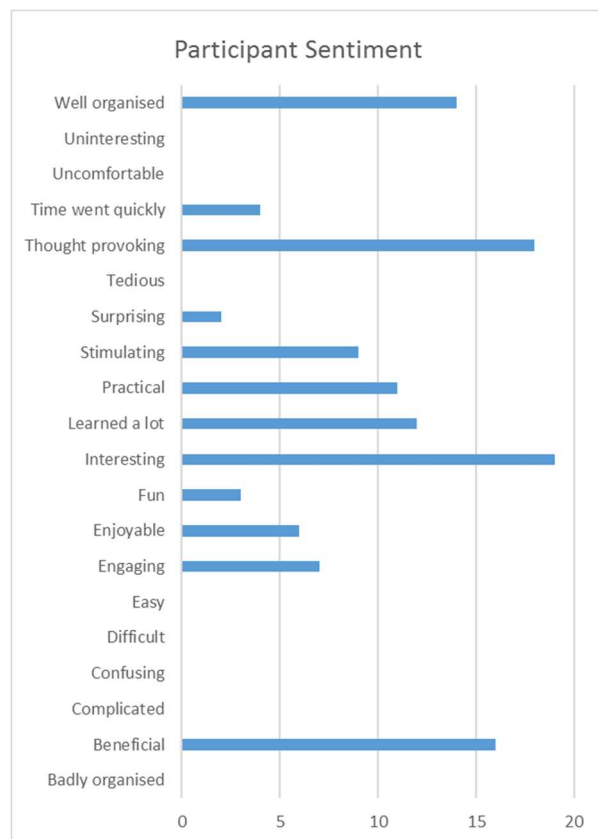
Presentations

Dr Padraig Wash, CEO of QQI opened the seminar addressing why quality assurance of VET matters in terms of increasing transparency and mobility and developing more effective VET.

Andrina Wafer set out the seminars aims and offering a blue skies approach to examining vision, mission and QA, asking the questions:

What do you hope your QA will assure?

- *Better teaching?*
- *Better teaching and learning?*
- *Moving the dial from access to success?*
- *Employment led learning?*
- *Coherent and accountable integrated service?*



John McGrath of the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) of SOLAS provided an insight into how data is used to forecast skills needs and employment projections for the workforce.

Fiona Maloney of ETBI presented how SOLAS Programme Learner Support Service (PLSS) provides data that might assist self-evaluation.

Dr Ray O'Neill presented QQI's online infographics service which provides data and indicated how this might contribute to qualitative and quantitative data.

Professor Alan Smeaton, Director of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, DCU, presented his recent work in supporting student achievement using predictive analysis.

Louise Clarke, CMETB, presented her case study on data within CMETB.

Alan Hogan, LCETB, presented an analysis entitled 'From data to wisdom – an informed Quality Assurance Practice' based on an analysis of QQI certification data.

Treasa Brannick Ó'Cillín, CDETБ asked 'Are we asking the right questions, in the right way and can we find the right answers?' a case study of data collection and analysis within CDETБ.

Feedback

At the conclusion of the seminar delegates were asked to provide feedback on the event.

Workshop content

Sixty-four percent of respondents found the workshop content to be very good with 32% indicating it was excellent.

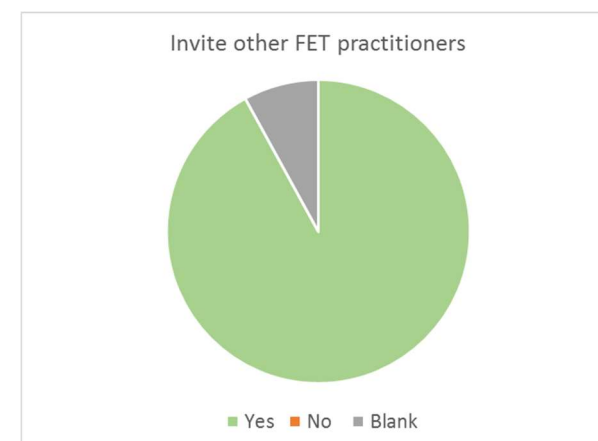
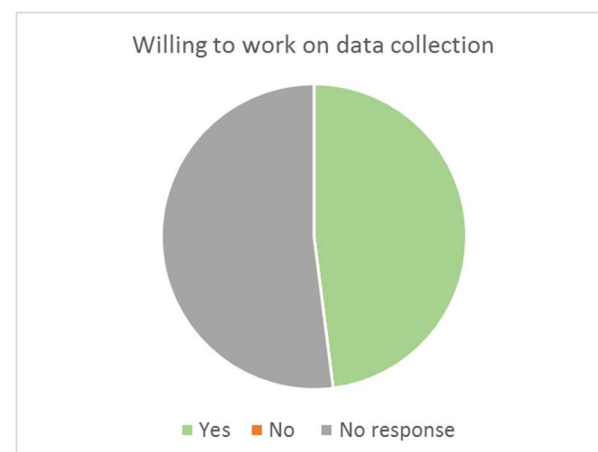
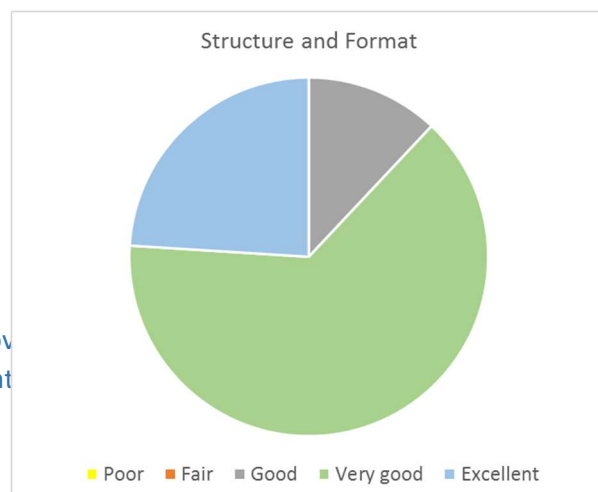
Structure and format

Eighty-eight percent of respondent found the structure and format of the event to be excellent or very good.

Willing to work on developing data collection

When participants were asked if they were willing to work on developing data collection 48% indicated they were willing however, 52% gave no response.

Ninety-two percent wished to invite other FET practitioners to attend future IQAVET NRP events.



The workshop was attended by forty-one representatives from 13 Education and Training Boards (ETB), ETBI, Further Education Support Service (FESS) SOLAS and QQI.

www.QQI.ie