

Transforming Vocational Education and Training: Harnessing the Power of Digital Assessment

Policy Recommendations from the e-assessment in VET
Project.

eAssessment in **VET**

KA226 – Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness

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Further information and resources can be found at the project website eassessment.eu

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Policy Recommendations

Below is a summary of the policy recommendations elaborated from the E-Assessment in VET project.

1. E-assessment should be informed by clearly defined learning outcomes

Clearly define the learning outcomes and competencies that students are expected to achieve through vocational education and training. These outcomes should guide the design of e-assessment and the use of generative AI. Pay careful attention to fairness and validity when implementing generative AI for assessment. Make sure the AI systems used are reliable, unbiased, and accurately measure the desired competencies.

Regularly evaluate the effectiveness and impact of e-assessment. Collect feedback from educators, students, and industry stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and refine the assessment processes accordingly.

2. e-Assessment must be authentic assessment

Develop assessments that closely resemble real-world tasks and challenges relevant to the vocational field. Use generative AI to simulate scenarios and generate realistic problems for students to solve, reflecting the skills they will need in their future careers.

Rather than assessing isolated knowledge or skills, authentic assessment integrates different disciplines and assesses the application of knowledge across multiple domains. It encourages students to draw on a range of competencies to solve problems or complete projects.

Authentic assessments strive to create a realistic context or scenario that reflects the actual contexts in which the knowledge or skills are applied. They may also involve an authentic audience, such as peers, professionals, or community members who provide feedback or evaluate students' work.

3. Effective e-Assessment requires effective training and support

Offer training and support to both educators and students in effectively using e-assessment tools. Educators should understand how to create meaningful assessments, interpret AI-generated results, and provide feedback based on them. This should be embedded in initial teacher training and continued throughout educators' professional development. Students should receive guidance on how to engage with e-assessment formats and interpret their results.

Staff Training needs in specific digital skill areas we identified during the course of the project are;

The use of E-portfolios

Formative assessment using ICT

Using ICT to give feedback to students

4. Get the balance right

Find the right balance between automation and human involvement in the assessment process. While AI can streamline certain aspects of assessment, human judgement and expertise are still crucial for evaluating complex skills that may require contextual understanding or subjective evaluation. AI can be a valuable tool for providing feedback to students, but it is important to remember that it is not a replacement for human feedback. Human teachers can provide feedback that is tailored to the individual needs of each student, and they can also provide encouragement and support.

5. e-Assessment must be Ethical and Compliant

Establish robust data privacy and security measures to protect student information when using digital tools for assessment. Follow best practices in

data protection, anonymization, and compliance with relevant data regulations.

Be transparent with students about how AI is being used to provide feedback. Students should be aware that AI is being used to provide feedback, and they should be able to ask questions about how the AI is working. This will help to build trust between students and teachers.

6. Focus on Formative

The incorporation of more formative assessment practices in VET is essential to support learners' skill development, provide timely feedback, personalise instruction, enhance motivation and engagement, and align training with industry needs. By embracing formative assessment, VET institutions can create a learner-centred and adaptive environment that prepares individuals for success in their chosen vocational pathways.

7. Build a Community of Practice

Create a culture of collaboration amongst staff. Encourage sharing, networking, peer learning and cross pollination of ideas not only in your own workplace but between schools and colleges and businesses and academics. Actively encourage educators to share ideas and resources, and to learn from each other about how to use technology effectively in the classroom.