

FLASH REPORT

Event name

The national qualifications framework (NQF): a new impetus towards improved governance, instruments and outcomes.

3-4 December 2019, Chisinau – Moldova

Main objective/s

In line with the activities launched in Moldova in 2019, this workshop combines debate and knowledge-sharing related to the Moldovan national qualifications framework. The main planned outcomes of this workshop were:

- To debate and share views on the ongoing NQF-related reforms in Moldova and on the perspectives for further development.
- To reinforce structured dialogue among stakeholders and government institutions on the development of qualifications, the NQF and its instruments; discuss possibilities, modalities and formats to develop a more systematic basis for sustained dialogue and joint work to operationalise the NQF.
- To share information on NQF registers and how they contribute to make the NQF closer to users and to rise the transparency of the system.
- To update the Moldovan stakeholders on key and interesting developments of qualifications systems and frameworks in the EU, in view of the EU-Moldova association agenda and other cooperation goals;
- To synergise with the actions planned and implemented by the EU Twinning project.
- To share results of the consultation to develop the roadmap for action of the sector committees.

Background

This workshop completed a cycle of analysis and debate on the governance of qualifications and the role of Sector Skills Councils (SSC). ETF had supported this reflection since 2018 and in 2019 a first workshop (May) had provided a space for debate on the perspectives and mechanisms for further reinforcement of the SSCs.

At the same time, the dynamics of the NQF in Moldova accelerated in 2019, as the NQF department engaged in an ambitious work plan of development, focused on instruments (such as the online register), legal base (revised NQF decree), and methodologies (qualifications standards, learning outcomes).

In support to this renewed attention to the NQF, and, in synergy with the assessment of SSC's role and capacities, ETF dedicated this final workshop to shed light on the NQF-related reforms and peer learning with cases from the EU (France). The Ministry of Education welcomed this initiative, as it contributed to generate visibility on the important efforts of the NQF department. The EU Twinning project contributed to the workshop to shed light on their planned contribution to the NQF and highlight complementarity with ETF work in the domain.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Over 50 participants: officials / public servants from Ministries of Education, Labour, ANACEC, State employment agency, statistical office, all Sector Skills Councils, academics from higher education institutions, Centres of Excellence, IT development company, NGOs in education and training, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, national experts, team of EU Twinning project.

The proceedings of the workshop are published on the ETF website: https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/events/national-qualifications-framework-nqf-new-impetus-towards-improved?fbclid=IwAR0xH1unuAtSOflBNy9_UhO54SOqai8gHYPFZxjOGP2Y0qexwV4Y1qhDsqk

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

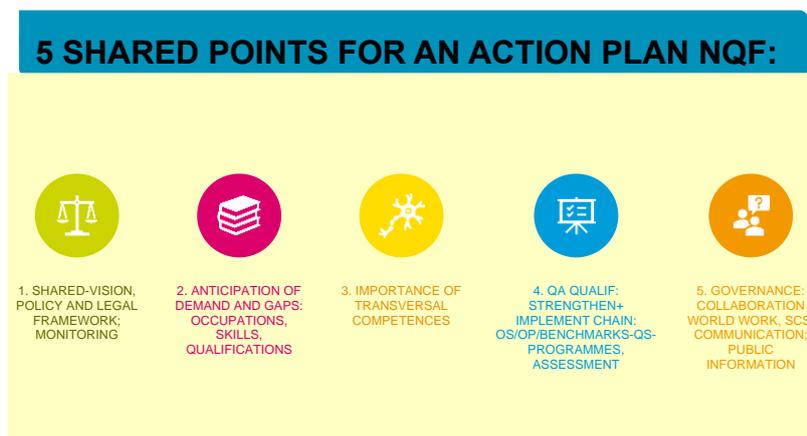
The workshop goals were achieved, thanks to active and interested participation, conscious preparation of content by the Ministry of Education (NQF department), relevant peer learning with France and constructive debate in the working group sessions. A large set of specialised literature was shared at the workshop.

The Ministry of Education presented the NQF Moldova as a pole to support reforms and transparency: overview of the system, linkages between levels and qualifications, roles and governance of NQF functions. Other related activities of the NQF department, such as recognition of qualifications acquired abroad added value to the debate, showing links between recognition and information on NQFs. The debate on learning outcomes highlighted the multiple roles in supporting modernisation of education, the learner-centred approach, the combination of technical and transversal skills, and the transparency of qualifications.

The new National qualifications online register was presented for this first time at this workshop, and participants welcomed this significant towards a ground-breaking instrument to support transparency, timely and accurate information for end-users and quality. ETF contributed to develop and decision-making on the final design and decision on functionalities of the register – through peer learning and debate. The development work is implemented by a national IT company, and GIZ provides the necessary funding.

The working groups discussed: a) Role and perspectives of the SSCs in respect to qualifications and NQF; b) Quality and relevance of qualifications and the NQF; c) Cooperation, communication and partnership. All groups agreed to the need to develop a strategy and action plan to support further developments of the NQF and consistent ways to monitor progress.

Five common priorities were identified among the three working groups' conclusions:



The experience of France revealed the need to consolidate the chosen approach, review it through debate with all stakeholders and taking account of new demands and goals, look at other countries' experiences while focusing of own challenges and solutions and use robust instruments accessible to users (the entities applying for registration of qualifications). No NQF can be static and distant from new realities and transformation.

The NQF experience of Lithuania was brilliantly shared by the Twinning project expert, Ms Giedre Beleckiene. Discussed concepts, the role of level descriptors and of partnerships with stakeholders to steer the NQF in accordance with new demands and trends, in skills and occupations, national and global. Noted

also the importance of cooperation and peer support in the EQF community to generate common principles, comparability of NQFs and trust.

Knowledge and analysis on NQFs, their strengths and weaknesses and the factors determining success in reaching out to users has multiplied and is accessible to all interested countries and institutions, thanks to sustained analysis by international organisations, the EQF community, Cedefop-Unesco-ETF and own countries' evaluation and research. Moldova is aware that the path to a successful NQF combines intellectual scrutiny, resources and democratic participation.

The Ministry of Labour expressed recognition for this in-depth information on NQFs and especially the national developments, and noted the need to enhance the systematic cooperation with Ministry of Education in this domain. Stressed the role of the SSCs in the qualifications development cycle, while at the same time clarified that the state will not fund or subsidise their operations and capacity development.

Working Groups discussions:

WG 1 QUESTIONS

I Funcționalitatea CS

Probleme	Soluții	Termen	Struc. Respons
1. Lipsa finanțării	MOE din ISB	2020-2021	MSMPS CS
2. Lipsa Competenței	Școlarii	2020-2022	MSMPS MEC (anterior)
3. Cadru Legal Școlii	Parcurgere în școli	2020-2022	MSMPS CS

II Implicarea organizațiilor în proiectul de lucru program

1.1 Lipsa motivației școlii (altor actori)	Școlii și organizații școlare	2020-2022	MSMPS CS
1.2 Lipsa partenerilor	Școlii și organizații școlare	2020-2022	MSMPS CS

WG 3

- Dissemination of information on QS/transparency
- Generalize the responsibility of Public actors
- Common vision of relevant Ministries VET (STED, articulation of skills, articulation of coordination group) → education program
- OP → OS → QS → curriculum
- Graduates tracking system
- Coli providers working in partnership with business
- Assessment procedures

HE
 Benchmarks → QS → curriculum → education program



ETF contact person/s

Eduarda Castel Branco, Senior Specialist in VET Policies and Systems

Eduarda.Castel-Branco@etf.europa.eu