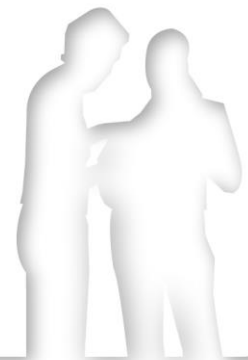


# AGENDA

EVENT NAME	Rethinking the Georgian NQF: achievements, priorities and way forward. Strengthening exchanges with international partners.
LOCATION	Radisson Blu Hotel – Tbilisi 1 Rose Revolution Square, T'bilisi 0108, Georgia <a href="tel:+995322402200">Phone: +995 322 40 22 00</a>
DATE(S)	28-29/March 2019



## INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

### Context and aims of the workshop

This workshop contributes to the **ongoing reform of the Georgian National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and preparation for implementation of its new governance and instruments. The workshop sums-up the main results of NQF reform process and promotes experience-sharing with other NQFs.**

The Georgian people highly value education. The state and the households invest in education, skills and qualifications that can benefit the people by enhancing their readiness to be socially engaged and prepared for productive activity, and adaptable to rapid and immense global changes. Such a mix of challenges puts high pressure on the ability of the qualifications system and the national qualifications framework to respond, with flexibility and credibility - for all users and stakeholders.

Skills are the future in the changing context of work, dominated by uncertainty, tech-social implications of the digital revolution, automatization and greening of the economy and occupations. Qualifications systems need to embrace the diversity of emerging learning modalities, of skills and qualifications developed throughout life and of novel techniques to manage qualifications. The new VET strategy, the ongoing reforms of education, and the renewal of the NQF in Georgia are part of the solution, but the path ahead is long and will require further public debate and contributions from national stakeholders and experts, and more experience-sharing with peers from other countries.

The Georgian authorities and the stakeholders have undertaken decisive steps in 2017-2018 to reform the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), by streamlining its structure and levels, and opening it up to new objectives, improving governance and monitoring. Transition to the new NQF in 2019 is based on national ownership, and joins-up with other ongoing reforms, such as the renewed quality

assurance policy of all levels of the education and training system. In implementing the transition to the new NQF, the Georgian authorities and stakeholders will be supported by a new EU project, planned to start in 2019 (Twinning project: “Strengthening capacities for quality assurance and governance of qualifications”).

The **workshop agenda** is diverse and presents the current stage of the NQF reform in the context of the overall education and training strategy of Georgia. The achievements of this cycle of the NQF reform process, the priority areas for further discussion and development, the anticipated challenges of the transition to the new NQF and the possible discussion points with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) are at the heart of the agenda. The conceptual and structural changes of the NQF, the newly developed legal base, and proposals for new NQF tools be presented. The discussion on synergies between quality assurance of education and training and the NQF will be topical, as Georgia pursues its ambition to become a full member of ENQA<sup>1</sup> and this process is evolving favourably.

The workshop supports interaction with EU Member States - members of the Advisory Group of the EQF - for a debate and experience-sharing on priority themes, such as: added-value of NQFs in Europe, links between NQFs and Quality Assurance, NQF governance and tools for better management and dissemination of information on qualifications and skills for users. The invited guest experts from EU Member States represent: Estonia, Slovenia and the Netherlands (the latter - video presentation). Moreover, the workshop will receive NQF guest experts from Moldova for peer learning.

Georgia has the ambition to compare its NQF with the EQF in a medium-term perspective, in accordance with the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, as well as with the newly adopted (22/05/2017) Council Recommendation on the EQF for LLL and repealing the EQF Recommendation of 2008<sup>2</sup>. This workshop represents a first interaction with representatives of the EQF Advisory Group.

The European Training Foundation (ETF) has worked in partnership with NCEQE supporting the NQF reform process since 2017, and contributed to the debate, through experience-sharing and expert technical inputs to revise / develop draft legal acts and policy papers. This workshop is conceived and co-organised with NCEQE to conclude this phase of ETF cooperation with NCEQE on the NQF reform, and pave the way to prepare for the new EU project in 2019.

Participants of the workshop represent relevant Ministries and public agencies, education and training providers of various types, socio-economic partners and experts. Participants will interact with experts and stakeholders from different sub-sectors (higher education, general education, VET, training for employment).

## Agenda

### Day 1: Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

#### Focus of the day:

Reforms of education and training and the prominent place of the NQF reform in Georgia.  
Achievements, priorities and way forward.

*Chairs: Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport - Ms Irine Tserodze (VET department) and Maia Shukhoshvili (Higher Education department)*

12.30 - 13.30	<b>Registration of participants. Welcome light lunch</b>
13.30 - 14.15	<b>Opening. Aims of the workshop</b>

<sup>1</sup> ENQA: <https://enqa.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017H0615\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017H0615(01)&from=EN)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>George Vashakidze, Director of National Centre for Education Quality Enhancement (NCEQE)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mariam Jashi, Chair of the Education, Science and Culture Committee of Parliament of Georgia</i></li> <li>• <i>Irina Abuladze – Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport</i> <i>Eduarda Castel Branco, European Training Foundation</i></li> </ul>
14.15 – 15.00	<p><b><u>Session 1:</u></b></p> <p><b>Education and training matters: Georgian reforms and strategic framework. Main directions of change and consolidation.</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Irina Abuladze, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport</i></li> <li>• <i>Irina Khantadze, Representative of civil society</i></li> <li>• <i>Nika Kochishvili, EU Delegation to Georgia</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Main topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The strategic framework: priorities, main results, important next steps</li> <li>– How does the new VET law change the qualifications landscape?</li> <li>– Links with the EU approximation agenda – main outcomes and next steps of EU support to reforms of education and training</li> <li>– Views of the civil society</li> </ul> <p>Presentations. Discussion.</p>
15.00 – 16.00	<p><b><u>Session 2:</u></b></p> <p><b>Changing skills and qualifications for changing societies and economies. What can the NQF deliver and how? Response of the NQF reforms in Georgia.</b></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>George Vashakidze, Director of NCEQE</i></li> <li>• <i>Ani Kitiashvili, Representative of NCEQE Coordinating Council,</i></li> <li>• <i>Eduarda Castel Branco, European Training Foundation (ETF)</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Main topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Directions of change of the Georgian NQF</li> <li>– Main preliminary results of the NQF reform. Revised legal base.</li> <li>– Links and interactions with renewed quality assurance of education and training.</li> <li>– Strengthening institutional capacities, resources and tools (Handbook, concept for a digital qualifications database).</li> <li>– Revised governance model to better respond to needs and expectations of stakeholders. Monitoring the NQF.</li> <li>– Dealing with uncertainties and challenges of the transition to reformed</li> </ul>

	<p>NQF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Transformations of work, occupations, skills, and learning – new challenges and opportunities for agile NQFs</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations. Discussion.</i></p>
16:00 – 16:45	<p><b><u>Session 3: Panel discussion</u></b></p> <p><b>The role and place of non-formal and informal learning. Adult learning. Continuing VET. Main achievements, challenges and important steps for better integration in a more inclusive NQF.</b></p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Irina Tserodze, Head of VET department of Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport</i></li> <li>• <i>Natia Samushia, Agricultural University of Georgia</i></li> <li>• <i>Iago Kachkachishvili, Georgian association of social workers (GASW)</i></li> <li>• <i>Bezhan Lortkipanidze, Deputy Head of Department - Social Service Agency (tbc) – could be replaced by Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry</i></li> <li>• <i>Pavle Tvaliashvili, Founder of Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Main topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the added-value of the non-formal domain of education and training for Georgia – now and in the future? Main challenges and perspectives.</li> <li>- Is there a place in the new NQF for learning and qualifications from outside the formal education system?</li> <li>- How to improve visibility and credibility of non-formal domain of training?</li> <li>- How to set-up / improve an adequate quality assurance framework for non-formal learning?</li> <li>- Which partnerships and collaborations between providers and stakeholders of the non-formal domain of learning, and with formal education are necessary and relevant?</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <i>Lika Glonti, Erasmus + office</i></p>
16.45-17.15	Coffee break

## Day 2: Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### Focus of the day:

- The synergy of NQF with Quality Assurance of education in Georgia: links and interdependencies; challenges and way forward

- NQF developments in Europe: 3 case studies – Estonia, Slovenia, The Netherlands
- Working better together for successful transition to the reformed NQF

**Chair: Marina Zhvania (NCEQE)**

08.30 - 09.15	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
09.15 - 09.30	<b>Recapitulation: summing-up conclusions from day 1</b> <i>Speaker: Eduarda Castel Branco (ETF)</i>
09.30 – 10.45	<p><b><u>Session 4:</u></b> <b>The synergy between NQF and Quality assurance (QA) of education and training in Georgia. State-of-play, ideas / plans for further development</b></p> <p><i>Speakers (10-12 min each speaker)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCEQE QA departments: higher education - Lasha Margishvili; general education - Ili Shaishmelashvili; VET – Kakhaber Eradze</li> <li>• NCEQE qualifications division: Tea Nadiradze</li> <li>• Accreditation experts: Elene Jibladze (TBC), Irma Grdzeldze,</li> </ul> <p><u>Main topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality assurance of education and training: a long experience, new developments, important objectives – key developments in 3 sub-sectors (higher education, VET and general)</li> <li>- Success stories of QA of education and training.</li> <li>- Which main joined-up plans for QA and NQF – to support coherence and efficiency?</li> <li>- How will governance of the NQF involve <u>QA</u> stakeholders?</li> <li>- What about quality assurance of the NQF itself? Any reflections?</li> <li>- How will the progress and impact of the NQF be monitored / measured?</li> <li>- How does the synergy between QA and the NQF work? What are the challenges, and opportunities?</li> <li>- Which are the tensions, gaps and different perspectives? How to address them?</li> <li>- How is the impact of QA measured? Indicators, metrics, analyses, dissemination of results to the public. Reflections on the way forward.</li> </ul> <p>Presentations. Discussion.</p>
10:45 – 11.15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15 – 13:00	<p><b><u>Session 5:</u></b> <b>NQFs development in Europe: 3 case studies. Main features and perspectives of change of the NQFs.</b></p> <p>The country representatives present the main features and purposes of their</p>

NQFs, significant developments and reforms related with the NQF. In Session 6 (after lunch break) the speakers will focus on specific themes and instruments of their NQF developments.

Speakers:

- *The Netherlands (by video)*
- *Ms Urška Marentič, CPI – Slovenia (<http://www.cpi.si/en/>)*
- *Mr Olav Aarna, Kutsekoda - Estonia (<https://www.kutsekoda.ee/en/>)*

**Each speaker: 30 min.**

Guiding / suggested topics:

- Main objectives and structural and conceptual features of the NQF
- What is changing in the NQF, its role and place in the qualifications system as whole?
- How does the NQF contribute to LLL, to transparency and permeability between sub-sectors, levels and types of qualifications? Which are the old and new challenges?
- Which were the main challenges and controversies of the NQF and how were they addressed / solved?
- How does the NQF interact / support other education and training policies, employment policies and other domains?
- How does the EQF support the debate, exchanges and peer learning between members of the EQF?

Moderators: *Keti Panchulidze, NCEQE; Eduarda Castel-Branco, ETF.*

**13:00 – 14:00**

**Lunch break in Hotel restaurant**

**14.00 – 15.30**

**Session 6:**

**Case studies NQFs in Europe: specific themes. Continuation**

Speakers:

- *Ms Urška Marentič, CPI - Slovenia*
- *Mr Olav Aarna, Kutsekoda – Estonia*
- *Ms Tatiana Gherstega, Ms Viorica Condruș, Ministry of Education Culture and Science - NQF department (Republic of Moldova)*

Guiding / suggested topics:

- Governance models, stakeholders, strategic and operational management of the NQF
- Monitoring the NQF / measuring impact: main mechanisms, analysis. Gaps and perspectives.
- Developing qualifications: models in use, novelties and challenges
- Including and managing qualifications in the NQF: databases of qualifications. New types of qualifications. Links with other instruments.
- Validation of non-formal and informal learning – how does this relate with the NQF?
- Quality assurance and NQF: synergies, tensions and perspectives

30 minutes per speaker

*Moderators: Lela Maisuradze, Nino Berelidze*

15:30 – 16:15	<p><b>Session 7:</b></p> <p><b>Making sense of the discussed topics and shared experience. Inputs for the NQF implementation roadmap. Discussion in 3 working groups.</b></p> <p><i>Brief presentation and structured discussion with recommendations from the participants addressed to the relevant public institutions, stakeholders and international partners.</i></p> <p><u>Main topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the most relevant messages and lessons from the discussion and experience shared by Georgian and European speakers?</li> <li>- Which important risks and challenges can emerge in the transition to the reformed NQF in Georgia?</li> <li>- Governance and monitoring of the NQF: what can be considered and learned from the 3 case studies?</li> <li>- NQF for LLL and better permeability: what can be considered for Georgia to address old issues and new options?</li> <li>- Developing qualifications in the context of the NQF reform: how to build on past good experiences and introduce novelties?</li> <li>- How to better communicate the NQF to society, employers, learners - and enhance its visibility and impact?</li> <li>- Other priorities for the NQF implementation roadmap.</li> </ul> <p>The 3 guest experts will contribute to discussions in the WGs.  <i>Session introduced and moderated by: NCEQE and ETF</i>  <i>Working group facilitators and rapporteurs: proposed and confirmed at workshop.</i></p> <p><b>Coffee and soft drinks are available for participants' self-service. A rich coffee break is offered after the closing session.</b></p>
16:15 – 16:45	<p><b>Session 8: NQF moving ahead - final debate</b></p> <p>Presentation of main conclusions from each working group (5 minutes each).</p> <p>Peer views and suggestions from the 3 international country experts – on the way forward for the reformed Georgian NQF. Lessons from experience. Hints on options for cooperation with EQF. What to avoid, what to prioritise? What did they learn from the Georgian experience?</p> <p><i>Session moderated by: NCEQE and ETF</i></p>
16.45 – 17.00	<p><b>Conclusions and final remarks. Closing of the workshop.</b></p> <p><i>Speakers: NCEQE, ETF, EU Delegation</i></p>
17.00 – 18.00	<p><b>Coffee break, networking</b></p>

## PARTICIPANT'S NOTES



