



Session 5

NCP NLQF – The Netherlands By: Tijs Pijls

NQF workshop, Tbilisi - 29 March 2019

Content

- 1) History of the NLQF
- 2) NLQF: Key features and characteristics
- 3) The NCP-NLQF
- 4) NLQF implementation: State of Play

History of the NLQF

2011:

- All regulated qualifications classified in the NLQF
- The NLQF is referenced to EQF
- First presentation of the referencing report to the EQF AG

2012

- Set up of the NCP-NLQF with the tasks:
 - Classifying non-regulated qualifications
 - Registration of classified non-regulated qualifications
 - Communication on NLQF

Development of the Law on NLQF

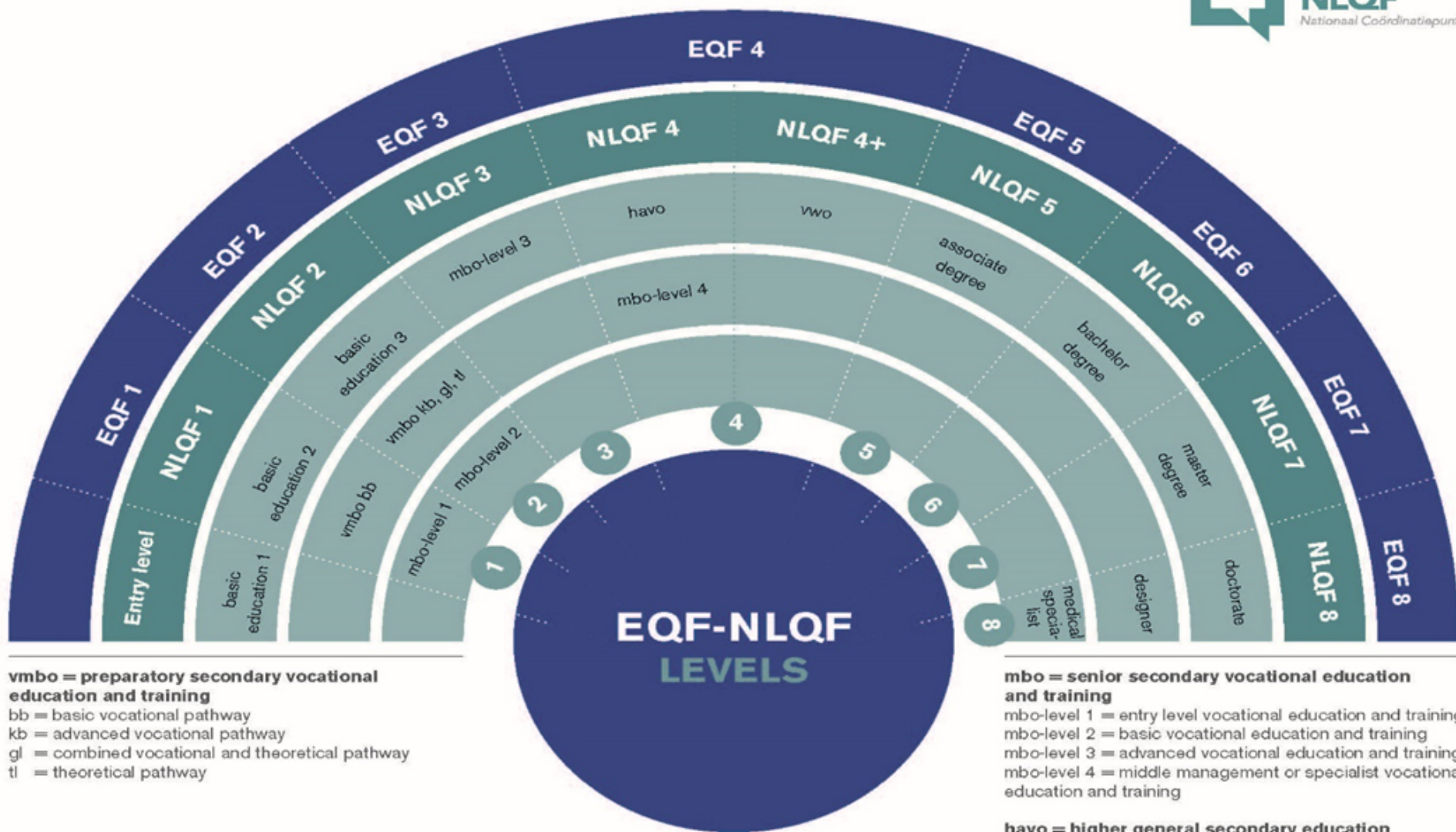
- 2015 First draft legislative proposal
- 2015 Public consultations
- 2016 2nd Public consultation
- 2017 Follow up study
- 2018 Sounding board main stakeholders
- 2018 Further development of the legislative proposal
- 2020 Implementation of the Law on NLQF

NLQF Objectives

- Enlarge the transparency and comparability of levels of qualifications, nationally and internationally;
- Increase the communication between stakeholders in education and the labour market.
- Stimulate the use of the concept in learning outcomes;
- Facilitate the participation in (lifelong) learning;

NLQF Structure

- Comprehensive framework GE, VET, HE
- Systematic organisation of all existing qualification levels in the Netherlands
- Entry Level followed by 8 levels, Level 1 being the least complex and Level 8 the most complex
- Fully compatible with QF-European Higher Education Area
- Knowledge, Skills, Responsibility and autonomy.
- Skills: Application of knowledge, Problem-solving skills, Learning and development skills, Information skills, Communication skills



NLQF Features

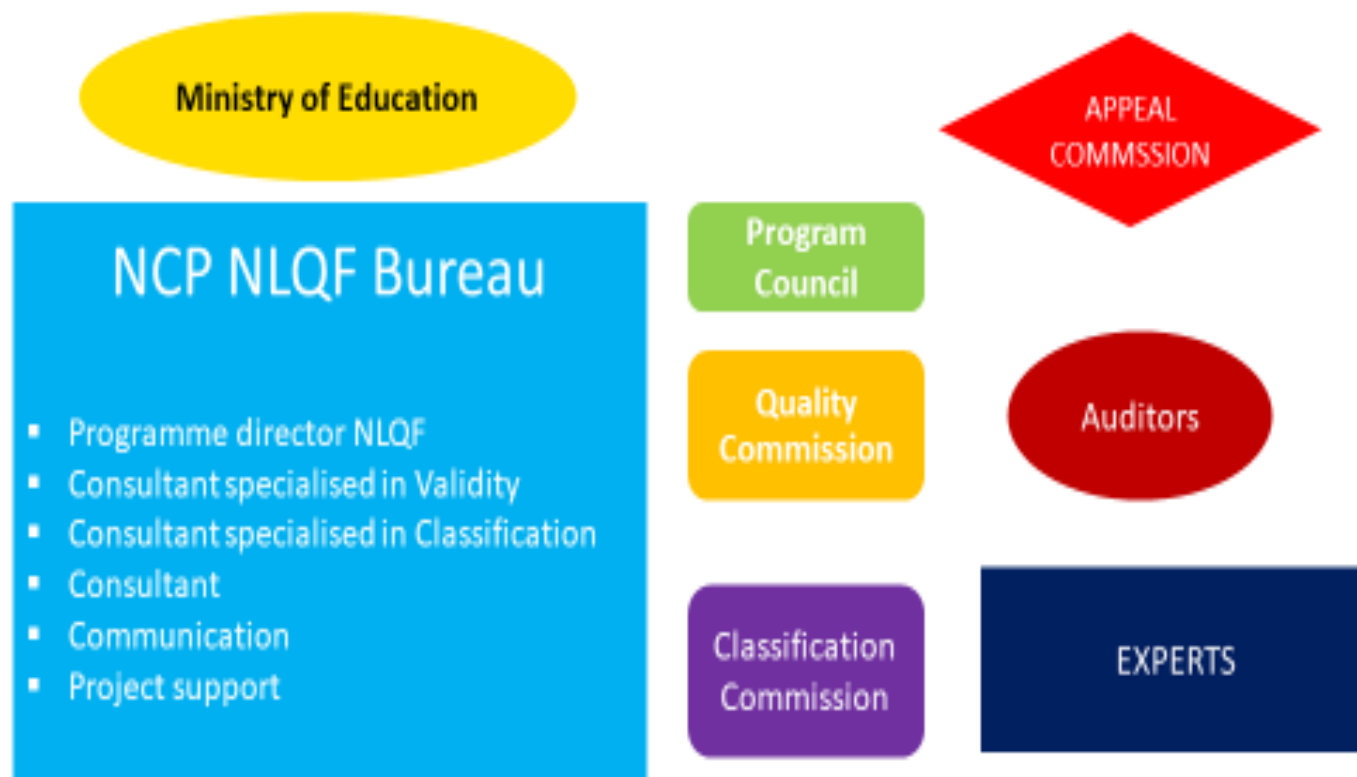
- One set of level descriptors for all sectors and all types of learning
- Open to regulated and non-regulated qualifications
- Non regulated qualifications must be described in learning outcomes, labour market relevant and underpinned by quality assurance
- Not a credit framework
- Does not provide admission and progression rights
- An NLQF level of a non regulated qualification does not give an entitlement to a title or a degree

The NCP NLQF






- Commissioned by Ministry of Education
- Objectives:
 - Classification and registration qualifications of **non-regulated** qualifications;
 - Information and communication;
 - Maintenance and evaluation of NLQF and link to EQF;
 - Accountability and monitoring of the implementation of the NLQF.
- Started 1 February 2012
- 9 part-time employees
- Funding 2019
 - Ministry of Education: € 450.000 per year,
 - European Commission: € 100.000 (grant EQF + databases)
 - Owners of non-regulated qualifications paying for classification: (quality check € 1000 or €7500, classification € 2500 per qualification)

Organisation NCP NLQF

Structure organisation NCP NLQF



Team NCP NLQF

		
Manager	Validity	Classification
		
Classification	Pr & communication	Secretary
		
Secretary	Advisor	Databases

Procedure for classifying non formal qualifications in NLQF

- 1) Validity (quality) check of the organisation (pre condition for step 2)
 - Information to be provided: prove of legal entity, ownership of the qualification, continuity of the organisation, approach to assessment/examination, approach to quality assurance
 - Independent assessment by Quality Committee, decision by the Programme Council of the NCP NLQF
- 2) Classification of qualifications into levels of NLQF
 - Information to be provided: i) Comparison to descriptors NLQF, ii) amount of hours of learning (substantial qualification= at least 400 hours) or substantial labour market relevance iii) approach to examination/assessment
 - Independent assessment by two experts, Classification Committee, decision by the Programme Council of the NCP
- 3) The qualification is included in the register at www.nlqf.nl/register (valid for 6 years)

NLQF implementation: State of play

- 65 non-regulated qualifications are classified in NLQF of more than 25 providers. The NLQF level being indicated on these diplomas and certificates.
- First requests for classifying international qualifications
- Revision of VET qualifications has taken place using the level descriptors of the NLQF
- The use of learning outcomes and level descriptors in HE
- First sign of online job vacancies using the NLQF levels
- Annual impact research among HR managers
- NLQF in connection with ECVET/ECTS and validation of non-formal and informal learning

Key challenges ahead

- Development and implementation of the law NLQF
- How to deal with international qualifications
- Differences in levelling demonstrated by foreign credential evaluation
- Achieved and intended learning outcomes
- Communication
- Dealing with an increasing demand and limited staff
- Stronger positioning the NLQF in current policy developments on lifelong learning.

Thank you very much for
your attention!

Tijs Pijls

tpijls@ncpnlqf.nl

www.nlqf.nl/english

