

Sessions 5-6

SLOVENIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Development and implementation

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DEVELOPMENT OF SQF



For better transparency and accessibility
of qualifications in Slovenia and the EU



MILESTONES

SQF development and referencing process

2005/2006 - EQF consultation process

Agreement between relevant ministries and social partners on developing NQF

2009 – EQF NCP

The National Institute for VET (CPI) designated as EQF NCP

2010 – Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)

nominated by The Slovenian government (January 2010) → decision making body for NQF (stakeholders representatives)

2010 – SQF expert group

Expert group for drafting NQF and referencing NQF to the EQF/QF-EHEA - nominated in May 2010 by IWG



MILESTONES

SQF development and referencing process

2010 – 2011 development of SQF

- broad public discussions (5 workshops) and involvement of three international experts
- National Expert Councils for HE, VET, GE, AE considered SQF proposal
- International conference about SQF



MILESTONES

SQF development and referencing process

2011 – 2014 Referencing process to EQF and QF-EHEA

- Preparation of Referencing report (to the EQF and QF-EHEA)
- Evaluation of referencing work by three international experts
- National conference and workshops about drafted referencing process
- April 2013: Slovenian government was informed about the Referencing report
- May 2013: Slovenian Referencing report was presented to the EQF AG
- October 2014: final version of Slovenian Referencing report

2015 - SQF ACT

December 2015: SQF Act adopted in Slovenian Parliament



MILESTONES

SQF development and referencing process

Stakeholders involvement in the process

- Interdepartmental Working Group for NQF
- Bologna experts
- Slovenian government
- Various stakeholders (employers, trade unions, higher education, schools, students' representatives)
- Quality assurance bodies: Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Labour, National Expert Councils for HE, VET, GE, AE, National QA Agency for HE



Slovenian Qualifications Framework ACT

SQF Act defines:

- SQF as the unified system of qualifications in the Republic of Slovenia
- the correspondence between SQF levels and the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) and the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA),
- procedures and competences with regard to the referencing of qualifications,
- the establishment of a National Coordination Point for the SQF and the EQF,
- the SQF Register.





Nature and scope of the SQF

Philosophy: framework of communication

Purpose:

- to achieve transparency and recognisability of qualifications in Slovenia and the EU,
- to support lifelong learning;
- to integrate and harmonise Slovenian qualifications subsystems;
- to improve accessibility and quality of qualifications with regard to the labour market and civil society.

Structure: comprehensive framework

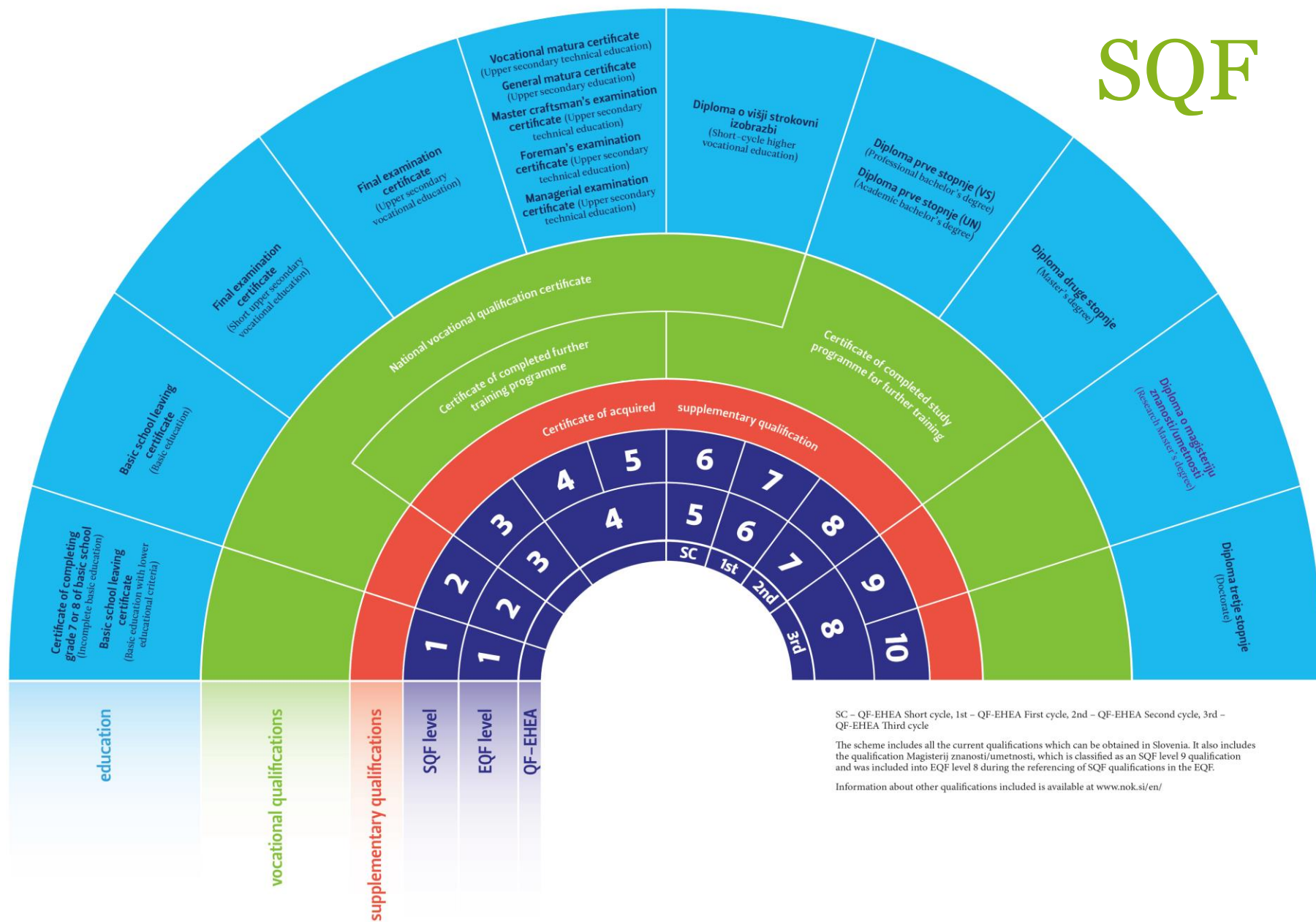


SQF – 10 levels / EQF – 8 levels



SQF	EQF
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	
6	5
7	6
8	7
9	8
10	

SQF



SC – QF-EHEA Short cycle, 1st – QF-EHEA First cycle, 2nd – QF-EHEA Second cycle, 3rd – QF-EHEA Third cycle

The scheme includes all the current qualifications which can be obtained in Slovenia. It also includes the qualification Magisterij znanosti/umetnosti, which is classified as an SQF level 9 qualification and was included into EQF level 8 during the referencing of SQF qualifications in the EQF.

Information about other qualifications included is available at www.nok.si/en/

EDUCATION

SQF Levels	EDUCATION
1	Elementary school leaving certificate (lower educational criteria)
2	Elementary school leaving certificate
3	Final examination certificate (Lower VET)
4	Final examination certificate (Secondary VET)
5	General and vocational matura certificate
6	Higher vocational diploma
7	First-cycle diploma (professional & academic)
8	Second-cycle diploma (professional master)
9	Magisterij znanosti (master of science)
10	Doctorate degree

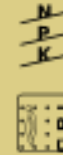
Placement of an education into SQF level is determined by the educational or study programme.


The minister, responsible for education, adopts the SQF level for an individual education together with the educational programme, on the proposal of the competent Expert Council of the Republic of Slovenia.


For higher education, the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA) confirms the SQF level along with the accreditation of the study programme.

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS


NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



- 
- Legal bases: NVQ Act (2000)

- 
- Obtained after validation of non-formal and informal learning – formalisation of different ways of acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences

- 
- For adults only (18 and over)

- 
- A certificate is awarded as proof of qualification.

Placement of vocational qualifications into SQF levels is determined by the NVQ catalogue, the vocational further training programme or the study programme for further training.

In addition to adopting the NVQ catalogue, the minister, responsible for labour, also adopts the SQF level for an individual NVQ. The minister, responsible for education, adopts the SQF level for an individual vocational qualification together with the programme for vocational further training.

Along with the accreditation of the proposed study programme for further training, the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education confirms the SQF level of study programme for further training.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUALIFICATIONS

Reform element of SQF -

An important upgrade of the SQF

A supplementary qualification is a qualification that supplements an individual's competences at the level attained and in a specific professional field, and is tied to the needs of the labour market.

Placement of supplementary qualifications into SQF and EQF levels is determined by a decision of the Minister of Labour.



Quality assurance in the SQF

CORE INSTITUTIONS

- Interdepartmental Working Group
- NCP SQF-EQF
- NCP SQF-EQF Expert Panel

ONLY ACCREDITED
QUALIFICATIONS ARE
INCLUDED IN SQF

QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES

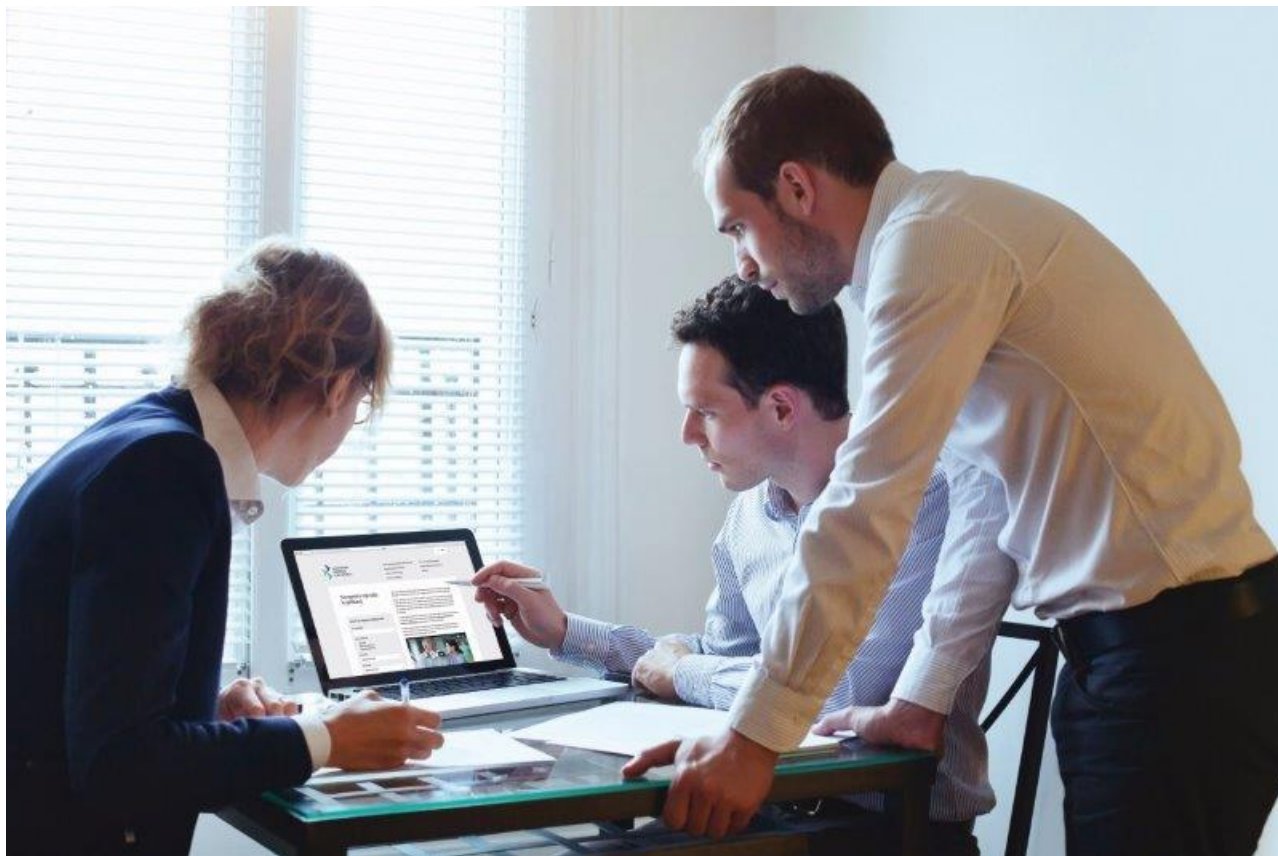
- ✓ Ministry of Education
- ✓ Ministry of Labour
- ✓ National QA Agency for HE



Strengths in the referencing process in Slovenia

- Building on the previous reforms.
- Well developed educational system in terms of accessibility and progression possibilities; lifelong orientation.
- Curricula reflects the shift to learning outcomes (learning objectives or competences).
- Recognition of non-formally acquired knowledge in the SQF (NVQ system)
- Broad stakeholders involvement from the beginning.
- Referencing 10 SQF levels to the 8 EQF levels.





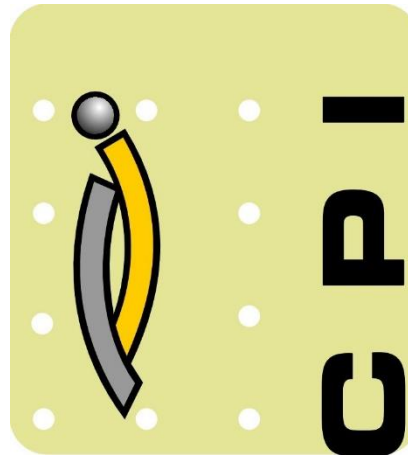
IMPLEMENTATION OF SQF



For better transparency and accessibility
of qualifications in Slovenia and the EU



NATIONAL COORDINATION POINT SQF-EQF



NCP SQF-EQF TASKS

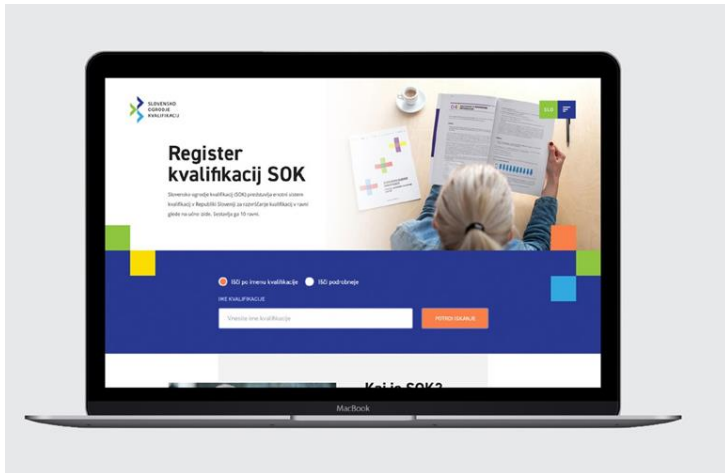


- provides access to information about the SQF, EQF and QF-EHEA
- promotion of SQF and EQF
- participation in the network NCP EQF

- takes care of the development of the SQF and its implementation
- leads the process of referencing the SQF to the EQF
- issues certificate of SQF and EQF levels for NVQs



NCP SQF-EQF TASKS



REGISTER OF SQF QUALIFICATIONS:

- maintains the register of SQF qualifications
- publishes qualification in register SQF qualifications
- maintains connections with the www.nok.si portalom

www.nok.si

NCP SQF-EQF TASKS

SUPPLEMENTARY QUALIFICATIONS:

- leads the process of placing supplementary qualifications in SQF
- provides professional and administrative support to the NCP SQF-EQF Expert Panel

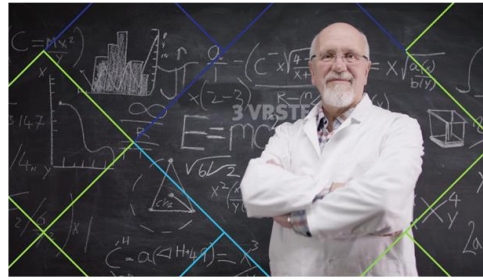
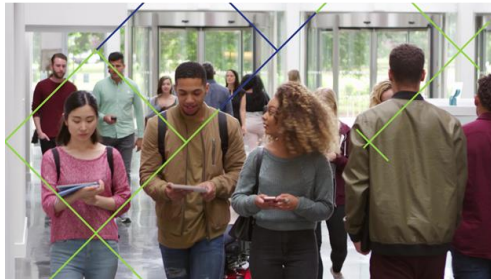


NCP SQF-EQF TASKS

PROMOTION OF THE SQF:



FOR DIFFERENT
TARGET GROUPS!



NCP SQF-EQF TASKS

Workshops:

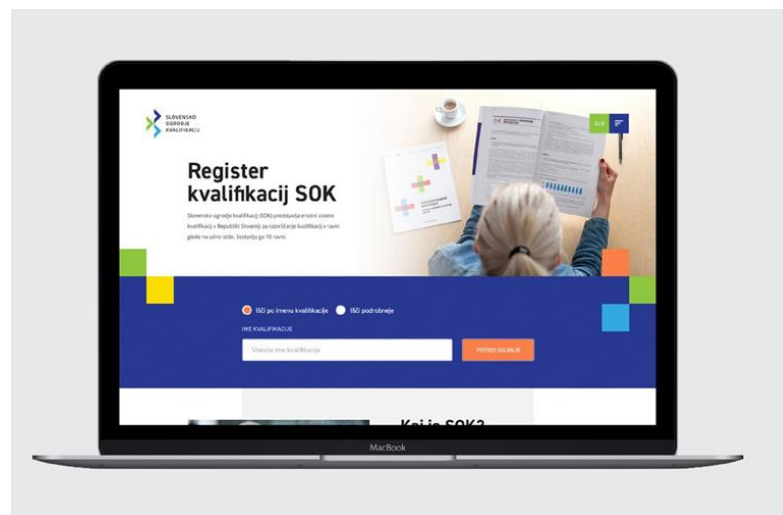
USING LEARNING OUTCOMES IN PRACTICE



Target group:
Professionals
who prepare
description for
qualifications



REGISTER OF THE SQF QUALIFICATIONS



Purpose of SQF Database

*The SQF, in particular with the help of **the Register of SQF qualifications**, significantly increases the transparency of the qualifications system in the country.*

It is used by different target groups:

- ❖ *Individuals: learners, unemployed, employees*
- ❖ *Employers*
- ❖ *Educational institutions*
- ❖ *Career counsellors*
- ❖ *Recognition bodies*



Development of SQF Database

2009 – 2014

Preparing
descriptions
of individual
qualifications
in selected
sectors

2012

Online
platform
Register of
the SQF
qualifications

2014 – 2016

Qualifications
described in
Slovenian and
English

Legal framework for the SQF Database

SQF Act (adopted in December 2015) defines:

- Necessary parameters with which qualifications are described in SQF Database;
- The NCP SQF-EQF publishes and is in charge for managing of the SQF Database on its webpage;
- Institutions such as Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia are obliged to provide necessary data for description and inclusion of individual qualification into SQF Database;
- Data from the database is also to be kept permanently.



Description of the qualification

- Name of Q
- Type of Q
- Category of Q
- Duration
- Credits
- Admission requirements
- ISCED field
- SQF level
- EQF level
- QF EHEA level
- Learning outcomes
- Assessment procedure
- Providers
- Possibility of progression to further education

SQF Database - functionalities

- ✓ SQF Database is part of SQF portal
- ✓ Description of qualification in Slovenian and English language
- ✓ Different ways of searching (name or advanced searching with several parameters)
- ✓ Qualification structure
- ✓ Distinction between past and actual qualifications



SQF Database - functionalities

- ✓ A user video guide of the SQF Database (in Slovenian language)



- ✓ Archive of qualifications in the SQF Database



SQF Database - functionalities

✓ Comparison of qualifications



Compare qualifications

	⊖ DIPLOMANT ANTIČNIH IN HUMANISTIČNIH ŠTUDIJ (UN)/DIPLOMANTKA ANTIČNIH IN HUMANISTIČNIH ŠTUDIJ (UN)	⊖ DIPLOMANT DIGITALNIH UMETNOSTI IN PRAKS (VS)/DIPLOMANTKA DIGITALNIH UMETNOSTI IN PRAKS (VS)	⊖ DIPLOMANT DRAMATURGIJE IN SCENSKI UMETNOSTI(UN)/DIPLOMANTKA DRAMATURGIJE IN SCENSKI UMETNOSTI (UN)
Translated title	Academic Bachelor's degree in classical studies and humanities	Diploma in digital arts and practices	Academic Bachelor's degree in dramaturgy and the performing arts
Type of qualification	Academic bachelor's degree	Professional bachelor's degree	Academic bachelor's degree
Category of qualification	Educational Qualification	Educational Qualification	Educational Qualification







Quality assurance in the SQF Database

- **ONLY ACCREDITED QUALIFICATIONS ARE INCLUDED IN SQF**
- NCP SQF-EQF is in charge for managing of the SQF register
- Establishing electronic communication with system of NAKVIS and NRP portal – to provide accurate and up-to-date information about qualifications in Slovenia



SQF Database – LOQ portal

- 
- 2013 – testing phase of the EQF portal in selected countries (CZ, FR, IE, LV, LT, SI, GB)
- 
- September 2016 – European Commission Country visit in Slovenia
- 
- December 2018 – Qualifications from SQF Database are published on the portal Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe
- 
- Februar 2019 – Qualifications from SQF Database are published on the portal ESCO



FUTURE CHALLENGES



Future challenges

- Making SQF database even more user friendly
- A functionality that outlines a Career path for the user of the SQF database
- Adding an application that will allow to connect occupations and qualifications in SQF database
- Publishing shorter video clips of people who acquired certain qualifications and their stories how that helped them as jobseekers, learners etc.



Future challenges

- Pilot mapping between qualifications described in SQF and ESCO pillars
- Evaluation of the SQF register in relation to its interest groups such as learners, employers, jobseekers and the unemployed was started.
 - *We formed an electronically questionnaire, which users of the SQF web site will be able to fill out and send their feedback.*
 - *Information will also be gathered on focus groups with stakeholders and various events.*



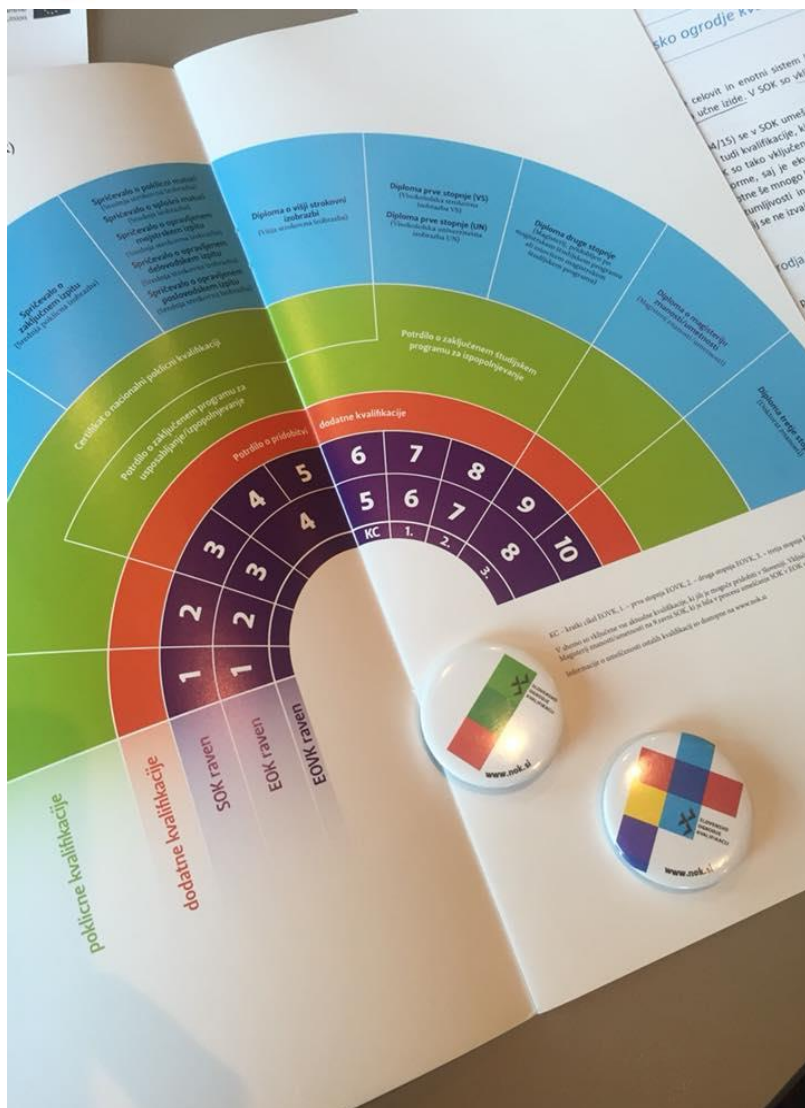
Future challenges

➤ Evaluation of the Slovenian Qualification Framework (methodological support of CEDEFOP)

1. Understanding the SQF among key stakeholders
2. Visibility of the SQF among key stakeholders
3. Using the SQF among key stakeholders
4. Analysis of the impact of the SQF on the education and training system

Key stakeholders - invitation to participate in focus groups, interview, analysis of national documents





THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!

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