

Study visit on NQF policies and tools (database) for a team from Moldova (4 persons).

Host organisation: CPI (Institut of Vocational Education, Slovenia).

Main conclusions

- The study visit exceeded its planned objectives, in the sense that both the Moldovan and the Slovenian peers learned from each other; and the Moldovan delegation received a rich set of documents and files related to the technical details and specifications of the NQF register, screenshots from the online register administration windows and many other files on the NQF, and generally on the education and training policy and system.
- CPI Slovenia dedicated a staff member to organise the study visit and logistics, and we were very well received by the team of relevant specialists for each session and theme. All participants received a large folder with documents, stationary and promotional materials. The Director as Interim of CPI, Urska Marencic, led the majority of the sessions, Aleksander Sladojevic assisted and contributed actively to the smooth organisation of all steps of the study visit. Contacts: urska.marencic@cpi.si; aleksandar.sladojevic@cpi.si.
- The event organiser (IBF) was very efficient and supportive, and we thank very much Georgia Tallia for her assistance.
- The agenda comprehensively covered all angles of interest for the Moldovan delegation, and was prepared in close collaboration with the Slovenian institute (CPI) and the Ministry of Education of Moldova.
- Besides CPI, we had meetings with the Ministry of Education as well as with the Slovenian QA Agency for Higher Education.
- The Moldovan delegation expressed high satisfaction with the new insights and the lessons discussed during the study visit and considered the information on the online national qualifications database as well as on the Catalogues (for assessment of competences) the most interesting take-aways. The governance of the education and training system and the architecture of roles and functions was also considered useful for further discussion.
- The 4 members of the Moldovan delegation were:
 - Corneliu Ciorici (Ministry of education, IT department)
 - Viorica Condruce (NQF Department Ministry of education)
 - Tatiana Gherstega (Head of NQF Department, Ministry of Education)
 - Radu Melnic (Department IT Technological University – Chisinau)
- **The main highlights of the themes and issues discussed during the 2,5 days can be summarised as follows:**
 1. **Governance** of education and training matters and the differences between Slovenia and Moldova became very clear throughout the discussions. While Slovenia has clearly allocated implementation, technical and methodological tasks to specialised agencies (of which CPI is one of the first and very experienced), and the Ministry focuses on policy-making and review, in Moldova such a separation is not yet done (or possible), hence the Ministry struggles to handle policy-making, but also technical and methodological functions, elaboration of standards and guides, as well as legal acts.
In the same context, it also became clear that the role of the independent quality assurance agency of HE is seen differently in the 2 countries: while in Slovenia the Ministry cannot interfere in the decisions of the QA Agency, in Moldova the Ministry has the right to check accreditation decisions, verify curricula and impose changes it considers necessary.

The Moldovan participants often asked questions about the roles of the Ministry and of the agencies, and concluded that the many achievements of the Slovenian NQF and VET system could be explained by the fact that enough resources were allocated to the entities in charge of each type of functions. In the case of Moldova, the NQF department struggles to handle a very large scope of objectives and tasks – with scarce human resources and in a context of unstable contributions from key stakeholders (such as the sector committees).

2. The Slovenian NQF

The various sessions provided an in-depth view of the objectives and structure of the NQF, its links with the education and training tradition of Slovenia and the new developments – with focus on the new online national qualifications database. The latter theme was of high interest for Moldova as the concept and development of the database is among the priority objectives.

The SQF aims at better transparency and accessibility of qualifications in Slovenia and in the EU.

A pick of major lessons for the Moldovan stakeholders:

- ✓ The philosophy of the SQF is that it is a framework for communication – to achieve transparency, recognisability and comparability of qualifications and frameworks.
- ✓ Three types of qualifications are included in the SQF: educational level, vocational level and supplementary.
- ✓ All qualifications in the SQF are formal, even if not necessary acquired via formal education. Vocational type of qualifications can be acquired via assessment / validation of competences.
- ✓ In 2019 the SQF is undergoing an in-depth evaluation, with Cedefop support, which is support further decisions and measures to engage with new challenges of the world of work and learning, and increase impact.
- ✓ The EQF referencing process was essential to better frame the stakeholders' dialogue and the actual SQF development and clarification.
- ✓ SQF has 10 levels, not 8, to better match the features and experience of the qualifications panorama and system in Slovenia.

Key milestones of the SQF development 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

- ✓ 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

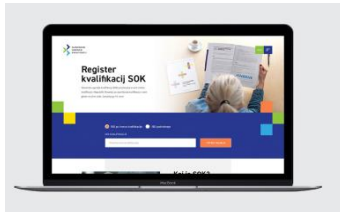
- ✓ SQF ACT - December 2015: SQF Act adopted in Slovenian Parliament

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The SQF structure (10 levels) is different from the EQF (8 levels) to better match the national panorama and traditions. Nonetheless the SQF is compatible with the EQF

3. The qualifictaions register (database): www.nok.si



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

www.nok.si

www.nok.si



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

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.

Descriptom of the qualification includes:

- 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 (a video supports users)

- 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

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

Future steps and developments – SQF and database of qualifications

- 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.
- 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.
 - *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.*

Evaluation of the SQF

- Evaluation of the Slovenian Qualification Framework (methodological support of CEDEFOP) – main themes:
 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

List of documents, examples and sources shared by CPI with the Moldovan guests:

- Laws: SQF and NVQ
- Examples of occupational standard; Catalogue;
- Online register of qualifications: use manual QDR registration; user manual publishing workflow; overview of technical requirements QMS; Qualifications metadata schema specifications; ICT specifications; ICT tender;
- Screenshots of the administrator views of the online register

ANNEX

Agenda of study visit

AGENDA

Moldovan stakeholders peer learning in Slovenia: National qualifications framework and Qualifications Database

CPI - INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA FOR VET, DEPARTMENT FOR VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION DEVELOPMENT, LJUBLJANA

4-6 JUNE 2019

SUMMARY

Moldova is at a crucial moment in developing further the National Qualifications Framework. A dedicated department was established at Ministry of Education Culture and Research. A law on Sector committees was approved in November 2017 entrusting them a substantial range of tasks in the area of qualifications. The work plan of the NQF department aims to develop and renew qualifications standards, agree efficient approaches and methods; improve cooperation with the world of work; and develop and launch the national qualifications database.

ETF and the Moldovan stakeholders are very grateful to Slovenia for generously accepting to host this study visit and for sharing knowledge and experience useful for Moldova and its qualifications system.

DAY ONE, 4TH JUNE

09.30 – 10.00	Introduction, getting acquainted, objectives of the peer learning visit	
10.00 – 11.00	<u>Session 1</u> - Presentation of Slovenian VET Centre (roles and responsibilities, degree of CPI autonomy and its relation to Ministries)	
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 13.00	<u>Session 2</u> - VET qualifications in Slovenia (occupational standards, national vocational qualifications, educational programs)	
13.00 – 13.30	Light lunch	
13.30 – 14.30	<u>Session 3</u> Role of Sector councils and how are they supported. Partnerships, dialogue, mutual benefits for the state and the sectors.	

14.30 – 15.30	<u>Session 4</u> Development and implementation of SQF	
15:30 – 16:00	Questions, debate. Lessons from day 1	
1 st day venue	<i>Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (Kajuhova 32 u, 1000 Ljubljana)</i>	

DAY TWO, 5TH JUNE

09.00 – 10.30	<u>Session 5</u> The national qualifications database: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope, objectives, expected benefits; • Who manages, reviews and quality assures the database; • Some key specifications on the IT architecture and tools; • How is the database used and by whom; • Overview of the services and possibilities offered by the database; • How are qualifications structured, reviewed and inserted in the database. • Website: show case <i>Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (Kajuhova 32 u, 1000 Ljubljana)</i>	
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 12.30	<u>Session 6</u> The national qualifications database: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interoperability with other systems and databases at national / sectoral level. • Resources required to run and further develop the database: human, financial, technical. • Challenges, issues, main perspectives of the database in the age of digital transformation of economy, skills and qualifications Cooperation at EU level (ESCO, EQF, Europass, bilateral exchanges and cooperation with other EU Member States). <i>Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (Kajuhova 32 u, 1000 Ljubljana)</i>	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch time (self-payment)	
14.00 – 16.00	<u>Session 7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education • Accreditation procedures • Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education database <i>Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (Slovenska cesta 9, 1000 Ljubljana)</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Questions, debate. Lessons from day 2.	

DAY THREE, 6TH JUNE

09:00 – 10:00	<p><u>Session 8</u> Education and training system; non-formal learning; new learning modalities and digital learning instruments: main policies and reforms in Slovenia</p> <p>Ministry of Education Science and Sport (Masarykova 16, 1000 Ljubljana)</p>
10:00 – 11:00	<p><u>Session 9</u> Main indicators of performance of education and training of Slovenia and employability of graduates. How are the indicators measured? How is this information disseminated and used?</p> <p>Ministry of Education Science and Sport (Masarykova 16, 1000 Ljubljana)</p>
11:00 – 13:00	Lunch (self-payment)
13.00 – 15.30	<p>Final debate. Conclusions from the Moldovan team. Wrap up and acknowledgements.</p> <p><i>Tatiana Gherstega, Eduarda Castel Branco and Team CPI.</i> Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (Kajuhova 32 u, 1000 Ljubljana)</p>