SESSION 3

NQF - FRENCH CASE
MS BRIGITTE BOUQUET

CHISINAU, 03 /12/2019
EVOLUTION OF THE FRENCH NQF

3RD GENERATION
A MATURE COUNTRY : 1ST GENERATION

1972-2002 : Commission Technique de l’homologation (certifications and diplomas of technological training courses)

Mainly qualifications by private stakeholders, chambers of trade and industry, Craft chambers

Interest : the « formal » education system was not the only one to have levels: parity of esteem on the labour market

-> A qualification framework without underpinning concepts, but the basis is qualification related to work (not the work, but to the qualification of a job)

Level based on the duration of the training course

Qualification providers other than the ministry of education

Structure level (levels determined by a text of 1969 after an agreement between text and social partners)

After 1994 classification also by a standard of training fields (national institute of statistics)

-> A difference between registration « by law » and « on demand »: qualifications of ministries with commission(s) where qualifications are discussed between State and social partners no analysis (commissions created 1972)

-> 2 criteria: level and field of training
2002-2018: Commission nationale de la certification professionnelle (depending on the minister of labour)

Chaired by an independent person

Vice chairs: 1 representative of employers, 1 of employees

(Development of the concepts of qualification framework)

The parity of esteem of the levels on the labour market (independent of the origin of the training provider)

2002: creation of VAE (validation of prior learning: the same qualifications than through initial training)

- Individual right; VAE also for HE

=> Shift to learning outcomes duration not any longer taken into account

=> Concept of qualifications Framework shared by the stakeholders (répertoire national des certifications professionnelles –RNCP- bears the framework)

HE diplomas registered in the RNCP

Pathways between the sub systems promoted

More and more public funding linked to registration (Apprenticeship)

2009: creation of a new register for « partial » qualifications -2014 funding of the qualifications registered
Basis does not change (level, fields of training)
Classification of the fields of training is not linked with the education system but with the labour market (ILO)
Quality assurance on the process of registration
A special way for sectoral qualifications (on demand but without a level)
3 Grids: for the description of activities, competencies and assessment process

**The influence of EQF:**
The levels must be more transparent and the descriptors must be explicited
Cohérence with the Bologna process (levels 6, 7, 8) needed

=> Work on a new set of levels and descriptors

« Blocs de compétence »
The holistic conception (a qualification) is kept, but creation of blocks » of qualification (not units of training courses)
(common work and research between stakeholders)

No problem with private, international qualifications as long as they fulfill the criteria of registration in one of the 2 registers

**BUT**
No real possibility to regulate the market created (continuing education in France 24 billions euros)
A law which reforms in depth Lifelong Learning, apprenticeship, creates a NQF and suppresses small structures voted 5th of September 2018

A NEW PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Created in order to finance and to regulate the quality of VET, LLL and of apprenticeship.

September 2018: creation by law
Activity started in January 2019

An institution under the responsibility of the minister of Labour

Its governance: State, regions, social partners (employers and employees)
A NEW ORGANISATION
A PART OF A BROADER ENTITY, ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE QUALITY OF VET

In the same institution (but 2 different entities)

The quality of VET:

Within 2 years, the awarding bodies will have to be certified (ISO norms)
Or by accrediting bodies accepted by France compétences (mainly for institutions depending on the ministry of Education)
For Higher Education (HE), the QA of the Bologna process is accepted for the time being
The whole accreditation body is accepted

The new framework:
Based on learning outcomes the quality of the process of registration for each qualification
THE NEW FRAMEWORK : MORE UNDERSTANDABLE
MORE IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO QUALITY ASSURANCE

Framework officialised :

8 levels and descriptors (knowledge, skills, autonomy) the combination of the descriptors is in France a « competence » (in cohérence with the new EQF descriptors)

A new Commission composed by representatives of regions, State and social partners, chaired by an independant figure

( France compétences’ team makes the analysis, and the commission and its chair give their advice -formerly the chair of the commission was a member of the team-

Principles for registration are officially published (legal requirements for providers, outstanding elements which are systematically taken into account by the members of the Commission (compulsory criteria)
THE CONTENTS OF A FICHE RNCP: SIMILARITY BETWEEN ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS

THE FICHES AND THE GRIDS ARE PUBLISHED

REGISTRATION BY LAW
Written under the responsibility of the ministries including HE charge of HE (exception with CTI for engineers) and a dialogue with France compétences

-> description of learning outcomes: in the perspective of the labour market (activities- compétences: what the holder of a qualification is able to do, and which « compétences » must have been proved)

It is not the description of a training programme, but of outcomes
The competences and activities can be compared with the level descriptors of the QF

Registration on demand:
Published after the analysis of the accreditation team, the approval of the commission de la certification

-> « blocks of compétences », which are now compulsory for registration on demand and by law must be described in order to build pathways between subsystems, for LLL and validation of prior learning.
Registration by law:
The CPC are kept, but must have the same « pattern »
There is no longer a discussion but an agreement by the Commission for the registration
All the qualifications must be revised every 5 years

Registration on demand : 9 public criteria

• 1) Cohérence between the standard job for which the qualification is intended and the jobs occupied by the holders of the qualification (2 cohorts of holders of the qualification)

• 2) Comparison of the impact of the qualification with similar qualifications for accessing the labour market (2 cohorts of holders of the qualifications)

• 3) Quality of the grid of activities, of the grid of competencies and of the grid of the assessing process

• 4) The procedures of control of all the modalities of organisation of the assessment tests

• 5) Legal regulations of the qualification

• 6) Possibility of VAE

• 7) Cohérence between the blocks and of their assessment tests

• 8) If it is the case, cohérence between of correspondance (global or partial) with other qualifications of the same level and with their blocks;

• 9) If it is the case, association of the sectoral councils of the branch
PROCESS FOR REGISTRATION « BY LAW »

Creation

Redaction

send

To be validated by MIN

Valider

To validation by FC

to Publish

Published

filer:
School, private organization, university ministries

Ministries validate

France compétences publishes
Creation of the file

Admissibility

Analysis

Commission

Decision by France compétences

Disagreement

Agreement

Publication (and publication in the official gazette)

Filer

France compétence :
Direction de la certification professionnelle
Commission en charge de la certification professionnelle
France compétences
General direction

Possible to come back

5 years maximum