Our Work on Qualifications

- Implementation of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- National Awarding Body for Further Education and Training
- External Quality Assurance Body for Post-School Education and Training
- Promote and facilitate international recognition of qualifications
- National Co-ordination point for European Qualifications Framework
The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

The **NFQ:**

- A system of ten **levels for classifying** qualifications in Ireland
- Promotes the use of **learning outcomes** to represent and recognise learning achievements
- Defines the **relationship between qualifications** and supports **pathways** within further education and employment opportunities
- Promotes public confidence in the **quality of qualifications** offered and achieved in Ireland
- Facilitates academic **recognition of qualifications**
- A **policy instrument** for lifelong learning
The Irish NFQ in Practice

- **Implementation**
  - Legislative framework and partnership approach governing NFQ implementation by awarding bodies, providers and quality assurance bodies.
  - Legislation has supported establishment, consolidation and development phases of the NFQ.

- **Use**
  - Students, employers, researchers, guidance, credential evaluators, regulators, policy makers...

- **Impact**
  - Transparency, Quality, Lifelong Learning, Mobility and Recognition....
The Irish NFQ

AWARDING BODIES
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK
There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:
- Major Awards: named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

For further Information consult: www.nfq.ie  www.QQI.ie
Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global
Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.

European Dimension

Eqf, NFQ, EQF, Qf-ehea
Irish National Framework of Qualifications
European Qualifications Framework
Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area

For further information consult: www.nfq.ie www.QQI.ie
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European Referencing – EQF and Bologna system expectations for NQFs

- Describe domestic *institutional, governance and policy landscape* for qualifications
- Evidence a functioning NQF based on *Learning Outcomes*
- **Lifelong learning** orientation – RPL, credit, NQF in recognition practices
- Convincing *technical mapping* of relevant qualification descriptors
- Transparent process for *including qualifications within NFQ*
- NQF embedded in national arrangements for *Quality Assurance*
- **Visibility** of EQF and QF-EHEA status
- Secure broad based *engagement and endorsement* from national stakeholders
- Alignment subject to *peer review* – role of international experts and EQF-AG community.
Reflections and Future Prospects

- Legislation, Institutional arrangements and Stakeholder engagement all matter
- NFQ - a social and a technical construct
- Qualifications system was implicit – NFQ made it explicit
- Pragmatism and consensus is the Irish way
- Never too early to think about evaluation, we didn’t!
- Regional qualifications frameworks can be influential
- Policy learning not policy borrowing
- Growing expertise and knowledge available – In Africa and in Europe
- Keeping NFQ alert and responsive to qualifications and skills ecosystem?
Thank You