

## African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)

### ACQF Capacity Development Programme (2020-2021)

#### Learning and developing a common understanding on qualifications frameworks

##### Multi-lingual webinars



### 1. Rationale and objectives

The ACQF development project organises a capacity development programme on core themes of qualifications frameworks and systems. The purpose is to boost engagement of African Union member states and stakeholders and develop knowledge and a common understanding of key concepts, objectives, types and operational instruments of national and regional qualifications frameworks. An ACQF Experts Network will pool together the trained participants and contribute to sustainability of the future ACQF in action.

The programme for 2020-2021 will be delivered in two phases:

- **Phase 1:** July, September, October 2020 – The series up to seven webinars entirely devoted to peer learning follows on and brings to a higher level the earlier peer learning sessions delivered during the inaugural ACQF workshop (September 2019) and webinars (May 2020). Phase 1 lays the foundation for the programme of Phase 2 (2021).
- **Phase 2:** In 2021, the advanced programme develops in-depth knowledge and engages in practical application. The programme will combine training sessions and e-learning. The ACQF e-learning platform will include the needed resources to support further development and application.

The first experience-sharing sessions (in 2019-2020) offered the opportunity to learn from peers from the SADC Qualifications Framework, the East Africa Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, South Africa, Seychelles, Rwanda, Tunisia, Cabo Verde and Mozambique. This first capacity development space was highly appreciated by participants, thereby justifying the structured and comprehensive programme planned for 2020-2021.

**Main participants:** institutions from African Union member states involved in the ACQF development activities, experts, practitioners and international guest experts.

### 2. Main themes of the peer learning webinars in phase 1 (July to October 2020)

- National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) and National Qualifications Systems (NQSs): Main concepts through case studies; context, objectives, rationale and types of qualifications frameworks; new dimensions and developments related with digitalisation, lifelong and life-wide learning; and added value of NQFs for education and training systems and individuals.
- Regional Qualifications Frameworks (RQF): Objectives, interplay and governance, referencing / alignment, triggers and success factors, main benefits.

- Developing and implementing an NQF: Common dimensions, different paths.
- Learning outcomes: Common language of education and the labour market; uses, types, some common guidelines. Role of learning outcomes in NQFs.
- Levels and level descriptors: Meaning, uses, links with design of qualifications and curriculum.
- Managing and making the information on qualifications and NQFs more transparent: Registers, databases, catalogues; interconnected qualifications databases.
- Quality assurance: Indispensable foundation of NQFs.
- Governance of qualifications frameworks: Participation, regulation, roles and responsibilities.
- Review and monitoring of qualifications frameworks.

Participants will make sense of the learning path and preliminary achievement through a self-assessment exercise, and case study.

### 3. Cases and experiences

- African experiences:

**RQF:** SADCQF; EAQFHE;

**NQF:** Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritius, Morocco, Angola, Ghana, Egypt, Cabo Verde, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Zambia.

- International experiences:

**Meta-frameworks:** European Qualifications Framework, ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework, Arab Qualifications Framework

**NQFs:** Slovenia, Ireland, France, Portugal and Bahrain.

The planned cases can be modified and adjusted to needs and changing context.

### 4. Phase 1: plan of ACQF capacity development Webinars: July, September, October 2020

Date Time: CET	Webinar Nr - Language	Themes	Cases, countries
<b>Thursday, 02/July 14.00-16.15</b>	Nr 1 EN-FR	1. African experiences - qualifications frameworks contributing to change. Building and implementing the NQF, success factors, added-value. RPL. Regional integration. 2. International experiences - meta-qualifications frameworks / regional frameworks. Interplay NQFs-Regional Qualifications Framework (case of EQF). 3. International experiences - NQFs: policy objectives, scope, implementation, registers of qualifications. Learning outcomes. Validation of non-formal and informal learning / RPL. 4. Debate	1. African experiences: Kenyan NQF 2. European Qualifications Framework (EQF) 3. Slovenia NQF
<b>Thursday, 16/July 11.00-13.30</b>	Nr 2 EN-FR	1. African experiences - qualifications frameworks contributing to change. Integrated NQF. Regional integration. 2. International experiences - meta-qualifications frameworks / regional frameworks. Interplay NQFs-Regional QF (case of ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework) 3. International experiences - NQFs: policy objectives, scope, implementation. Role of learning outcomes in the NQF. Registers of qualifications, governance. Monitoring and evaluation of the NQF. Regional integration / European cooperation. 4. Debate. Mentimeter exercise.	1. Mozambique NQF 2. ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework 3. Ireland: National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
<b>Thursday, 10/09 14.00-16.30</b>	Nr 3 EN-FR-PT	1. African experiences : qualifications frameworks contributing to change. Building and implementing the NQF, success factors, added-value. Governance of the NQF. Regional integration: alignment with SADCQF.	1. Mauritius NQF 2. France NQF 3. Portugal NQF

(CET)		<p>2. International experiences – NQF: a pillar of the national qualifications system (NQS). Reforming the NQF, addressing new objectives and technological developments. The role of learning outcomes in the NQF. Governance – roles of different institutions and stakeholders. Validation of non-formal and informal learning.</p> <p>3. Debate, interactive assessment</p>	
<b>Thursday 24/09 14.00-16.30 (CET)</b>	Nr 4 EN-FR-PT	<p>1. African experiences: CAMES: Quality assurance in higher education: a reference framework and repertoire of diplomas recognised by CAMES. Regional integration – LMD in CAMES member states.</p> <p>2. African experiences : Morocco – the NQF starting operationalisation: Quality Assurance in Higher Education; competence-based TVET; new NQF governance.</p> <p>3. Bahrain Qualifications Framework. Contributing to transparency, quality and portability of qualifications. New demands and challenges in the context of Covid19.</p> <p>Arab Qualifications Framework (AQF): ANQAHE Model.</p> <p>4. Debate, interactive assessment</p>	<p>1. CAMES</p> <p>2. Morocco</p> <p>3. General Directorate of National Qualifications Framework - Education and Training Quality Authority - Bahrein</p>
<b>Thursday 08/10 14.00-16.30 (CET)</b>	Nr 5 EN-FR-PT	<p>1. African experiences: developing NQFs. Messages from countries starting and deepening the development of their NQFs: planning the roadmap, engaging the stakeholders, building a shared vision, user-friendly NQF concepts, overcoming resistance to change, capacity development.</p> <p>2. Debate. Homework</p>	<p>1. Angola</p> <p>2. Ghana</p> <p>3. Egypt</p> <p>4. Zimbabwe</p>
<b>Thursday 22/10 14.00-16.30 (CET)</b>	Nr 6 EN-FR-PT	<p>1. African experiences: NQFs making a difference for policy, system, citizens. Evolving NQFs. Converging sub-systems, databases / catalogues of qualifications, role of quality assurance (higher education and VET), role of stakeholders involvement.</p> <p>2. Updates from SADCQF and EAQFHE</p> <p>3. Debate, interactive assessment</p>	<p>1. Zambia NQF Cabo Verde NQS</p> <p>2. SADCQF and EAQFHE</p>
<b>Thursday 29/10 14.00-17.00 (CET)</b>	Nr 7 EN-FR-PT	<p>1. African experiences: South African NQF – fundamental principles and features, added-value, governance, new debates, international cooperation. Regional integration.</p> <p>2. ECOWAS – qualifications for regional integration and development, portability, recognition</p> <p>3. National qualifications registers and interconnected databases: full overview from EQF countries. Presentation of the results of a stocktaking study.</p> <p>4. Concluding session of ACQF capacity development (phase 1).</p> <p>a. Making sense of the learning path</p> <p>b. Self-assessment and certificate</p>	<p>1. South African NQF</p> <p>2. ECOWAS</p> <p>3. Monika Auzinger and Koen Nomden</p> <p>4. Final debate, assessment.</p>

#### Additional thematic webinars in preparation:

- Role of NQFs for in recovery and change related with effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic - October 2020.
- NQFs in action: measuring and assessing effectiveness and contribution to change – November 2020

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