THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ONLINE ABOUT THESE INITIATIVES.

OUR STUDY: BASED ON INTERVIEWS.

A QUALIFIED WORLD:
A GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS

WHAT IS AN RQF?
Qualifications frameworks agreed by a number of countries or national organisations with a common agenda for economic, labour or educational cooperation.

WHAT ARE RQFS GOOD FOR?
- Connecting national standards among participating nations.
- Building confidence in their universality.
- Referencing and aligning local qualifications with those in other countries.
- RQF equivalency can serve as a passport to international mobility.

WHAT ARE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS (RQFS)?
RQFs are diverse. Some attempt to harmonise quality assurance and develop common qualifications or common registers. Some aim to share common programmes, particularly among groups of small countries. Climate change is a popular topic in this regard.

Different stages of development across RQFs:
- Harmonising qualification systems
- Developing common qualifications
- Sharing common programmes

Online programmes:
Increasingly important micro-credentials are on the rise.

Challenges in developing RQFs:
- Lacking skills and resources
- Fickle donor funding
- The COVID crisis

All RQFs agree on providing common solutions for developing, registering and assuring qualifications.

RQFs work on the basis of levels. The highest level indicates the most complex skills and knowledge acquired.

Qualifications are essential and diverse. But levels can be confusing. The key is cooperation.

17 RQFS AROUND THE WORLD.

- European Qualification Framework (EQF)
- Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA)
- African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)
- Arab Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (AQHE, ANQAHE Model)
- ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF)
- CARICOM Qualifications Framework (CQF)
- Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l’Enseignement supérieur (CAMES)
- ECOWAS Regional Qualifications Framework of West Africa (ECOWAS)
- East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (EAQHE)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa
- Marco de cualificaciones Alianza del Pacífico (Pacific Alliance) (MCAP)
- Marco de Cualificaciones para la Educación superior centroamericana (MCEISA)
- Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards/ Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Qualifications Framework
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Qualifications Framework
- Transnational Qualifications Framework for the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (TQF VUSSC)
- Gulf Qualifications Framework (GQF)