

A QUALIFIED WORLD:

A GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS

RQF

**MAPPING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
IN REGIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORKS (RQFS)**



WHAT IS AN RQF?

are 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

**THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ONLINE ABOUT THESE INITIATIVES.
OUR STUDY: BASED ON INTERVIEWS.**

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.

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.



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

17 RQFS AROUND THE WORLD.

European Qualification Framework [EQF]

ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf)

East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (EAQFHE)

Marco de Cualificaciones para la Educación superior centroamericana (MCESCA)

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Qualifications Framework

Qualifications Frameworks in the European Higher Education Area [QFEHEA]

CARICOM Qualifications Framework (CQF)

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa

Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards/ Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF)

Transnational Qualifications Framework for the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (TQF VUSSC)

African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)

Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement supérieur (CAMES)

Marco de cualificaciones Alianza del Pacífico (Pacific Alliance) (MCAP)

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Qualifications Framework

Gulf Qualifications Framework (GQF)

Arab Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (AQF; ANQAHE Model)

ECOWAS Regional Qualifications Framework of West Africa [ECOWAS]

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