Referencing to the EQF

ETF webinar ‘Towards referencing to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)’

10 April 2024

Koen NOMDEN, Tiina POLO
Skills Agenda Unit, DG EMPL
What is the purpose of the EQF?

**CHALLENGE**

Education and training systems differ across countries. Qualifications are diverse and reflect national rules and traditions.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

To improve the transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications.

**WIDER IMPACTS**

- Employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners
- Foster lifelong learning
- Modernising education and training systems
Principles supported by the EQF

• Qualifications are more transparent and comparable when described as learning outcomes and including EQF levels.

• Scope of the EQF covers all qualifications types and levels.

• Learning outcomes may be achieved through a variety of paths in formal, non-formal or informal settings (validation), whether in national or international contexts.

• Common principles for quality assurance and credit systems related to EQF.

• Principles of subsidiarity and proportionality to national settings.
The EQF Recommendation invites Member States to reference their national qualifications frameworks or systems to the EQF, in order to establish a clear and transparent relationship between their national qualification levels and the eight EQF levels.
Referencing builds…

- Visibility
- Transparency
- Trust
- Comparability
- Portability
### Referencing process

- Each country wanting to relate its national qualifications levels to the EQF has to prepare a detailed referencing report that follows the 10 EQF referencing criteria agreed in Annex III to the revised EQF Recommendation.
- National referencing reports are presented to the EQF Advisory Group: the EQF AG discusses them as “critical friends”, and in view of meeting the referencing criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Clear responsibilities of relevant national bodies</th>
<th>2. Clear demonstrable link between the NQF and EQF levels</th>
<th>3. NQFs based on learning outcomes, VNFIL, possibly credit systems</th>
<th>4. Transparent procedures for inclusion of qualifications in NQF</th>
<th>5. QA systems refer to NQF &amp; consistent with EQF QA principles</th>
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<tr>
<td>6. QA bodies confirm consistency of referencing with QA arrangements</td>
<td>7. Referencing process involves international experts</td>
<td>8. Competent authorities certify the report &amp; mention of a single report on EQF and QF-EHEA</td>
<td>9. National report published on EQF portal within 6 months</td>
<td>10. Qualifications that are part of NQF will have reference to EQF level + databases</td>
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## Referencing and re-referencing since 2009*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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</table>
| 2009 | • IE  
• MT  |
| 2010 | • FR  
• CZ  
• LT  
• PT  
• BE(NL)  
• DK  
• EE  
• LV  
• LT  
• NL  |
| 2011 | • AT  
• HR  
• DE  
• LU  |
| 2012 | • BE(FR)  
• BG  
• PL  
• SI  
• IS  
• IT  |
| 2013 | • NO  
• ME  
• BE(NL) (re-ref)  |
| 2014 | • EL  
• EE (re-ref)  
• HU  
• CH  |
| 2015 | • SE  
• MK  
• XK  
• LI  
• MT (re-ref)  |
| 2016 | • SE  
• MK  
• XK  
• LI  
• MT (re-ref)  |
| 2017 | • CY  
• FI  
• SK  
• TR  |
| 2018 | • RO  
• NL (re-ref)  
• LV (re-ref)  |
| 2019 | • RS  
• IE (re-ref)  |
| 2020 | • AL  
• FR (re-ref)  |
| 2021 | • IT  |
| 2022 | • BE(NL) (re-ref)  
• MT (re-ref)  
• DK (add-ref)  |
| 2023 | • LT (re-ref)  
• ES  
• HR (re-ref)  
• TR (re-ref)  |
| 2024 | • LT (re-ref)  
• ES  
• HR (re-ref)  
• TR (re-ref)  |

* excl. UK
After referencing reports published on **EUROPASS website**, countries mention EQF/NQF levels on certificates and qualifications databases, **National databases linked through EUROPASS** to other countries, and NQF levels with examples of qualifications in the **comparison tool of EUROPASS**.
Trust is a continuous process

- National qualifications frameworks and systems change over time, and therefore **referencing to the EQF should be reviewed and updated**, whenever relevant.

- **Promoting** the use of NQFs and EQF to individuals and organizations.

- Making use of the **procedures and tools for transparency** developed in the EQF AG
  - International qualifications
  - Short descriptions of learning outcomes
  - European Learning Model and European Digital Credentials
EQF Evaluation

- The EQF is a well-established reference point that is widely accepted among institutions working with qualifications.
- The EQF approach is well equipped to support transparency, comparability and portability of qualifications within and between countries.
- The EQF is comprehensive in its structure, but in practice still remains mainly a transparency tool for qualifications from the formal domain.
- The EQF has become an integral part of other EU policies and tools.
- The EQF has clear practical value for stakeholders working with qualifications, but its relevance and further potential purpose is still not sufficiently clear to the broader public.
Thank you