

FLASH REPORT

Event name

Training for the board members of the National Qualifications Agency of Ukraine (NAK),
26-28 February, 2019

Main objective/s

To discuss and clarify the tasks of the National Qualifications Agency based on the functions set in the Law on Education and the Statutes of NAK,

To discuss and agree on the work plan including the priority tasks NAK should deal first;

To discuss and agree on organisational structure of NAK;

To share experience and lessons learnt of the three National Qualifications Agencies (Estonia, Portugal and Turkey).

Background

Article 38 of the new Law on Education (September 2017) mentions a National Qualifications Agency as a permanent collegial body authorised to implement public policy in the area of qualifications. It is an important step to implement the new qualification system, to develop a competency-based education system and to facilitate lifelong learning and better recognition and quality assurance of Ukrainian qualifications.

During recent years ETF commissioned background research, organised several seminars and study visits dedicated to the creation and roles of this new agency. This includes the establishment of a national register of qualifications and a national NQS website that the agency will manage. Moreover, we are looking into the implications of creating a system of independent assessment of qualifications, including the development of assessment standards from occupational standards, the link to regulated professions and the links to the validation of non-formal and informal learning. These activities fall within the remit of the National Agency for Qualifications.

The Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution of 5 December 2018 defined the Statute of the National Agency for Qualifications. The training in Turin brought the freshly nominated members of the board of the National Agency for Qualifications (from social partners and key ministries) and other relevant stakeholders together to discuss the establishment, development and functions of the National Agency for Qualifications. The tasks of the National Agency for Qualifications were discussed, priorities for the first years identified in view of making the National Agency for Qualifications operational and visible at an early stage.

After the agencies in Turkey, Russia, Kosovo and Georgia, this is the fifth National Agency for Qualifications established in partner countries. Colleagues from three successful Qualifications Agencies (from Estonia, Portugal and Turkey) came to Torino and shared their experience with Ukrainian colleagues.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Participants included: All the 12 members of the board of the National Agency for Qualifications; Representatives of the institutions that are counterparts of the National Agency for Qualifications: (Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Social Policy, Federation of Employers). Representatives from GIZ that will implement the EU4Skills Project, which foresees support to the development of the agency as part of wider VET reforms; Representatives from the National Qualifications Agencies of Estonia, Portugal and Turkey and ETF staff.

In Torino, the board members and stakeholders were able to dedicate themselves for three full days to the Agency, away from their everyday tasks at home. The event consisted of plenary sessions and a number of working groups aimed to discuss and agree on the important documents of National Agency for Qualifications: a concept, work plan, list of priorities and organisational structure. The event was very interactive allowing peer-learning and exchange of experience. The participation of the colleagues from the functioning agencies allowed the newly nominated members of the board to get a look in the kitchen of the agencies. This allowed colleagues to compare experiences. The assignments on the anticipation of qualification needs, moderated by Eduarda Castel-Branco, helped colleagues to clarify the key role of the National Agency for Qualifications in this process.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

All the participants in the training demonstrated that they understood the opportunities offered by the National Agency of Qualifications in strengthening confidence in qualifications, in improving quality assurance and developing independence assessment, in identifying priority qualifications for Ukraine. The National Agency for Qualifications will need to actively engage with stakeholders including sectoral organisations, providers and assessment centres, different governmental bodies and international partners. Moreover, the key counterparts from Ministries of Education and Social Poly and from the Federation of Employers delivered valuable contributions that strengthen the mandate for the National Agency for Qualifications.

The Estonian, Portuguese and Turkish examples were important in showing how an agency can add value in very different contexts and how qualifications are intertwined with employment, economic development and educational policies. There were many questions to the colleagues and every question was answered. Funding was a recurrent issue that each of the agencies addressed with great transparency and openness.

Understanding the importance of delivering quality and concrete results, the colleagues made amendments to the work plan for the National Agency for Qualifications. The plan is now more spread out to address the different issues realistically. The National Agency for Qualifications embraced the issue of the anticipation of qualification needs, as a bridging institution between data producers and data users. It became clear that agency will be a key factor in the upcoming EU4Skills project and will be involved in different strands of both the policy component and the Quality of Education component of the project.

A Strategy for a new National Qualification System in Ukraine was not on the agenda but became an unforeseen outcome of the training. Such a Strategy is important to shape a new demand driven and open and quality assured system of qualifications that can support lifelong learning, rather than only formal education, and support transitions in the labour market and career development for citizens. It will help to move away from the Tariff Qualification System that was inherited from the Soviet Union.

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