DRAFT MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS
OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP
BRUSSELS, 4-6 OCTOBER 2016

The EQF referencing process

Referencing reports:

- LI presented its referencing report at the meeting. The EQF AG endorsed the Referencing Report. LI is invited to finalise its report further to the comments given in the meeting (which will be summarised by Cedefop and the Council of Europe) and to submit the final version to the Commission for publication.
- CY, RO and SK announced the presentation of pending issues of their referencing reports at the EQF AG 8-9 December 2016 meeting.
- IS announced it may present an update of its referencing in December (tbc).
- Kosovo announced the presentation of its Referencing Report at the EQF AG December meeting 2016.
- PL announced a presentation on the implementation of their NQF

Action points:

- AG members intending to present their referencing report (Kosovo), to present pending issues (CY, RO and SK) or an update of the referencing report (IS) in the 8-9 December 2016 meeting should confirm by 31 October and send their referencing report to the Commission before 8 November 2016.
- AG members are invited to inform the Commission about changes in their situation as laid down in note AG 37-2 by 8 November 2016.

Working group on horizontal comparisons of levelled qualifications:

- the chair of the HC group presented a state of play of the work on horizontal comparison of the CNC machine operator qualification (EQF levels 3 and 4) and of the mechanical engineer qualification (EQF level 6) in the countries

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1 For overview of referencing planning please see note AG36-2
2 “This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence”
participating in the project (PL (coordinator), HU, IT, LV, NO, SE and UK-Scotland will join). Some preliminary conclusions of the project point out that comparisons of learning outcomes are possible and that the language used in the context of the EQF and NQFs is not jeopardizing comparison. Differences found in levelling so far can be explained by context information.

- The group will continue its work and present its final report with conclusions and recommendations at the 8-9 December meeting. UK-Scotland has indicated its wish to join the group

Action points:
- The HC to continue its work (meeting planned for mid-November) and to present its final report at the 8-9 December meeting
- The HC Group is invited to reflect on the way the work on horizontal comparison of qualifications can be continued. In this context it is invited advise on a possible work plan for the next two years and to include recommendations on methodology and on other qualifications to be addressed therein

New Skills Agenda for Europe:

Skills Guarantee:
- The Commission presented the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Skills Guarantee, which was adopted as part of the June package of the New Skills Agenda for Europe.
- The Recommendation is currently discussed by the Council. The plan of the SK Presidency is to adopt the Recommendation at the November Ministerial meeting

Revision of the Europass Decision
- The objective of the proposal is establishment of a comprehensive and interoperable framework of tools, services and information for employment and learning purposes
- The discussion within the Council (Education Committee) will start under the SK Presidency and then continue under the Maltese Presidency.

Revision of the European Qualifications Framework
- An extensive discussion on the revision of the EQF Recommendation took place. The discussion mainly focused on the following points:
  o Consistency and updating of referencing
  o Quality assurance
  o Credit systems
  o Governance
- Discussions are underway in the Council (the Education Committee has the lead); two rounds of discussions took place so far, addressing the recommendations and the annexes. The recitals will be addressed at a next meeting. The SK Presidency will present a progress report by the end of the year and discussions should be finalized under the Maltese Presidency.

Action points:
- The Commission will keep the EQF AG informed about progress of discussions
on the revision of the EQF Recommendation and of the Europass Decision in the Council

- The results of the study on feasibility of setting institutional arrangements at EU level to ensure management and QA related to an extended scope of the EQF and of the Call for Proposals EACEA/48/2015 on "Quality assurance at the European level for enhanced transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications" will be presented at the 8-9 December meeting.

**Validation of non-formal and informal learning**

- A Tour de table took place on the state of play of national developments on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on VNFIL. Questions addressed were: (1) what is your current situation regarding validation arrangements? (2) what are the planned measures with (if possible) target dates? and (3) what are the major obstacles that you are meeting and/or what are your main needs on which the COM can support you?

- Most countries replied to question 1. Question 3 was only addressed to a limited extent. A minority of Member States announced possible dates for presenting their one off report: LU (at any moment), PT (Dec 2017 or 2018), AT (June 2018), DE, (2018), NO (Dec 2018).

- The Commission updated the AG on the Erasmus+ Policy experimentation call 2015: under the priority on VNFIL one proposal was received and admitted to the second phase as a full proposal.

- The Commission informed that a call for proposals for studies on skills audits for validation of non-formal and informal learning under the European Social Fund will be launched. The expected outcomes of the studies are detailed guidelines for people working with validation. The maximum budget foreseen is 500,000 Euro and the indicative length of the study will be 8-10 months. More details will be presented at the EQF AG meeting of 8-9 December.

- Cedefop presented the state of play of the European Inventory on Validation 2016. All country reports are ready. Discussions between country researchers and country representatives in charge of validation have been smooth. A synthesis of the results will be presented at the 8-9 December meeting.

- Cedefop provided a first snapshot on the database on validation that has just started to develop and which should link the European Guidelines and European Inventory

- BE-fl announced that the PLA on "Funding validation" has been postponed until 2017 (no specific date announced yet).

**Action points:**

- At the meeting of 8-9 December the final results of the E+ policy experimentation call will be presented as well as more details on the call studies on skills audits

- AG members are invited to volunteer for a presentation on their validation arrangements and to inform the Commission by **31 October** if they intend to do so.
The results of the European Inventory 2016 will be presented at the 8-9 December meeting.

Peer Learning Activities

The discussion on PLA programme of 2017-18 will be done at the next EQF AG meeting of 8-9 December. PLAs in the context of EQF should take into account the increasing number of operational NQFs and the shift from initial to updating referencing. PLAs in the context of validation should focus on the implementation of the Council Recommendation of 2012, with the year 2018 as a key.

Action point:
- AG members are invited to propose themes for PLAs (both EQF and VNFIL) and to indicate if they wish to host a PLA by 31 October.

The information further to the actions points should be sent to koen.nomden@ec.europa.eu.

EQF AG Meetings in 2016:
- 8 – 9 December, Brussels

EQF AG Meetings in 2016:
- Meetings in February, April, June, September, December (dates still to be announced)

PLAs:
- None planned at this moment. The PLA programme will be discussed in the 8-9 December 2016.