Qualifications Frameworks
European Higher Education
report from the National correspondants meeting

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Open questions and general comments

- How to support countries in the process of developing their NQF?
- When one NQF covers both overarching frameworks, the report must explicitly address criteria of both of them.
- The use of Learning outcomes is a cornerstone of NQF but still a challenge for most of HEIs.
- The link between QF and other Bologna Process tools must be underlined.
Questions about the real implementation of NQF

- How do HEI use QF as a tool for modernization and a learner-centered approach? How do they really perceive QF as an opening up scope for their own offer?
- How are NQF a tool to promote learning outcome approaches, both reflected as expected and/or acquired outcomes?
- It is also important to keep in mind the question of levelling: how is the progression described? And how can sub levels as they exist in several NQF be dealt with in terms of comparability?
- How are NQF used or not used in terms of accreditation processes?
All these questions are also related to the debate around the role of Higher Education and especially in relation to the issue of employability.

Another element mentioned was the issue of recognition of non-formal and informal education and how qualifications acquired through these paths are included, or not, in the NQF Higher Education. This question could also be related to that of recognition of refugees’ qualifications.
Future of the network

- The study on “self-certification” should be sent to the Bologna Follow up Group as a base for discussion, to be held in Spring 2017.
- The question of the periodicity of the review of national qualifications framework for higher education needs to be addressed.
- If at national level, a similar process includes self-certification QF EHEA and references to EQF, both criteria must be explicit for each meta frameworks.
- It is important to promote peer assistance for the development of NQF EHEA to support countries which need assistance with its development.
Future of the network

- It is important to continue to support a network around QF EHEA. The BFUG therefore needs to reflect the role of QF among the different Bologna tools.
- The different perspectives of the various meta-frameworks should be addressed not in terms of competition but of complementarity respecting their differences.
- The mandate of the QF network should be reviewed to reaffirm the importance of supporting the development of QF EHEA. The network is a place for dissemination, promotion of good practices and common reflection regarding the role of NQF and its implementation.