Feasibility of setting institutional arrangements at European level to ensure management and quality assurance of issues related to an extended scope of the EQF

EQF Advisory Group
8-9 December 2016
Karin van der Sanden
2015: Exploration of possible policy developments

- The preparatory work for the alignment of third country qualifications frameworks with the EQF
- Relating international qualifications and sectoral qualifications systems and frameworks to the EQF
- Maintenance of ESCO Classification
- Development, governance and continuous updating of European core profiles of qualifications
STUDY QUESTION

- Look at QA criteria and procedures
- reinforcing European cooperation
- in a slim and transparent quality assured way
- involving Member States and Stakeholders
Contractor
PPMI in cooperation with 3s

Timeframe
Approval final report
December
Methodological approach

- Desk research
- Interview programme
- Validation survey

Stakeholders targeted

- Social partners
- Independent experts
- Public authorities
- Other actors at national, European and international level
Bringing the activities under a single governance structure:

**PRO**

- Add value to both technical management and the conceptual implementation of the activities

- Might considerably reduce coordination costs among the activities and increase the flow of information

- A single governance structure for the EQF and ESCO activities might create an interface for cooperation between education systems and employers and contribute to better matching the demand and supply of skills in the labour market
Conclusions and Recommendations

Bringing the activities under a single governance structure:

Concerns:

- Less focus on main priority of EQF AG: achieving consistency across MS in linking NQFs to EQF

- Increased numbers and types of stakeholders involved potentially leading to increased bureaucracy, and less effective communication and feedback

- A coordinated approach from the EU level might undermine the national level arrangements or interfere with the principle of subsidiarity
Conclusions and Recommendations

The optimal division of responsibility

- **Decision making** (steering, political leadership)
  - European Commission
- **Consultation function**: (advice, guidance and endorsement)
  - Platform with MS and Stakeholders
- **Executive function**: (day-to-day operational or technical work and providing both the decision making and consultation processes with data and evidence)
  - Consortium Cedefop and ETF (relating NQF partner countries)
Conclusions and Recommendations

**Decision making:**
EQF being a European cooperation project, operational decisions and daily steering would be necessary at European level, which could be only carried out by European Commission in terms of mandate and practicality.

**Consultation function:**

**Executive function:** day-to-day operational or technical work which needs to be carried out in order for the activities to be implemented to a sufficient quality standard. This is a support work, providing both the decision making and consultation processes with data and evidence.
Call for Proposals EACEA/48/2015
"Quality assurance at the European level for enhanced transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications"

EQF Advisory Group
4-5 October 2016
Karin van der Sanden
TIMING

2015 • preparation of New Skills Agenda for Europe including possible revision of the EQF and discussions on international qualifications and European core profiles of qualifications

2015 Q4 ➔ preparation of the pilots
2016 Q2 ➔ selection of the proposals
2016 Q3 ➔ kick off
European Core profiles of qualifications

➢ **Aim:**
Supporting greater transparency to support easier de-facto recognition of qualifications

➢ **What:**
Minimum sets of learning outcomes for qualifications to be common across MS

➢ **How to be used**
By national authorities and international awarding bodies as a core element to which they may add other learning outcomes to create their qualifications
General objective of the call

Test POSSIBLE key criteria and methodologies at EUROPEAN level that could be applied when

i. relating international qualifications or international sectoral qualifications systems or frameworks to the EQF and for awarding international qualifications that are related to the EQF

ii. relating potential European core profiles of qualifications (regulated professions are excluded from the pilot) to the EQF and for awarding qualifications forthcoming from them
3 themes

A. Relating an ISQS/F to the EQF and describing QA principles, mechanisms and criteria for this and for awarding qualifications forthcoming from it

B. Relating (one or more) international qualification(s) to the EQF and describing QA principles and mechanisms for awarding these qualifications

C. Developing one or more potential European core profiles, relating it/them to the EQF and describing QA principles and mechanisms for awarding qualifications forthcoming from it.
Expected results of Theme A and (B)

- **Potential criteria** for establishing which international (qualifications), sectorial systems or frameworks can be related to the EQF
- A **potential methodology**, including QA principles, mechanisms and criteria, **for relating** international sectoral (qualifications) systems or frameworks to the EQF and awarding qualifications forthcoming from it
- **Examples** of a **potential relation** of an international sectorial (qualification) system or framework to the EQF
- A **report** demonstrating the validation of the outcomes with stakeholders from education and training in the labour market
Expected results of Theme C

• An exhaustive inventory, minimum 10 eligible countries, describing content and structure of existing education/training and labour market information related to the chosen qualification
  e.g.: learning outcomes of programme, level, duration, entry requirements, quality assurance
• One or more ECP expressed in terms of k/s/c and indicating the relevant EQF level. Profiles should be based on mapping and relevant ESCO occupational profile
• QA principles, mechanisms and criteria for developing ECP and for the certification process
• A report on a common position among all interested organisations (minimum 10 countries/8 MS)
NO FORMAL OUTCOME!!

Currently not existing:
- formal possibility to directly relate international qualifications or sectoral qualifications systems or frameworks to the EQF
- formal ECPs, procedures and quality criteria

THE RESULT OF THE PILOTS WILL NOT REPRESENT A FORMAL OUTCOME
Submitted applications

• 7 applications were received by the deadline
• eligibility-, the selection - and exclusion criteria
• ranked on the basis of award criteria:
  ▪ Relevance (20%),
  ▪ Quality of the project design and implementation (30%),
  ▪ Quality of project team and cooperation arrangements (30%),
  ▪ Impact and dissemination (20%)
Selection results

- 6 proposals passed the minimum quality threshold of 50% and one was rejected
- The total grant 400.000 €
- 3 proposals can be financed (388.641 €)
- The projects selected cover all the 3 themes of the Call two projects under theme A also address theme B
  - European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting (EWF) Project RAINBOW
  - EuropeActive, Project Relevance of Sector and International Qualifications and Frameworks to the EQF (SIQAF)
- On project covers theme C
  - Accademia d'arti e mestieri dello spettacolo Teatro all Scala, Project Transparency in Arts Levels and Qualifications (TALQ)
- The funded actions will be subject to an in-depth monitoring by the Executive Agency
Project Rainbow (EWF)

Expected results:

- Criteria to relate the International Welding Qualification system to the EQF (inspired by EQF referencing criteria, research and analysis)
- EWF methodology for mapping all levels of International welding qualifications
- A draft proposal for common QA principles
- Several qualifications covering level 2 – 7 will be tested and validated with National Authorities and Stakeholders (PT, ES, UK, RO, HU, BU, NL, Fi, CZ, BE)
- Validation report
- Dissemination to 31 countries
Project SIQAF (EuropeActive)

- Proposal/Recommendation how sector/international qualifications framework could be related to the EQF, including conditions and characteristics needed by a sector and key issues of transferability
- Criteria required and the way they would have to be applied to the process to assure convincing and plausible quality assurance, including creation of units of learning outcomes
- Propose a defensible way to establish a body for demonstration of good governance and gain validation from employers, employees, VET experts, accreditation bodies and other stakeholders in the sector.

Countries concerned: EU28 + others including Aus, NZ, SA