Polish Qualifications Framework implementation – state of play

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Outline

- Developments in PQF
- Integrated Qualifications System (IQS) in Poland, including the Qualifications Portal and Integrated Qualifications Register
- PQF governance
- PQF structure
- Including qualifications in the Polish IQS, including methods of levelling
- Designating awarding bodies
- Validation in the integrated qualifications system
- Supporting IQS implementation
10 years of the work on the PQF and Polish integrated qualifications system – key dates

2006 – launch of the work on the development of the Polish Qualifications Framework, from 2010 – large project financed from ESF supporting developing assumptions on the PQF and qualifications register in Poland

2013-2015 – development of the key assumptions of the integrated qualifications system, developing and piloting methods of level assignment, describing qualifications, validation, selected procedures in the register.

Amendments to the HE legislation, supporting the implementation of the PQF, including introduction of RPL.

December 2015 – adoption of the Law on Integrated Qualifications System

January 2016 – the Law comes into force

July 2016 – Qualifications Portal and Integrated Qualifications Register are launched. The register includes qualifications from the general and higher education

December 2016 – Almost all relevant legal acts (including government decrees) are in place, first 5 requests to include non-statutory qualifications are being proceeded.
10 years of the QF implementation in the higher education

2006 – 2010 - designing the QF for HE

2011 – amendment to the Act on HE introducing QF for HE

- From content to learning outcomes orientation
- the national curricula replaced by descriptors of levels and specific for scientific domains

2008 – 2013 - building capacity for successful implementation

2011 – new standards and criteria for accreditation – QF oriented

2014 – RPL introduced in the legislation

- 50% of program ECTS can be recognizes based on work experiences

2016 – reduction of scientific domains specific level descriptors – increase in universities’ autonomy in designing curricula
10 years of the QF implementation in the higher education

- Missing element - level 5
  - initiatives of the PL rectors conference

- New Act on Higher Education
  - QF being a regular and accepted part of academic life
    - Appreciated as a tool for designing curricula and validation of learning outcomes
    - Appreciated as a tool for organisation of teaching/learning proces
Main components of the Integrated Qualifications System in Poland

Integrated Qualifications System

- Polish Qualifications Framework
- Integrated Qualifications Register
- Quality assurance, validation, credit accumulation and transfer
Types of qualifications in Poland

General education system (minister for education)
- Full qualifications:
  - Primary school leaving certificate (level 1)
  - Lower secondary school leaving certificate (level 2)
  - Upper secondary school leaving certificate (matura) (level 4)
  - Diploma confirming vocational qualifications (levels 3-4)
- Partial qualifications:
  - Certificate confirming a qualification in an occupation (levels 2-5)

Higher education system (minister for higher education)
- Full qualifications:
  - First cycle studies (level 6)
  - Second cycle and integrated studies (level 7)
  - PhD (level 8)
- Partial qualifications:
  - Post-diploma studies (levels 6-7)

Regulated and non-statutory qualifications (relevant ministers)
- Partial qualifications in separate legal acts (levels 1-7)
- Partial non-statutory (private, market..) qualifications (level 1-7)
***Integrated Qualifications System – main actors***

- **Minister – coordinator of the IQS (minister for education)**
  - General education system (minister for education)
  - Higher education system (minister for higher education)
  - Regulated and non-statutory qualifications (relevant ministers)
  - European Qualifications Framework

- Stakeholders’ Council
  - Assigning PQF levels
  - Consultations opinions
    - experts, specialists, sector representatives, sectoral QF

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**European Qualifications Framework**
Stakeholders’ Council

Since the beginning, stakeholders actively involved in the work on the development of the qualifications system in Poland.

Their role is recognised in the formal establishment of the Stakeholders’ Council in July 2016, based on the rules of the Law on the Integrated Qualifications System.
Stakeholders’ Council

Consists of representatives of:

• Employers’ organisations
• Trade Unions
• Educational institutions (formal and non-formal sector)

Advisory role to the Minister – coordinator of the IQS, including:

• opinions on qualifications level assignment and sectoral qualifications frameworks,
• monitoring the system development,
• opinions on legislation regarding IQS
• Potentially: co-operation with newly established sectoral councils for competences and skills
Structure of the PQF and sectoral frameworks
Sectoral qualifications frameworks in Poland

TELECOMMUNICATION

TOURISM

IT

SPORTS

BANKING

PLANS FOR 16 MORE
Including non-statutory qualifications in the IQS

1. Relevant Minister
   - Request to amend the proposal
2. Formal assessment
   - Consultation with experts and sector representation
3. Assessment of the relevance of a proposed qualification
   - Delegated institution
4. Decides on the relevance of a proposed qualifications
5. Experts' recommendation on the PQF level (binding)
   - Includes qualification to the IQS and assigns a level
   - Announces a possibility to apply for being an awarding body
   - Designates external QA body
   - Designates awarding body
6. Integrated Qualifications Register
   - Request to include a qualification to IQS
   - PAYS a fee
7. Information on the included qualification to the IQR
   - May request to be a certifying institution
8.Initiating institution
   - Informs the initiating institution with justification
9. Refusal
   - Informs the initiating institution with justification
10. Includes qualification to the IQS and assigns a level
11. Announces a possibility to apply for being an awarding body
12. Designates external QA body
13. Designates awarding body
14. External QA body
15. Awarding body
16. Informs the initiating institution with justification
Relevant minister

Request to amend the proposal

Formal assessment

Integrated Qualifications Register

Request to be an awarding body

Pays a fee

Institution active in the area of economy, labour market or training

Assessment if the requesting institution meets criteria

Delegated institution

Sends information to the IQR

Sends information to the IQR

Decides

Refusal

Acceptance

Assigns an external QA body (from the list)

Existing qualification

Awarding body

External QA body

Institution active in the area of economy, labour market or training

Delegated institution

Assessment if the requesting institution meets criteria

Decides

Refusal

Acceptance

Assigns an external QA body (from the list)

Existing qualification

Awarding body

External QA body

Institution active in the area of economy, labour market or training

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External QA body

Institution active in the area of economy, labour market or training
Validation in the Act on the Integrated Qualifications System - definition

Verification, whether a person applying for a qualification,

regardless of the way of learning of that person,

achieved the selected part or all learning outcomes required for this qualification

Art. 2 (item 22)
Further development of Integrated Qualifications System in Poland

The Minister of Education in January 2016 assigned to Educational Research Institute (IBE) tasks related to the support of the development of the IQS, based on IBE’s knowledge and experience gained during the entire work in the process of the IQS development.

The ESF-financed project provides a support to implement the IQS in Poland, as a continuation of earlier investments of resources into the development of this system. The project is implemented in the IBE, by the dedicated and well-established team.

Another project devoted to the development and operations of the Integrated Qualifications Register is implemented by Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP).
Further development of Integrated Qualifications System in Poland

1. Supporting the minister-coordinator, relevant ministers, public and local administration in the IQS implementation, conducting dialogue with stakeholders

2. Support to the development of qualifications’ descriptions

3. Support to awarding bodies

4. Support to the recognition of prior learning and first stages of the validation process
Further development of Integrated Qualifications System in Poland

5. Support to external quality assurance bodies
6. Developing sectoral qualifications frameworks
7. Monitoring IQS development
8. Dissemination
Further development of Integrated Qualifications System in Poland

Dedicated support to the ministers, local governments, awarding bodies, quality assurance bodies, craft chambers and other stakeholders.

Supporting instruments:

• Seminars, meetings, expert opinions etc.
• Publications: glossary, manuals, brochures, leaflets
• Qualifications portal and web resources
• E-learning tools
Polish Qualifications Framework

- Polish developments in the area of the NQF followed national reform needs as well as European developments

- Deep commitment of authorities, researchers and various stakeholders to develop a system that is a "dynamic, quality oriented policy tool with vision"

- Developed methods and principles in the area of levelling, validation, quality assurance and credit accumulation and transfer with the involvement of stakeholders that created necessary sense of ownership and trust to the system