Brussels, 20 December 2016

DRAFT MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS
OF THE THIRTY-EIGHT MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP
BRUSSELS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2016

The EQF referencing process

Referencing reports:

- RO presented its referencing report at the meeting. The EQF AG recognized the progress and the quality of the work done, but RO is invited to give more information on methodology for inclusion of qualifications in the Romanian NQF and register. RO announced that the report will be updated and re-submitted to the AG once the law underpinning the NQF enters into force.
- Kosovo presented its referencing report at the meeting, which was accepted by the EQF AG.
- CY presented its updated referencing report at the meeting. The EQF AG praised CY for the work done since the last presentation, but asked CY to present a detailed roadmap on the implementation plan at the next EQF AG meeting.
- PL presented an overview of the state of implementation of the Polish Qualifications Framework.

Action points:

- RO is invited to come back with more detailed information on the methodology for inclusion of qualifications in the Romanian NQF and to come back to the EQF AG when it considers itself ready to reference.
- KO 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), to submit the final version to the Commission for publication and in one year time to present an update on the implementation of the referencing.
- CY is invited to provide at the EQF AG 7-9 February 2016 meeting a detailed roadmap on planned measures for implementation of the national qualification framework.
- AG members intending to present their referencing report (TK) or to present pending issues (SK) or an update of the referencing report (IS) in the 7-9 February 2017 meeting should confirm by 23 December and send their referencing report,

1 For overview of referencing planning please see note AG36-2
update or information on pending issues to the Commission by 6 January 2017.

Working group on horizontal comparisons of levelled qualifications:

– the chair of the HC group presented a draft of the final report. The report showed that it is possible to identify common elements in LO descriptions and to compare referenced qualifications; it also showed that the language used in the EQF recommendation is not an obstacle for this. Differences in levelling or in descriptions can be explained by context information.
– Scotland will be included and a list of recommendations prepared.
– COM concluded that the final report should describe all outstanding questions, caveats and how these can be addressed. A discussion in the EQF AG meeting on the follow up shall focus on these elements.

Action points:

– AG members are invited to submit written comments to the HC coordinator by 23 December.
– The HC group will finalise the report further to these written comments and meet on 13 January 2017 to discuss possible future scenarios, after which the report will be submitted to the EQF AG for discussion at the 7-9 February meeting.

Learning outcomes:


Action point:

– Cedefop to update and prepare a draft of the Handbook by January 2017 that will be disseminated to EQF AG for comments.

New Skills Agenda for Europe

Updates on the state of play of Council negotiations

Revision of EQF recommendation:

– The Education Committee finalized its first reading of the proposal in three different meetings addressing recitals, recommendations and annexes.
– The Slovak Presidency with the incoming Maltese Presidency is preparing a revision of the text of the Recommendation which will be circulated before the end of December.
– The new version will be discussed under the Maltese Presidency as from January 2017.

Revision of the Europass Decision

– The Commission had presented the Commission proposal for the Revision of the
Europass Decision on 9 November and a first discussion of the text took place on 2 December. The Slovak Presidency asked delegations for written comments by 15 December. The most sensitive points of the discussion so far related to ESCO and Governance (National Coordination Points).

**Presentation of calls for proposals and studies**

- The Commission presented the feasibility study on "Setting institutional arrangements at EU level to ensure management and QA related to an extended scope of the EQF" that was launched in 2015.
- The Commission presented the results of the Call for Proposals EACEA/48/2015 on "Quality assurance at the European level for enhanced transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications".

**Action point:**

- The final report of the institutional arrangements will be shared with the EQF AG.
- Pilot project promoters will be invited to present their results to the EQF AG.

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

- The Commission informed that under the E + - Key Action 3 – European Policy Experimentations, 9 projects on visible skills for adults were selected and one of these relates to priority 2 on validation of informal and non-formal learning.
- IS presented the Viska project on visible skills of adults that was selected under priority 2 of the E+ Policy experimentation call 2015. The project focuses on the validation of NFIL, particularly of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and low skilled adults. Countries are encouraged to get involved in the project, to share their practices and follow the project on the upcoming website www.viska.eu.
- The Commission informed that a new call on skills audits for validation of informal non formal learning will be launched, funded by the European Social Fund Technical Assistance.
- Cedefop gave feedback from the 28-29 November 2016 conference in Thessaloniki "Making learning visible" that received more than 200 registrations, showing high interest for the topic.
- Cedefop presented the results of 2016 European Inventory. The 2016 edition shows that MS are gradually putting in place arrangements for validation of non-formal and informal learning.
- LU presented their situation on validation of non-formal and informal learning in Luxembourg according to template for future reports on validation. All qualification referenced to the QF of Luxembourg can be obtained through validation (declarative method). All types of learning are taken into account and there is no difference with certificates issued in a traditional way.
- Francesca Operti from the European Association for the Education of Adults presented the action plan for validation and adult education (AVA). Raising awareness and reaching out target groups, developing strategies to provide comprehensive and accessible information on validations and fostering engagement were among the outlined recommendations.
- COM proposed to discuss in a next EQF AG meeting which approach the AG
should take towards the discussion of the national one off reports on validation that are expected to be submitted to the EQF AG.

**Action point:**

COM to circulate an E-mail with questions on the working method with regard to the one off report on validation by Member States. Further to this feedback COM will prepare a paper with a proposal for the 7-9 February meeting on how the one off reports could be discussed within the EQF AG (criteria to be used, involvement of Cedefop & Council of Europe).

**Peer Learning Activities**

The Commission presented note AG 38-3 on PLAs in 2017-18. The proposed topics were: Horizontal comparisons (PL); Evaluation of NQFs – lessons from NQF review (IE), Assessed & intended learning outcomes (SK), Funding validation (BE); Validation assessment methods addressing in particular the role of civil society organisations in supporting validation (LLL Platform).

**Action point:**

- AG members are invited to propose other possible themes for PLAs (both EQF and VNFIL) before the next EQF AG meeting.
- COM to prepare a note on the PLA programme for 2017-18.

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

**Planned EQF AG Meetings in 2017:**

- February 7-9
- March 28-30
- June 13-15
- October 3-5
- December 11-13