DRAFT MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS
OF THE 43rd MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP
BRUSSELS, 12-13 DECEMBER 2017

Brussels, 5 April 2018

Agenda item 1: Relevant developments in European cooperation in education, training and employment

New Skills Agenda for Europe: Revision of the Europass Decision
The last planned Trilogue discussions between the Parliament, Council and Commission will take place on 13 December in Strasbourg. If agreement is reached, the next step is formal agreement in both the Council and the Parliament.

Information point on the Bologna process
The Council of Europe (CoE) informed on its political situation. Because two members of the Bologna process (Russia and Turkey) decided not to fulfil completely their financial commitments towards the organisation future budgetary problems could arise. CoE showed a video on the results of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees and informed on the work that will be done in the context of the Bologna process on level 5 of NQFs.

Agenda item 2: EQF Referencing process
- COM updated the group on national developments related to the implementation of EQF (note 43-2).
- FI presented its referencing report at the meeting, which was accepted by the EQF AG. FI is the 34th country having referenced to the EQF.
- NL, UK and LV informed the group on their plans to present an updating of the referencing.
- NL informed that its NQF has been evaluated and it aims at adopting the NQF by law by the end of 2018. NO informed that the Norwegian QF and the EQF were formally connected by regulation and an evaluation will begin.

Action points:
- IS is scheduled to present the updated referencing report EQF AG of 6-7 February 2018.
- FI to adapt the referencing report in view of the comments given by the EQF AG and to make it ready for publication on the LOQ within 6 months.

Agenda item 3: Outcome of the PLC on NQFs’ impact
Cedefop presented the key conclusions of the peer learning conference on the NQFs’ impact, co-organised by Cedefop, QQI Ireland and the European Commission on 9-10 November in Thessaloniki. Cedefop stressed the added value of having brought together researchers and policy-makers. During the conference emerged that NQFs have some positive impacts on cross-sectoral cooperation, bringing together stakeholders and linking policies and they have contributed to better equivalence between VET and other types of qualifications. On the other side it was pointed...
out that awareness among end-users is still too weak and it is still challenging for NQFs to reach citizens. To systematically collect knowledge in the area, carrying out literature review and providing an overview on existing evaluations, was proposed as immediate follow-up action.

**Action point:**
COM will consider exploring the possibility of carrying out a literature review and collect evidences on evaluations related to EQF-NQFs' impact in the Erasmus+ programme or its successor.

**Agenda item 4: EQF AG work plan 2018-2019**
COM presented the main changes made to the AG work-plan for 2018-2019 (note 43-3) further to the comments received during and after the 42th EQF AG meeting.

**Action points:**
- EQF AG members can send written comments by 8 January on note 43-3 on the AG work plan for 2018-2019.
- COM will revise the document and send it as background note before the next EQF AG meeting.
- The discussion around the LOQ and other EU portals is postponed until the adoption of the Europass decision.

**Agenda item 5: Updating the referencing**
COM presented note AG 43-4 on updating the EQF referencing as part of the EQF AG work-plan 2018-19 (Fiche C). Participants agreed on the general approach and on the issues raised in the note. The possibility to include an assessment of the impacts of the NQFs and/or EQF at national level was welcomed. The purpose of the report and therefore the level of detail contained in it were discussed. The group asked clarifications on the working methods and the country visits. COM explained that the working method that will be put forward will be flexible and adaptable. Because many countries have updates in the pipeline the method/methods can be collectively organized and tested.

**Action points:**
- EQF AG members can send written input by 8 January on note 43-4 on updating the EQF referencing.
- COM will revise the note and shape it in the form of a guidance note for the work to start off.

**Agenda item 6: International qualifications**
COM presented note AG 43-5 on international qualifications in the context of the EQF AG work-plan 2018-19 (Fiche F). The aim was to agree on the working method in the field. The group suggested considering the problem of levelling international qualifications together with the wider issue of levelling non-formal qualifications. The voluntary nature of the process and the freedom of the national authorities in dealing with international qualifications were stressed and some delegates invited the group to reflect upon the consequences of including qualifications in the NQFs.
CoE informed the group on the plans of the ENIC-NARIC network to study the recognition of international qualifications in practical terms, presenting their findings at the annual meeting that will take place in June in Prague.

**Action points:**
- EQF AG can send written input by 8 January on note 43-5 on international qualifications.
- COM will revise the note preparing a draft mandate for the project group that will work on international qualifications.

**Agenda item 7: EQF Conference 15-16 March 2018**
COM presented the organization of the conference so far, inviting the EQF AG to actively take
The group gave suggestions on the thematic workshops of the first day and on the panels of the second day which will be more policy oriented. The group pointed out that the conference should focus more clearly on what the EQF has achieved and the use of testimonials was suggested.

**Action points:**
- COM will send a save the date before the Christmas holidays.
- COM will further develop the programme and ask more specific suggestions for speakers and contributors for both the workshops and the panels early January 2018.

**Agenda item 8: Discussion on the PLA programme**
- COM presented note 43-6 on the PLA work plan and invited the group to contribute shaping the programming of PLAs for 2018:
  - SK confirmed the hosting of the PLA on assessed and intended LO in April 2018.
  - PL confirmed its willingness to organize the PLA on HC in the second quarter of 2018.
  - AT proposed to organize a PLA on the referencing of non-formal qualifications in the second semester of 2018 during its Presidency of the EU.
  - TR clarified that the proposed PLAs on recognition and quality assurance can take place in Turkey. TR would be interested to host the PLA on quality assurance on the last quarter of 2018 and a PLA on the role of recognition in 2019.
  - HU confirmed its interest for the PLA on qualification databases clarifying that before volunteering for hosting the PLA an internal discussion would need to take place.
  - NL will consider the possibility of hosting the PLA on communication.
  - The European Volunteer Centre proposed, in collaboration with the European Youth Forum and the Lifelong Learning Platform, a PLA on the validation of skills and competences acquired through voluntary activities.

**Action point:**
- COM will update the PLA-table with more details on content and timing.

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

**Agenda item 9: One-off report on validation of Luxembourg**
LU was the first country to present its one-off report on validation. The report was appreciated for being easy to read, concise and practical oriented. A peer learning discussion took place. Further to the questions asked by the group, LU clarified that almost all formal qualifications can be obtained through validation and these have the same value as qualifications obtained after a training course. The link to the NQF is not spelled out because it is embedded in the system.

**Action point:**
- PT will present its one-off report at the EQF AG of April 2018.

**Agenda item 10: Information on the 2018 Update European Inventory on VNFIL**
COM explained that the contract for the European inventory will be signed in December and that the work will start in January. This will be the last update of the Inventory before the 2018 deadline as included in the Council Recommendation, and it will therefore be quite consistent. The result of the report will also be used as input for the Commission report on validation to the Council that is due by 31 December 2019 and which will include, reflections a possible review and revision of this Recommendation, if necessary.

**Action points:**
- The most efficient way to organize the work in cooperation with the EQF AG on the
Inventory will be discussed with the next EQF AG.
- The contractor will be invited in order to present the 2018 Inventory project.

**Agenda item 11: Validation event**
COM presented the idea of organizing a validation festival, planned for June 2018, to reflect on why validation is important and showcase what is happening on the ground. The idea was well received and although clarifications around the final scope, target, topics to be addressed in the event were asked, many stakeholders offered to actively contribute to the event.

**Action point:**
- To further shape the structure of the event and keep the EQF AG updated.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Planned EQF AG meetings in 2018* (all dates still to be confirmed):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 44th EQF Advisory Group: 6-7 February 2018</td>
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<td>• 45th EQF Advisory Group 24-25-26 April 2018</td>
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<td>• 46th EQF Advisory Group: 12-13-14 June 2018</td>
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<td>• 47th EQF Advisory Group: 2-3-4 October 2018</td>
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<td>• 48th EQF Advisory Group: 11-12-13 December 2018</td>
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*Although 3 days per meeting are indicated, the actual duration of each meeting will depend on the agenda. The specific dates for each meeting will be communicated in due time.