1. **Introduction**

To support the work of the EQF AG on the further implementation of the EQF, the Commission suggests carrying out an in-depth survey allowing countries to reflect on their experiences so far as well as to share their views on the future.

The results of the survey will: (1) help to update the Cedefop NQF inventory\(^1\) that provides in-depth information on developments at national as well as European level; (2) inform the discussion in the EQF AG on EQF levels and communication according to fiche B of the EQF AG workplan; (3) contribute to the preparation of guidance on improved communications and dissemination. The proposed main focus of the survey is outlined below.

1. **Further developing the NQF Inventory**

Every two years since 2009 Cedefop has published an updated overview of the development and implementation of the NQFs. Based on interviews with stakeholders at national levels as well as surveys, the inventory now contains detailed information on the situation at national level as well as synthesis reports analysing overall implementation in Europe\(^2\). The 2018 survey is designed to further strengthen the next edition of the inventory and focusses on the following issues:

A. Overall implementation and sustainability of the NQF: its legal basis, its integration into mainstream policy processes and institutional robustness  
B. Databases and qualification documents  
C. Communication strategies  
D. Experiences and progress of the NQF  
E. Updating the referencing report

2. **NQF and EQF levels on qualification documents**

The survey will also gather information on current and future national strategies and policies on communication about the EQF and the NQFs, on media used (e.g. websites, publications, newspaper articles, social networks), on how employers and education and training providers are

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informed on EQF and NQFs and stimulated to use them. The survey should also help to identify what are the main challenges on communication, lessons learnt, and plans for future actions.

Adopting measures so that all new certificates, diplomas and Europass supplements contain a clear reference to the appropriate EQF levels was a milestone of the 2008 Recommendation. The 2017 EQF Recommendation keeps and widens this message, including also a reference to a register of qualifications (recommendation n. 5). In addition, it invites the Commission, within the context of the EQF AG, to develop guidance on communicating the EQF, in particular how to present EQF levels on newly issued certificates, diplomas and supplements, and/or registers of qualifications, in accordance with national systems and regulations on certificates and diplomas (recommendation n. 12).

In the discussions around the EQF AG workplan, this strand of work emerged as one of the main priorities towards a consistent, coherent, transparent and coordinated implementation of the EQF recommendation. Indication of EQF and NQF levels makes qualifications more transparent and comparable and it should be an integral part of good communication and dissemination strategies.

Sharing experiences in this area will help identify the main challenges as well as routes to success. The main issues to address are: (I) how to reach a more comprehensive implementation at national level of indicating EQF levels on qualification documents, supplements and/or registers of qualifications, and (II) how to develop guidance on improving EQF communication and dissemination at both national and European level.

In the survey, countries will be invited to provide examples of how they indicate EQF levels on qualifications. The Commission receives a high number of questions on how EQF levels should be displayed on qualifications documents, but of course does not have the role of setting guidelines on how to indicate EQF levels on national qualifications. To meet stakeholders’ requests and support a transparent implementation of the EQF, an inventory of national practices on how EQF levels are displayed on qualifications documents could be created. Moreover, the links to national databases or other relevant information materials could be displayed in the Learning Opportunities and Qualifications portal to improve the connection between the EQF and NQFs websites.

3. Next steps

The EQF AG is invited to give feedback on the draft joint Cedefop-Commission survey, including the section on communication and visibility. The survey will then be further developed and sent by the Commission and Cedefop to the EQF national coordination points, copying the EQF Advisory Group. Countries will have 1 month to respond. The Commission in cooperation with Cedefop will then analyse the results of the survey and prepare a document to be shared and discussed with the EQF AG.

The EQF AG is invited to give feedback on the draft joint Cedefop-Commission survey on NQF implementation, including the section on communication and visibility.