



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 Directorate-General for Education and Culture

Lifelong learning: horizontal policy issues and 2020 strategy  
**Skills and qualifications**

Brussels, 4 January 2013  
 D(2013)

**DRAFT MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**  
**OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP**  
**BRUSSELS 4-5 DECEMBER 2012**

**The referencing process**

The AG discussed the referencing report of Germany.

Action points:

- Cedefop and Council of Europe to prepare a summary of comments/questions made by the EQF Advisory Group on the German referencing report as presented in the meeting of the EQF Advisory Group on 4-5 December (the record and summary of the comments of the AG will be enclosed to the detailed minutes of AG17)
- Germany to send its referencing report to the Commission when it is ready to be published on the EQF portal

Two countries (BG, IS) plan to present their national referencing reports to the EQF Advisory Group in the meeting of the EQF AG on 5-6 February 2013.

Action points:

- Country representatives of BG, IS to send by 7 January 2013 their report on referencing national qualifications levels to the EQF (and its English translation) to the Commission.
- AG members to indicate their interest in providing detailed written comments on the referencing reports of BG, IS by 7 January 2013.
- Country representatives to inform the Commission about changes in their referencing roadmaps and in particular the date of the presentation of their referencing report to the EQF AG by 7 January 2013.
- Country representatives to update information on national approaches to implement the second miles of the EQF by 7 January 2013.

The AG discussed progress made in the referencing processes of the French Community of Belgium.

Action points:

- French Community of Belgium to take advantage of the discussion to finalise their referencing report (see the summary of specific comments in the detailed minutes of AG17)

## Supporting national developments

The AG welcomed the Commission's efforts to present a work programme that aims to strengthen cooperation on the use of the learning outcomes approach across sub-systems, countries and instruments and agreed with the proposed priority themes. The AG agreed that following discussions in the AG meeting and written comments from the AG, the Commission will present a revised work programme on learning outcomes for 2013-2014.

Action points:

- AG members to send written comments on the work programme by 7 January 2013.

Commission to present the revised two-year work programme in the meeting of the EQF AG on 5-6 February 2013.

The EQF AG was informed about the main conclusions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting of the EQF NCPs and the national correspondents of the QF EHEA, which took place on 6-7 November 2012 in Mechelen.

The EACEA<sup>1</sup> informed about the use of financial resources earmarked for the EQF NCP grants 2012 and the timetable for the management of the grant. Not all countries applied for the NCP, and several countries have not requested for the whole amount available for their country. In individual cases, countries that have submitted a request, but have not applied for the whole amount can revise their grant request by 21 December 2012 and send it to the EACEA.

## Providing overall coherence

The Commission presented a proposal for use of the EQF logo as the basis for the visual identity of the EQF, and its use in certificates and diplomas of qualifications referenced to the EQF and by institutions that award such qualifications or provide courses that lead to such qualifications. The EQF AG welcomed the proposal and the protection of the logo through copyright, but asked for further time for consultation at national level and a more detailed proposal from the Commission, including a timetable.

Action point:

- EQF AG members to provide written comments on the Commission's proposal (Note AG17-4) by 7 January 2013
- Commission to prepare a more detailed proposal, including a timetable to the meeting of the EQF AG on 5-6 February 2013.

The EQF AG agreed with the testing of the Commission's proposal for the data structure of the EQF portal search function, but asked for further time for consultation at national level on the necessary time to carry out the testing.

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<sup>1</sup> Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Action point:

- EQF AG members to send written comments on the Commission's proposal for the EQF portal search function and its timetable for testing by 15 December 2012.
- Country representatives to volunteer to participate in testing the data structure and interconnection with the EQF portal by 15 December 2012.
- Commission to support countries in testing, if necessary.

The EQF AG was informed the results of the research phase and the following steps of the study on the evaluation of the EQF by the contractor.

Action point:

- Commission to present the results of the analysis and draft main conclusions and evaluation recommendations in the 5-6 February 2013 meeting of the EQF AG.

The EQF AG held its first exchange of views on the role of the EQF Advisory Group in the implementation of the recommendation of the Council on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Action point:

- EQF AG members to provide written comments on the Commission proposal by 7 January 2013.
- Commission to revise the proposal based on comments and present it in the meeting of the EQF AG on 5-6 February 2013.

In the Bologna process, new structures are being set up to carry out the work programme for 2012-2015. The Structural Reforms Working Group will work on synergies between qualifications frameworks, recognition, quality assurance and transparency instruments. Its first meeting, when its mandate will be defined, will be held on 13-14 December.

The Council of Europe informed the EQF AG about the preparation for a subsidiary text to the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) on the recognition of academic qualifications in higher education. The subsidiary text aims to provide guidance to credential offers on the use of national qualifications frameworks in recognition of qualifications. The draft text will be sent to the ENICs and NARICs in January 2013. It is expected that the LRC Committee will adopt the text in June 2013 in Split. The EQF AG will be informed about the text by the Council of Europe in its meeting on 13-14 March 2013.

Action point:

- EQF AG members to contact their national ENIC/NARIC in preparation for the national position on the text.

The EQF AG was informed about the latest developments in ESCO, in particular about the qualifications pillar of ESCO, the structure of which is expected to be approved by the ESCO Board in December 2012, and the work of the cross-sectoral working group. The testing of ESCO will be launched in spring 2013.

Action point:

- Commission to provide information on further developments in ESCO.

The next meeting of the EQF Advisory Group will be on 5-6 February 2013 in Brussels. The following meeting is planned for 13-14 March 2013 in Dublin, Ireland. This meeting will follow the Irish Presidency conference on quality assurance in qualifications

frameworks on 12-13 March.

NCP meeting: 11-12 April 2013 in Leuven, Belgium.

PLA on including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training systems into NQFs: 28 February – 1 March 2013, Vasteras, Sweden