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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Europe 2020: Policy development and country analysis
Skills and qualifications strategies; Multilingualism policy

Brussels, 18 March 2013
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DRAFT MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS
OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP
DUBLIN, 13-14 MARCH 2013

The referencing process

The AG discussed the draft EQF referencing and QF EHEA self-certification report of Bulgaria.

Action points:

- Cedefop and Council of Europe to prepare a summary of comments/questions made by the EQF Advisory Group on the Bulgarian referencing report as presented in the meeting of the EQF Advisory Group on 13-14 March (the record and summary of the comments of the AG will be enclosed to the detailed minutes of AG19)
- Bulgaria to send its revised draft referencing report to the Commission and make a presentation in the meeting of the EQF AG on 29-30 May 2013

Four countries (BG, IT, PL, SI) plan to present their national referencing report to the EQF Advisory Group in the meeting of the EQF AG on 29-30 May 2013.

Action points:

- Country representatives of BG, IT, PL, SI to send 30 April 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, IT, PL, SI by 30 April 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 30 April 2013.
- Country representatives to update information on national approaches to implement the second miles of the EQF by 30 April 2013.

Supporting national developments

The AG discussed the main conclusions of the PLA on national approaches to including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in NQFs, which took place on 28 February – 1 March in Vasteras, Sweden. The AG agreed that this theme requires further discussions and peer learning at European level, including a guidance and support note that can support national policy discussions on the inclusion of qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in NQFs.

Action points:

- Cedefop to prepare a note summarizing the results of the survey, which was carried out in preparation for the PLA with the participation of 23 countries
- Cedefop to extend its annual survey on national qualifications frameworks with information on national approaches to including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training into NQFs.
- Commission, Cedefop and EQF AG to develop a guidance and support note that aim to support national policy development in this area.
- Commission to prepare discussion note to the meeting of the EQF AG in June 2013 on international qualifications and how these could be referenced to the EQF

The EQF AG welcomed Cedefop's upcoming study and conference (21-22 November 2013) on the implementation of the learning outcomes approach in Europe and requested to further information.

Action points:

- Cedefop to inform the EQF AG about the further developments in the study and the conference.

Providing overall coherence

The EQF AG discussed the main preliminary findings of the study on the evaluation of the EQF, which was presented by the external contractor. The EQF AG suggested that the recommendations made by the contractor should be more concrete and operational, and requested to have the opportunity to have an insight into the full study report.

Action point:

- EQF AG to make written comments on the presented main preliminary findings of the evaluation study – their robustness and scope – by 22 March 2013
- Commission to inform the AG about the content of the Commission's report to the European Parliament and the Council on the evaluation of the EQF in the meeting of the EQF AG on 29-30 May 2013

The EQF AG discussed the Commission's proposal on the structure of national reports on the implementation of the recommendation of the Council on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Action point:

- EQF AG members to send written comments on the proposal by 15 April 2013
- Commission to revise the proposal, based on comments by the AG, and present it to the EQF AG in its meeting on 13-14 June.

The EQF AG discussed the main conclusions of the Irish Presidency conference

"Quality Assurance in Qualifications Frameworks", which took place on 12-13 March 2013 in Dublin. The EQF AG noted the suggested recommendations, but emphasised that in all communication regarding the EQF it should be highlighted that the EQF is a transparency tool that aims to promote lifelong learning and mobility; the EQF is a reference tool for qualifications from all sub-systems, including general education.

Action point:

- Commission and Council of Europe to organise a joint meeting of the EQF Advisory Group and the Structural Reforms Working Group under the Bologna Process in autumn 2013
- Commission to explore and make a proposal on how the EQF could be used as a reference point for the comparison of qualifications between ET2020 countries and Bologna countries not participating in ET2020

The Council of Europe presented the final draft of the subsidiary text on the use of qualifications frameworks to the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) on the recognition of academic qualifications in higher education. The draft text has been submitted for comments to national authorities and will be discussed in the meeting of the Lisbon Convention Committee in June 2013.

Action point:

- EQF AG members to contribute to preparing national position on the subsidiary text by the meeting of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee on 19 June 2013.

The next meeting of the EQF Advisory Group will be on 29-30 May 2013 in Brussels. The following meeting is planned for 24-26 September 2013 in Brussels.

Seminar on the validation of non-formal and informal learning: 9-10 April 2013, Mechelen, Belgium

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