



# The European Qualifications Framework: supporting learning, work and cross border mobility

15-16 March 2018, Brussels

## Workshop 6

### How have the EQF and the development of qualifications frameworks supported international and global cooperation?

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) has been a source of inspiration for the development of national and regional qualifications frameworks throughout the world. An increasing number of countries and regions are seeking closer links between their qualifications framework and the EQF. Experiences gained through the development of the EQF can, on a longer-term basis, increase transparency of qualifications between regions of the world.

The lack of comparability of qualifications awarded in the EU with third country qualifications hinders the trust in foreign qualifications and makes their recognition more difficult. This situation applies as much to people with third-country qualifications coming to the EU as it does to people with EU qualifications going to third countries. Therefore, increasing cooperation with countries outside Europe can strengthen comparability of European and third country qualifications and facilitate the mobility of EU and non-EU citizens.

The revised EQF Recommendation of 22 May 2017 invites the Commission in cooperation with Member States – in the context of the EQF Advisory Group – to ‘explore possibilities for the development and application of criteria and procedures to enable, in accordance with international agreements, the comparison of national and regional qualifications frameworks of third countries with the EQF’.

Prior to adoption of the revised Recommendation, the European Commission carried out three pilots comparing third country qualifications frameworks with the EQF, namely with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF).

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the role qualifications frameworks play in international and global cooperation. This discussion will take place both from an EQF perspective and from an outside perspective on the EQF.

The following questions will be addressed by the speakers and discussed by the participants in the working group sessions:

- 1) What have been the positive and negative impacts of the setting up of qualifications frameworks worldwide? Can they make a difference?
- 2) To which extent is it possible to build zones of trust between national or regional qualifications frameworks further to a technical comparison between qualifications frameworks?
- 3) To what extent has the EQF been a source of inspiration for the development of qualifications frameworks worldwide, and what role can it play in increasing the transparency of qualifications between regions of the world?