



European Qualifications Framework

10th Anniversary | #EQF_EU



European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning

EQF Objectives

Transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications

Employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners

Linking formal, non-formal and informal learning

Supporting the validation of learning outcomes acquired in different settings

Contributing to modernising education and training systems

EQF: institutional basis

- EQF *Recommendation* (2017) based on articles 165 & 166 TFEU
- Voluntary process and tool
- Governance:
 - EU level: EQF Advisory Group (EQF AG)
 - National level: grants for participating countries
- 28 EU MS + 11 additional European countries

What is the EQF?

- 8-Level reference framework, covering all types and all levels of qualifications
- Defined in terms of **learning outcomes**
- A **translation grid** for qualifications across countries
- Fully compatible with the **QF** of the **European Higher Education Area**

EQF as a reference framework



What NOT?

- It **does not** provide automatic European wide-recognition;
- It is **not** about European standards,
- It is **not** about harmonising education and training systems

Referencing process: linking NQFs to EQF

- Common reference tool to compare all types and levels of qualifications
- 8 levels expressed as learning outcomes with increasing levels of proficiency
- Level descriptors (Annex II):
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
 - **Responsibility and autonomy**



Learning outcomes

Statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process expressed in terms of knowledge, skills and responsibility and autonomy

In the EQF:

- **Knowledge** (theoretical, factual)
- **Skills** (cognitive, practical)
- **Responsibility and autonomy**

New

Review and update of EQF referencing

- **Inclusion of referencing criteria** as developed by the EQF Advisory Group - Annex III

New

- Results of referencing publicly available at national and Union level

- **Review and update**, when relevant, the referencing

New

EQF and Quality assurance



- Member States : qualifications with an EQF level to be in accordance with the common principles for quality assurance set out in Annex IV of the EQF
- EQF referencing criteria 5 and 6
- Annex IV : 10 Quality assurance principles



Other recommendations to Member States:

Promote links, where appropriate, **between credit systems** and **NQFs**, taking into account:

Common principles on credit systems

without prejudice to national decisions to (i) make use of credit systems and (ii) relate them to national qualifications frameworks or systems.

Results of the referencing to be **publicly available** and ensure that **information** on qualifications and their learning outcomes is **accessible and published** using common **data fields**

Recommendations to COM, in coop with MS and SH in the context of the EQF AG

Discussing methodologies for
levelling

Development of **methodologies** for
description, use and application of
learning outcomes

In order to
**support consistency in implementation
and increase comparability**

Recommendations to COM, in coop with MS and SH in the context of the EQF AG

Support the setting up of voluntary procedures on the **levelling of international qualifications**

Companies – Sectors - Organisations

Information exchange and consultation between MS on those procedures to ensure **consistency**

Recommendations to COM, in coop with MS and SH in the context of the EQF AG

Develop guidance for **communicating the EQF**

How to present EQF levels on newly issued **certificates, diplomas and supplements**, and/or **registers of qualifications**

Recommendations to COM, in coop with MS and SH in the context of the EQF AG

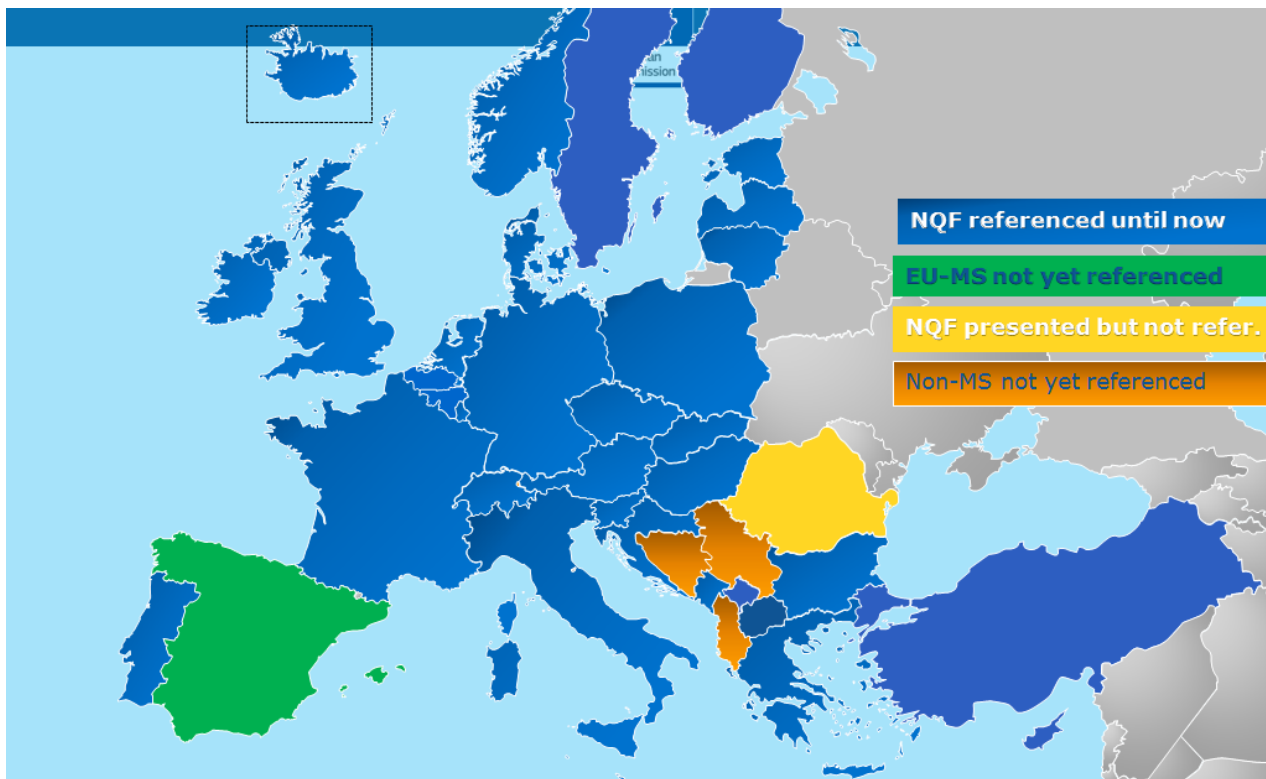
Explore development and application of criteria and procedures to enable the comparison of **third countries national and regional qualifications frameworks** with EQF in accordance with international agreements



Current state of EQF implementation (March 2018)

- 39 countries participate in the EQF process
- 34 (26 EU + 8 non EU MS have referenced)
- + 1 country (in discussion with EQF)
- 43 NQFs, 35 formally adopted
- 21 NQFs in operation
- 23 countries indicate EQF levels on certificates, and/or Europass supplements

State of play of EQF referencing



Main impacts of the EQF

- Development of NQFs in Europe (from 3 to 43 in 10 years time!)
- Interconnected landscape of EQF and (diverse) European NQFs
- Development of a comprehensive "map" of qualifications in Europe
- Mutual learning between European NQFs (building trust)
- Change in thinking about qualifications (outcomes focussed, away from duration or institution)
- Different types of qualificatuions integrated in in the same framework – dialogue, parity of esteem)
- Linkage between QFs and validation of NFIL

Current and future challenges

- Keeping EQF referencing up to date and relevant
- Full implementation of the learning outcomes approach (teaching, assessment)
- Making the EQF better known to learners, workers, employers
- Making the role of EQF/NQFs a reality on the labour market
- Consistency in EQF referencing across countries
- Non-formal qualifications (private sector, international)
- Integrating credentials from new forms of learning (online, cross border)
- Keep European NQFs connected through the EQF
- International dimension

Supporting role of the European Commission

- Manage and steer the EQF AG (together with MS representatives and EU stakeholders)
- Financial support to EU MS (& other Erasmus+ countries) for the implementation of the EQF Recommendation
- Make available a well performing EU portal with information + platform for qualifications (Europass)
- Organising peer learning and trust-building
- Ensure consistency between different EU tools for transparency of skills and qualifications
- Develop communication on the EQF

감사합니다 Natick
Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu
Grazie Thank You Köszönöm
Спасибо Dank Gracias
谢谢 Merci Seé
ありがとう

Obbrigado