



NLQF - Netherlands qualifications framework

What is the impact of qualification frameworks over the past 5 years on formal, non formal and informal learning?

Content

- 1) Context LLL in the Netherlands
- 2) How we started: What were the original purposes for the NQF in 2011?
- 3) What did we do over the past 5 years?
- 4) State of the art
- 5) What is the impact of NLQF?

Facts and Figures LLL (1)

➤ Formal qualifications

- VET 2232 (developed until 2014)
 742 (after revision in 2014)
- HE 3274
- GE 6

➤ Non formal

- 1,5 million people a year participate in post-initial learning (15,5% of population)
- 84% of adult learning takes place in the private or non formal sector
- Turnover: € 3,5 billion per year (€3.500.000.000)

Facts and Figures LLL (2)

- 18 % of labour active adults followed a training in 2014 (for work or leisure)
- Private providers : Yearly 1.3 million participants
- 893.000.000 spent by citizens on non-formal education in 2015
- 90% of learning happens by learning on the job e.g. from co-workers or by job-rotation
- 8% of learning happens by following trainings
- 2% of learning happens in education aimed at obtaining a formal qualifications in VET or HE

Objectives NLQF

- Enlarge the transparency and compatibility of levels of qualifications, nationally and internationally;
- Increase the communication between the stakeholders in education and the labour market.
- Stimulate the use of the concept in learning outcomes;
- Facilitate the participation in (lifelong) learning;

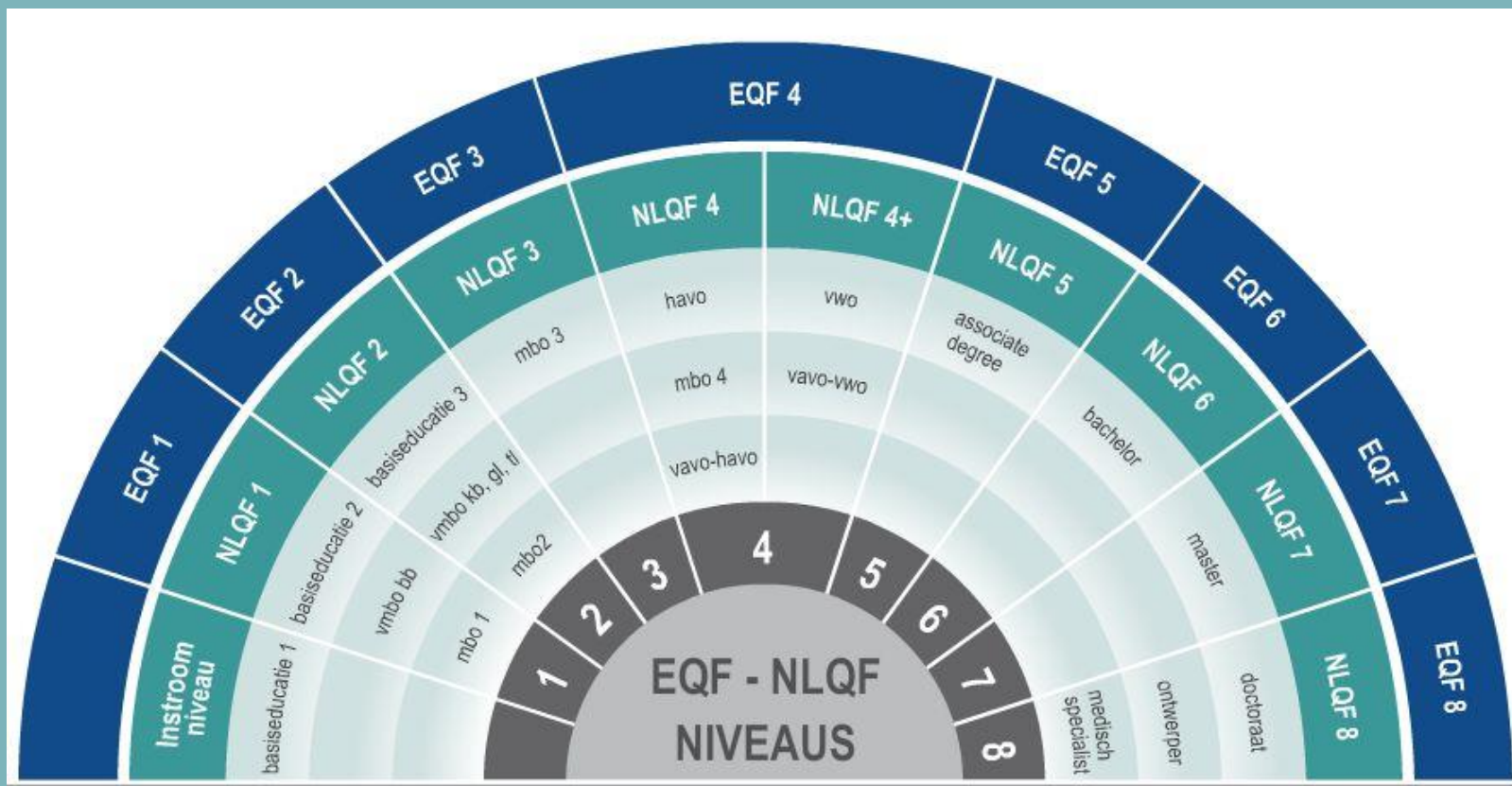
What were NOT the purposes

- An NLQF level indicator does not give an entitlement to a title or a degree
- The right to enter and transfer to education sectors is not regulated by NLQF
- NLQF was not meant to be a revision of the Dutch education system

Classification of qualifications into the NLQF

- Qualifications regulated by the government (Ministry of Education): generically included in the NLQF;
- ***Non formal qualifications (also private sector) included in NCP NLQF based on procedures regarding quality assurance, in line with quality assurance in formal education.***

Classification of government regulated qualifications



NCP NLQF

- NCP NLQF commissioned by Ministry of Education.
Objectives:
 - Classification and registration qualifications of **non-formal** qualifications;
 - Information and communication;
 - Maintenance and evaluation of NLQF and link to EQF;
 - Accountability and monitoring of the implementation of the NLQF.
- NCP NLQF started 1 February 2012 now 6 part-time employees
- Funding :
 - Ministry of Education: € 450.000 per year,
 - European Commission: € 50.000 (grant)
 - Organizations applying for registration: (quality check € 1500 or €7500, classification € 2000 per qualification)

Procedure for classifying non formal qualifications in NLQF

- 1) Validity (quality) check of the organisation (pre condition for step 2)
 - Information to be provided: prove of legal entity, ownership of the qualification, continuity of the organisation, approach to assessment/examination, approach to quality assurance
 - Independent assessment by Quality Committee, decision by the Programme Council of the NCP NLQF
- 2) Classification of qualifications into levels of NLQF
 - Information to be provided: i) Comparison to descriptors NLQF, ii) amount of hours of learning (substantial qualification= at least 400 hours) or substantiation of labour market relevance iii) approach to examination/assessment
 - Independent assessment by two experts, Classification Committee, decision by the Programme Council of the NCP
- 3) The qualification is included in the register at www.nlqf.nl/register (valid for 6 years)

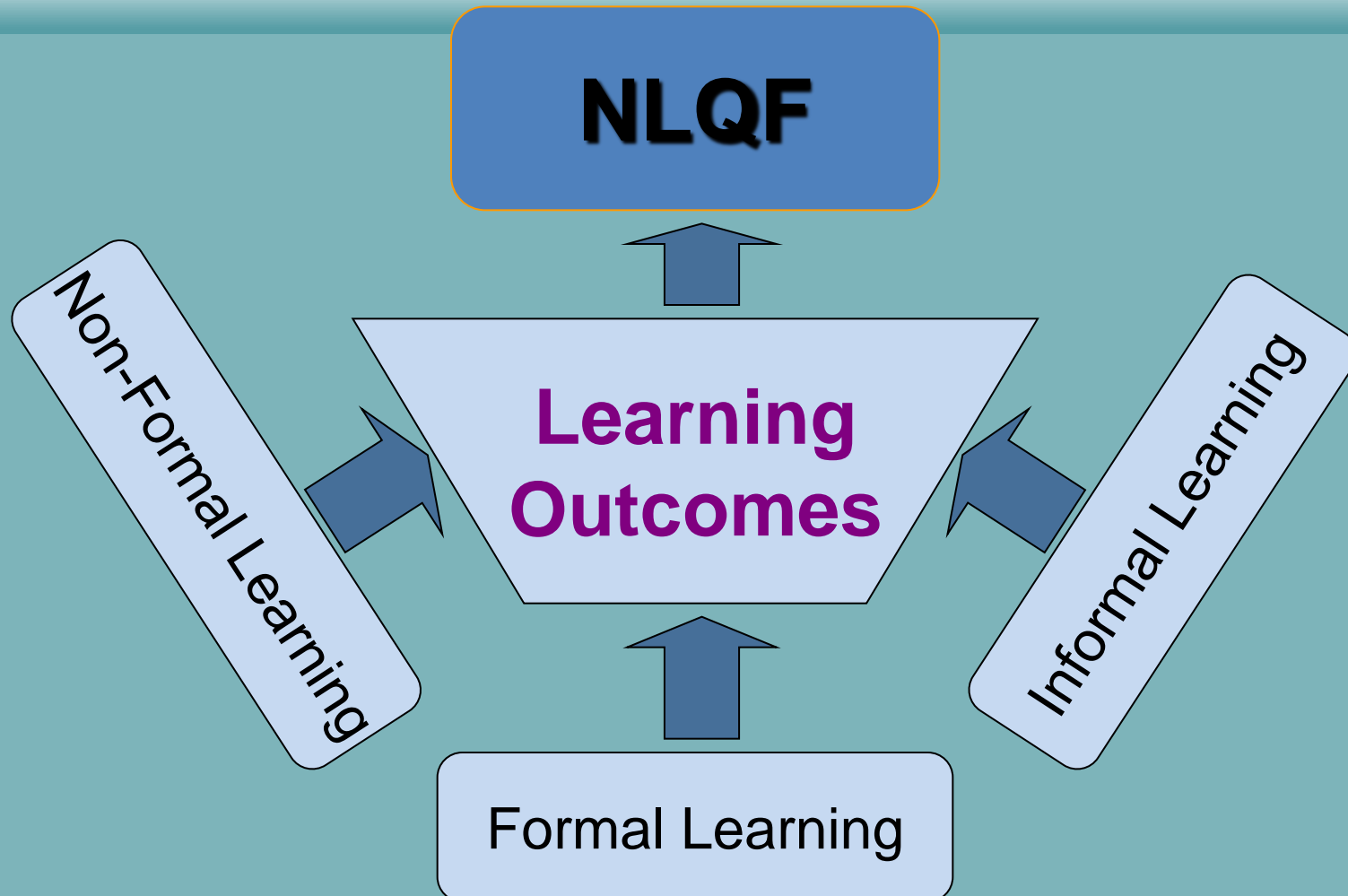
Impact NLQF beginning 2018

- Begin of 2018: > **50** non-formal qualifications classified in NLQF of more than 20 providers
- Almost 7.300 non formal diploma's/certificates issued indicating an NLQF level
- First requests for classifying international qualifications
- Revision of VET qualifications has taken place using the level descriptors of the NLQF
- The use of learning outcomes and level descriptors in HE
- First sign of online job vacancies using the NLQF levels
- NLQF in connection with ECVET/ECTS and validation of non-formal and informal learning

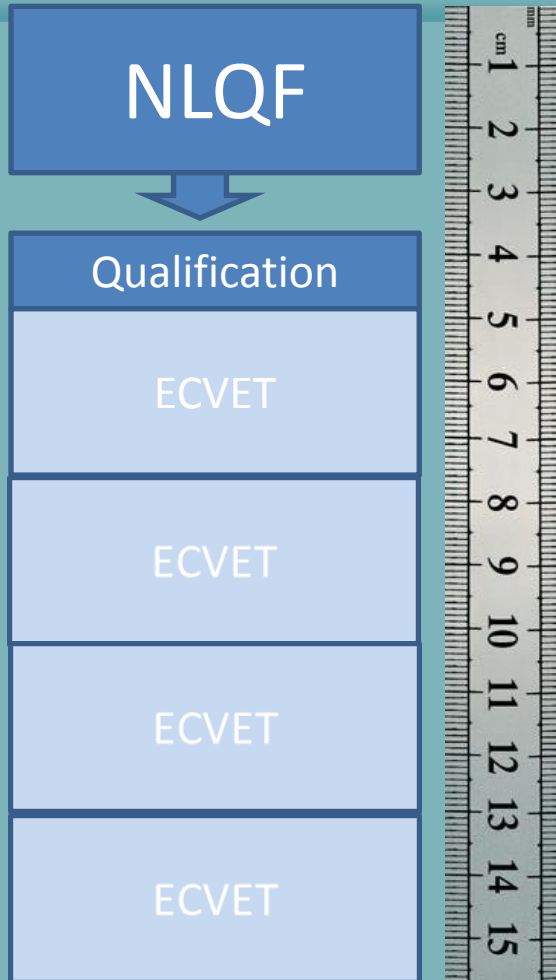
Impact NLQF



Impact focus on Learning Outcomes

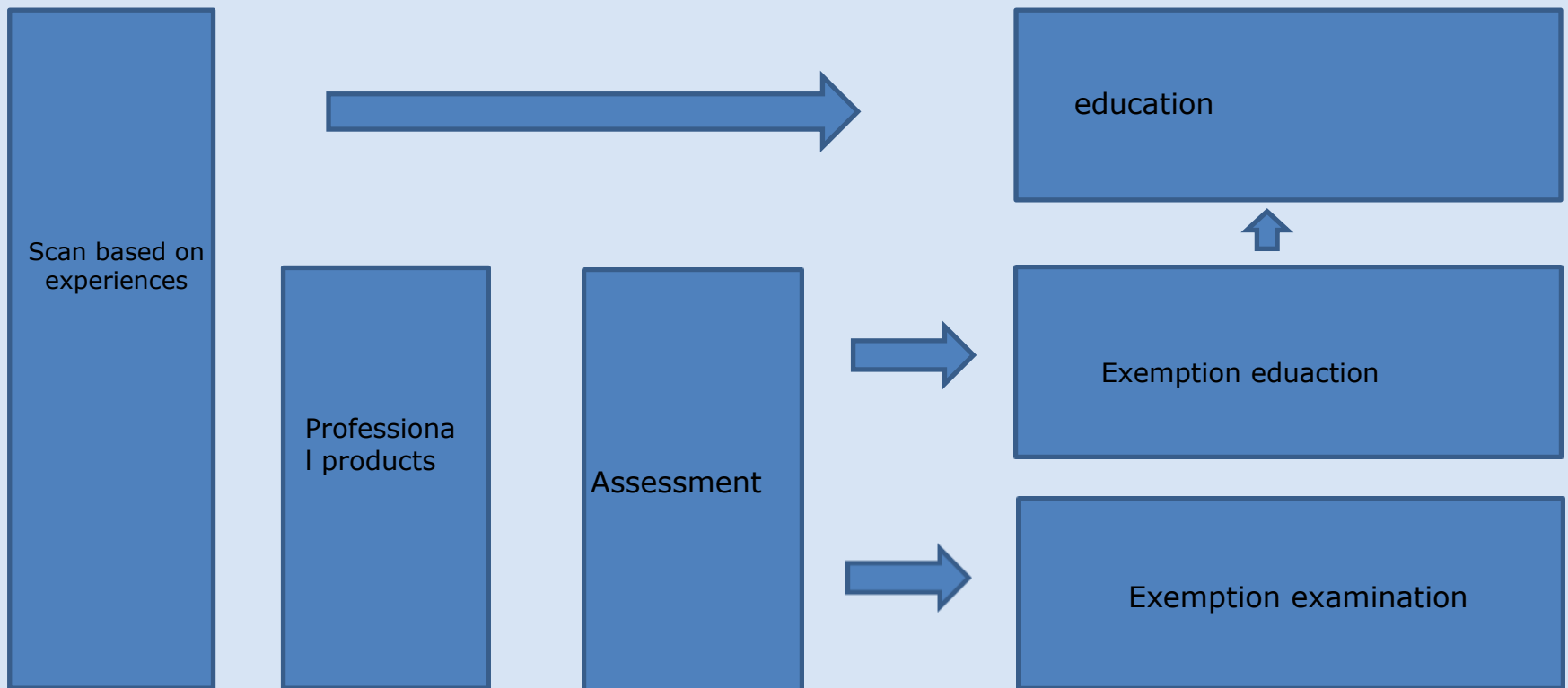


Impact NLQF on ECVET & Validation



- Validation (RPL)
- Examination
- Education

Validation within ECVET projects



Conclusion (1)

- Increasing impact on the large sector of non-formal qualifications
 - Transparency of level
 - Improved quality awareness and quality assurance
- NLQF descriptors used when describing learning outcomes of VET and HE qualifications
- NLQF descriptors used in pilots for designing flexible dual HE
- First classification of an international qualification is taken place

Conclusion (2)

- NLQF used for describing units of learning outcomes in HE, VET influenced by ECVET projects.
- The (NLQF) focus on learning outcomes has large impact on the process of validation of formal, non-formal and informal learning
- Improved procedures for validation lead to:
 - Tailor-made, flexible programmes;
 - Increased motivation participants;
 - Decreased time spent on education;
 - Improved match between labour market and education.

What is next (1)?

- NLQF to be regulated by Law
 - Because of cross cutting topic, affecting many different stakeholders a very delicate process
 - Improved text to be finalised and send for adoption end 2018
 - Expected implementation of law in 2019 also resulting in indication of NLQF levels on formal certificates and diplomas
- Starting the re-referencing process in 2018

What is next (2)?

- As a result of the evaluation of the NCP NLQF and NLQF the following actions will take place:
 - National communication campaign NLQF/EQF
 - NCP NLQF will be a permanently designated independent organisation
 - Continualness improvement of procedures (quality and classification)
 - The register of the NLQF will be transformed to an linked open data date base
 - Exploring the possibility of classifying partial qualifications in the NLQF
- Further development of flexible learning pathways for adults

Thank you very much for
your attention!

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