



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

15-16 March 2018, Brussels

Workshop 2

How has the EQF helped build trust and increase transparency and comparability of qualifications?

Trust is vital to ensure that the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning is a successful tool to aid the mobility of learners and workers. Based on learning outcomes, the EQF aims to help to make qualifications more transparent and easier to compare. This requires that national and international stakeholders can trust the processes used to peg qualifications on certain National Qualifications Framework (NQF) levels and link these to the EQF. Both processes need to be carried out in a transparent, explicit and arguable way. They need to reflect the opinions of national stakeholders. Explicit links between quality assurance and NQFs develop trust in NQFs as guardians of the quality of qualifications linked to the EQF.

The EQF has reinforced the design of qualifications in terms of learning outcomes, which provides a common 'language' to compare qualifications. Calibrating the qualifications description requirements and NQF level descriptors is work in progress in many countries. The ten EQF referencing criteria, included in the revised EQF Recommendation, have been set up to help ensure that NQFs are linked to the EQF in a coherent and transparent way.

To date, NQFs or systems of 34 countries have been linked to each other through the EQF. The EQF referencing reports document these processes and outcomes. They represent a 'snapshot' in time and will eventually, as national qualification systems and frameworks evolve, become outdated. The referencing reports should make sure that the information underpinning the referencing is accurate and transparent, as this directly influences the extent to which the EQF is trusted. In this way, the translation of national qualification levels into EQF levels will remain relevant and in line with national qualification systems.

Purpose of the workshop

Building on the evidence and experience collected in almost ten years of EQF implementation, this workshop will explore:

- how the processes used to link NQF levels to the EQF and their outcomes have helped to make qualifications across Europe more transparent and comparable and build trust; and
- the outstanding issues and challenges ahead.

Participants are invited to discuss what type and degree of information on and evidence of qualifications is required to understand and compare qualifications across Europe.



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

- 1) What key factors are crucially important to sustain trust in EQF?
- 2) How can the EQF become a translation tool for all types and levels of qualifications (including private and international qualifications) in a lifelong learning perspective?
- 3) What are major achievements and key lessons learned from developing and implementing NQFs and from their referencing to the EQF?
- 4) How can future referencing reports be improved to further contribute to comparability and transparency of qualification across countries?