



OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE

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| Country | Scope of the framework | Number of levels | Level descriptors | Stage of developments | NQF linked to EQF |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------------|
| Albania | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> theoretical and factual knowledge cognitive and practical skills autonomy and responsibility | Formally adopted, under revision | |
| Austria | Designed as comprehensive NQF; currently, includes qualifications awarded in higher education, selected 'reference qualifications' from VET and a pre-VET qualification. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence | Formally adopted | 2012 |
| Belgium (FI) | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge/skills context/autonomy/responsibility | Operational | 2011 |
| Belgium (FR) | Designed as comprehensive framework; will include all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system. | Eight proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge/skills context/autonomy/responsibility | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | 2013 |
| Belgium (DG) | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> occupational competence (knowledge and skills) personal competence (social competence and autonomy) | (Early) operational stage | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning; will include all levels and types of qualifications. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence | Development stage | |
| Bulgaria | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight plus a preparatory level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competences (personal and professional) | Formally adopted | 2013 |
| Croatia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. It is a qualifications and credit framework. | Eight with sublevels at levels 4 and 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills responsibility and autonomy | (Early) operational stage | 2012 |
| Cyprus | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the system of vocational qualifications. | Eight proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | |
| Czech Republic | Partial national frameworks for vocational and higher education qualifications. | Eight in the QF for VET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> competences (including knowledge and skills) | The QF for VET is operational QF for tertiary education is partly implemented | 2011 |
| Denmark | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence | Operational | 2011 |
| Estonia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the system of occupational qualifications. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills scope of responsibility and autonomy | (Early) operational stage | 2011 |
| Finland | Designed as comprehensive NQF; it will include all state recognised qualifications. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge work method and application (skill) responsibility, management and entrepreneurship evaluation key skills for lifelong learning | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | |

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| former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system. | Eight with several sublevels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Formally adopted | |
| France | NQF covers all levels and types of vocationally or professionally oriented qualifications; general education qualifications are not included. | Five | Integrated learning outcomes including knowledge, skills, attitudes, autonomy and responsibility | Operational | 2010 |
| Germany | Designed as comprehensive NQF; currently includes qualifications from VET and higher education; general education qualifications are not yet included. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professional competence (knowledge and skills) • personal competence (social competence and autonomy) | (Early) operational stage | 2012 |
| Greece | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Formally adopted | |
| Hungary | Designed as comprehensive NQF; will include all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and open up to non-formal and informal learning. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • attitudes • autonomy/responsibility | Formally adopted | 2015 |
| Iceland | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Seven | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | (Early) operational | 2013 |
| Ireland | Comprehensive NQF including all types and levels of qualifications from formal education and training; is open to those awarded by professional and international organisations. | 10 plus four award types: major, minor, special-purpose and supplemental | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Operational | 2009 |
| Italy | Technical work pointing towards an NQF carried out. | Not yet decided | EQF level descriptors used | Development/design stage | 2013 major national qualifications from formal education and training linked directly to EQF |
| Latvia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | (Early) operational stage | 2011 |
| Lithuania | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characteristics of activities (complexity, autonomy, changeability) • types of competence (functional, cognitive and general) | (Early) operational stage | 2011 |
| Liechtenstein | Comprehensive NQF being developed, QF for HE in place. | Eight | Not decided yet | Development/design stage | |
| Luxembourg | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • attitude | (Early) operational stage | 2012 |
| Malta | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Operational | 2009 and 2012 update |
| Montenegro | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system. | Eight with sublevels at levels 1 and 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | (Early) operational stage | 2014 |

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|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Netherlands | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training; opens up towards qualifications offered outside formal education system. | Eight levels plus an entry level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • context • knowledge • skills • responsibility and independence | Advanced operational stage | 2011 |
| Norway | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Seven; no descriptor or qualification at level 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • general competence | (Early) operational stage | 2014 |
| Poland | Designed as comprehensive NQF; will include all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and open up to non-formal and informal learning. | Eight proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • social competences | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | 2013 |
| Portugal | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from the national system for recognition, validation and certification of competences. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • attitude | (Early) operational stage | 2011 |
| Romania | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Formally adopted | |
| Serbia | Comprehensive NQF being designed, aiming to bring together frameworks for higher education and VET. | Eight proposed | QF for VET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills and abilities • attitudes | Design/development stage | |
| Slovakia | Designed as comprehensive NQF; will include all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and open up to non-formal and informal learning. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Adopted, set of level descriptors being revised | |
| Slovenia | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training and from system of national vocational qualifications (NVQ). | 10 proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | 2013 |
| Spain | Designed as comprehensive NQF; will include all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and training. | Eight proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills and abilities • competence | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | |
| Sweden | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualifications from formal education and train; long-term aim to integrate certificates awarded outside the public system. | Eight proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | |
| Switzerland | NQF for vocational and professional qualifications and NQF for higher education. | Eight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competences | Formally adopted | |
| Turkey | Designed as comprehensive NQF; will bring together: national vocational qualifications (NVQS); QF for higher education and qualifications awarded by Education Ministry. | Eight proposed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence | Advanced development stage Formal adoption pending | |
| UK – England and Northern Ireland | Three frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a qualifications and credit framework (QCF) including vocational qualifications; • general education qualifications continue to be located in the NQF; • a higher education framework (FHEQ). | QCF: nine including entry levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • application and action • autonomy and accountability | Operational | 2010 Joined UK referencing report |
| UK – Scotland | Comprehensive credit and qualifications framework (SCQF) including all level and types of qualifications. | 12 including entry levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • practice: applied knowledge, skills and understanding • generic cognitive skills communication numeracy and ICT skills • autonomy, accountability and working with others | Operational | 2010 Joined UK referencing report |
| UK – Wales | Comprehensive credit and qualifications framework (CQFW) including all level and types of qualifications. | CQFW: nine including entry levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • application and action • autonomy and accountability | Operational | 2010 Joined UK referencing report |



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FURTHER INFORMATION

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