

# Level 5 and Level 8 qualifications in France

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## General information on the French nqf

- Registration is not compulsory
- Registration is regulated by law:
- If the qualification is under the responsibility of a ministry where the pattern of the qualification can be discussed in commissions with social partners -> registration **by law** (7 ministries)
- HE: if habilitation by the ministry in charge of HE registration **by law**
- Publication on the official website: formulation in LO and Validation of prior learning checked

## General information about the F. NQF

- If there is no discussion with social partners: a process to analyze if the qualification is compliant with the criteria of the Commission nationale de la certification professionnelle
- A publication of an official text of the minister in charge of the Employment and VET.
- A bottom up system (qualifications or diploma are made by their « owners » and then controled and accredited)



# The definition of the level III (5 EQF)

- Level III (5 EQF) qualifications attest a higher level of knowledge and abilities without including expertise in the scientific grounding of the relevant fields. The required abilities and knowledge enable design and/or supervisory and/or management responsibilities to be assumed autonomously or independently.

## EQF Level 5 :An important level for the French NQF

More than 900 qualifications ( >10% of the  
qualifications registered)

Either in VET, in tertiary or in HE

In many fields:industry, crafts, arts , health , tourism and  
services and having different signification on the  
labour market



# The meanings of EQF level 5 in France

- In arts: « somebody who is an artist but who is able to manage a small enterprise » ex Diplôme des métiers d'art Art du bijou et du joyau (arts of jewels and gems)
- Webmaster level 5(VET) : knows all the necessary technical aspects but is able to monitor technological developments and to have a complete view of the costs

# A creation of the 60s

- A need of the labour market during a growth period (technicians and upper technicians), trained or not by the Education system
- At the time short curricula (2 years)
- Now the duration is only used for initial training, because the certifications are described in LO
- Cooperation between stakeholders to develop the curricula

# Many qualifications

- The « brevet de techniciens supérieurs » (ministry in charge of education) : 1959
  - > for a direct integration into the labour market
    - > the « twin » qualification of the ministry in charge of agriculture
    - > the ministry in charge of HE



# Many providers

- The ministry in charge of sports
- The ministry in charge of health (most of the qualifications ,for instance Medical Laboratory Technician )
- The chambers of crafts and trade , the chambers of industry
- many private providers ( ex webmaster,

# Some points about these qualifications

A qualification oriented towards the labour market which proves:

- That people have a high technical level in the and autonomy ( many « techniciens supérieurs » upper technicians or « techniciens conseils »)
- The ability to organize the work of other people and to train them

# Some points about these qualifications VET and HE

- level entry : level 4 (*but It is possible to enter these training without the baccalaureat (an analyse by a commission)*)
- Validation of prior learning possible (VAE, recognition of non formal learning)
- Expressed in learning outcomes (because of the orientation towards an immediate integration into the labour market)



# Common points

- The involvement of employers: the content of the qualification, the assessment
- Sandwich courses or apprenticeship used in all fields
- In initial training : 2 years after school leaving at level 4 of education

## Pathways

- Two specializations : possible to get 2 qualifications in 3 years because of a common curriculum in the first year (ministry in charge of education, and agriculture)
- How to become an engineer : the example of the ITII (*institut des techniques ingénieurs de l'industrie*) : technicians selected to get the grade of master with a « titre d'ingénieur » by initial or apprenticeship ( 1450 engineers in apprenticeship in 2011- 38 schools or universities involved)

# Pathways

- The choice: for the level 5 HE diplomas , 120 ECTS , to show the possibility to go further ( Bologna process)
- For the other qualifications: ECTS are not forbidden , ECVET only under experimentation)
- Pathways to tertiary VET and HE (bachelor grade)
- A dilemma : ECTS or ECVET ? Or ECTS and ECVET? (but not a mix of the two systems)



# A paradox with the Bologna process

- Qualifications which lead directly to the labour market
- But some are disappearing because of the Bologna process ( DEUST)
- Many students go on and enter the Bologna process (licence professionnelles level 6..)and are employed because of their prior short qualification

# The pathways

- The choice: for the HE system , 120 ECTS , to show the possibility to go further ( Bologna process)
- For the other qualifications: ECTS are not forbidden , ECVET less developed (only under experimentation)
- Pathways to tertiary VET and HE (bachelor grade)
- A dilemma : ECTS or ECVET ? Or ECTS and ECVET? (but not a mix of the two systems)



# Some information about 2 formal qualifications BTS and DUT

- BTS (ministry in charge of education) graduation for upper technicians - BTSA similar but in charge of the ministry of agriculture-
- 88 BTS within 4 fields : industry, services, health and nursing, arts
- Created after the analysis of the commissions which create VET certifications for the ministry in charge of education – bac professionnel for instance ( state and social partners)



# Some information about 2 formal qualifications BTS and DUT

- DUT diplomes universitaires de technologie (DUT-> HE) 24 « specialities » 15 in the field of industry , 9 in the field of services
- Created by sectoral commissions with teachers, upper technicians and employers at a national level.National curricula .
- An overarching commission which can propose evolutions(in charge also of some QA aspects)

# Some statistics

- BTS: (2010)

Production (industry) :29 184 ( 26,2% )

Services (including health) 84 319 ( 73,2% )

DUT ( 2009)

Production (industry) 19404

Services : 15 587

# Level 8

- For the time being France is studying this level, but strong indications
- PHD grades ( « doctorat » in French) , and qualifications recognised at this level by the ministry in charge of HE (pharmacists )
- This level must describe a qualification and not a level of knowledge



## Level 8

- These qualifications must not be a specialization (for instance qualifications opened to people who are already engineers –grade of master and specialize them French institute for petrol )
- The descriptors are not totally written , but the decision was taken not to base this level on the learning outcomes of PHD, too much focused on the HE teacher's occupations

# Level 8

- Turned towards upper management and integration of different fields
- A consequence of the reflection on level 8 and the relevance of the NQF to the career world: a refusal of the employers to put the PHD at the highest rank in collective agreements on wages

# For more information

- <http://www.cncp.gouv.fr>
- Consultation du RNCP; accès au RNCP [Accédez à la page de recherche avancée](#)
- Niveau(x) européen(s) : choose « 5 » then click in « recherchez » and you can see all the qualifications registered (formal or not) all the qualifications are presented under the Europass presentation ; some of them are translated (English, German or Spanish)