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# National Qualifications Framework in Slovakia

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International conference “Opening up the National Qualifications Frameworks for international qualifications”

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# Development of Slovak NQF – background (1)

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- Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning – definition of the National System of Qualifications (NSQ) as a publicly accessible register of descriptions of full and partial qualifications including qualifications and assessment standards
  - A systemic framework for the development of the National System of Qualifications → National System of Occupations
  - The register → a backbone of NSQ as well as NQF

## Development of Slovak NQF – background (2)

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- Resolution of the Slovak Government No. 105/2009 of 4 February 2009 regarding “implementation” of the EQF in Slovakia. Tasks:
  - Setting up working group for EQF implementation (Feb 2009)
  - Developing NQF with levels linked to EQF levels (March 2011)
  - Adjusting graduates’ profiles to NQF descriptors and inclusion of programmes into NQF levels (Dec 2011)
  - Providing for that all new certificates contain reference to appropriate EQF levels (Dec 2012)
  - Submitting an “implementation” report to the Slovak Government (March 2013)

## Development of Slovak NQF – background (3)

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- A set of descriptors for NQF approved by the Education Ministry in March 2011
  - 8 levels
  - descriptors in terms of knowledge, skills and competences
  - all subsystems of formal education (general, VET, higher education)
- Descriptors taken as preliminary and subject of substantial revision

## Development of Slovak NQF – background (4)

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- In March 2011 – National Institute for Lifelong Learning was appointed a National Coordination Point (NCP), in 2014 NCP transferred to State Institute of Vocational Education
- Act No. 315/2012 (of 21 September 2012), amending Act No. 568/2009 Coll. on Lifelong Learning, definition of NQF as a framework that
  - contains levels of qualifications classification according to the set of criteria for achieved knowledge, skills and competences
  - is a link to the European Qualifications Framework

## National ESF project “Development of NSQ”(1)

- National ESF project “Development of the National System of Qualifications” launched on 1 March 2013 with duration till October 2015 - coordinated by State Institute of Vocational Education
- Objectives include
  - development of NSQ – a register of all partial and full qualifications
  - revision of NQF – a tool for classification of qualifications

## National ESF project “Development of NSQ”(2)

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- A working group for analyses
  - Analyses of NSQs and NQFs in selected EU countries
- A working group for methodologies, including
  - Methodology for the development of NQF
- A working group for NQF
  - Revision (re-development) of NQF descriptors
  - Assigning qualifications to NQF levels

# National ESF project “Development of NSQ”(3)

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- Results:
  - NQF should cover
    - Formal IVET (secondary, post-secondary non-tertiary)
    - Higher education
    - Further (non-formal) education
    - Formal secondary general (still open)
  - Qualifications
    - Full (in formal education, in specific cases also in further (non-formal education))
    - Partial qualification (in further (non-formal) education)



## National ESF project “Development of NSQ”(3)

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- Descriptors of NQF proposed to be set in terms of
  - Knowledge
    - General, Vocational
  - Skills
    - Cognitive, Practical
  - Competences
    - Responsibility, Autonomy, Social competences
- Development of descriptors still not completed

## State of play 2014 (1)

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- Submission of an “implementation” report to the Slovak Government postponed to September 2015
- Preparation of the referencing report – in progress
  - Conclusions of Advisory Group (AG) of December 2013:
    - To submit a preliminary referencing report in October 2014 (not met)
    - To submit a final version of a referencing report in September 2015
    - Reference to EQF levels in all documents in September 2015

## State of play 2014 (2)

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- A draft preliminary referencing report discussed at the NCP expert group meeting in July 2014
  - Report not recommended by international and national experts to be presented at the AG forum
  - Main challenges include
    - General overview of Slovak NQF (levels, descriptors, LO progression between levels, etc.)
    - Overview of national quality assurance system
    - Methodology of assigning qualifications to NQF levels
    - Clear statement of mutual reference of NQF and EQF levels

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# Thank you!

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