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Criteria enabling to relate International Qualifications to the EQF

Conference on International Sectoral Qualifications

15 November 2017

Congress Cantwer Tagus Park, Oeiras



RAINBOW as context



**Continuous improvement and update of
EWF guidelines to new learning methods**

**Demonstrate that EQF can be applied to a
well established International
Qualification System**



Expected outcomes

- **Methodology for relating International Qualifications to the EQF**

- LOs definition in accordance with European format

- Review and validation by experts

- Quality assurance procedures for design and awarding qualifications

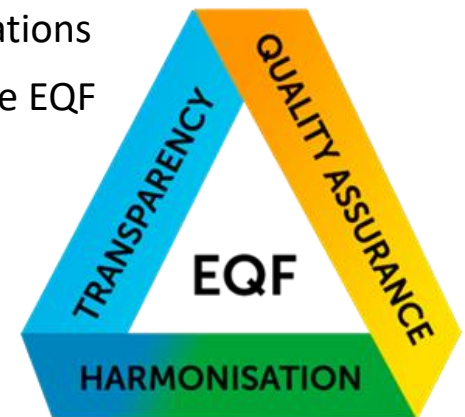
- **Criteria for relating International Qualifications - IQ to the EQF**

- Pre-conditions for Qualifications to be eligible as International Qualifications

- International criteria and procedures for referencing and levelling to the EQF

- Criteria for quality assurance of qualifications referenced to the EQF

- **Results for benchmarking for other sectors**





Background papers

- **European Commission “Study on International Sectoral Qualifications, Frameworks and Systems” (2016)** is a key document for the clarification of the nature of international sectoral qualifications and for the understanding the existing possibilities for referencing to the EQF
- **The Council Recommendation on the EQF for lifelong learning (2017)**, includes the revision on principles for quality assurance to be applied to qualifications wishing to link to the EQF, namely vocational education and training, higher education, non-formal and informal learning in the private sector or international qualifications.



Actions and Criteria to link International Qualifications to EQF

“Study on International Sectoral Qualifications, Frameworks and Systems” (2016)

A. Pre-conditions for Qualifications to be eligible as International Qualifications

B. International criteria and procedures for referencing and levelling to the EQF

Council Recommendation for EQF (2017), Annex IV

C. Criteria for quality assurance of qualifications referenced to the EQF



Approach used

- Map and identify the **ACTIONS** and **QUALITY ASSURANCE CRITERIA** needed for referencing International Qualifications to the European Qualifications framework(EQF)
- Verify and describe how the EWF Qualification System **COMPLIES** with the identified actions and criteria
- Identify areas where EWF System needs improvement
- Suggest new criteria when applicable



A - HOW EWF COMPLIES WITH PRE-CONDITIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE AS INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION

1. Agreement on a common International Qualifications definition

2. Body responsible for awarding the qualifications

3. Quality assurance procedures for awarding

4. European criteria for the organisations to be considered as international awarding bodies

5. Create an external quality assurance body to verify the compliance with the above mentioned conditions

1. Approval of Training Guideline by EWF Working Group and EWF National Members (EWF has 30 member countries)

2. Authorised Nominated Body (ANB) is responsible for awarding the EWF Qualification at national level

3. Quality assurance requirements for implementation and awarding of EWF Qualification are defined by Rules and Operational procedures

4. Criteria to become a ANB:

4a. To be appointed by EWF national member

4b. Compliance with the EWF quality assurance system, to be authorised to issue the EWF qualification diplomas

4c. EWF qualification system is developed, implemented by 30 EWF national members (1 for each country)

4d. EWF qualification system is recognised by the industrial manufactures and service companies in europe and internationally in the field of welding technology

5. Independent assessors verify the compliance with EWF operational system, rules and operational procedures (audit)

5a. The EWF external quality assurance has specific tools for monitoring Assessors audit activity



B - HOW EWF COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR REFERENCING TO THE EQF

1. Design criteria to guarantee a clear link between the qualifications and the EQF levels;

2. Common European format for the description of LOs

1. EWF working groups methodology for writing technical LOs is defined in terms of knowledge, skills, autonomy and responsibility for each EQF level

1a. Technical LOs are used to define Qualification Profile and Training Program

1b. LOs reviewed and validated by EWF and European Experts, External organisations (industry and national qualification authorities)

2. EWF LOs methodology has been developed in accordance with Cedefop guidelines and now after a first trial is going to be repeated in all EWF training guidelines



B - HOW EWF COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR REFERENCING TO THE EQF

3. Quality assurance procedures from the design to the awarding of a qualification

4. Create a EU portal as a database for recognised international awarding bodies and qualifications officially assigned to the EQF

3. Quality assurance procedures for the design and awarding of EWF Qualifications:

3a. Harmonised methodology for the development of Guidelines and its approval

3b. Methods and rules for the approval of ANBs (responsible for: approval and supervision of training centers, qualification evaluation, development and implementation and awarding of diplomas)

3c. Harmonised EWF Qualification Guidelines:

3c1. Access conditions requirements harmonised among the EWF national members

3c2. Requirements for training attendance

3c3. Requirements for trainers

3c4. Rules for evaluation

3c5. Part/full evaluation according to EWF harmonised evaluation system

4. EWF public website has a database for ANBs and qualifications assigned, including information on quality assurance system

C-HOW EWF COMPLIES WITH THE CRITERIA FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCED TO THE EQF

1. Address the design of qualifications as well as application of learning outcomes approach
2. Address the process of certification, ensuring valid and reliable assessment according to agreed and transparent learning outcomes based standards
3. Consists of feedback mechanisms and procedures for continuous improvement
4. Involves all relevant stakeholders at all stages of the process
5. Is composed of consistent evaluation methods, associating self-assessment and external review

1. Harmonised methodology for the development of EWF Guidelines, having included LOs (Topic 1, 1b, 3a, 3c of international criteria and procedures for referencing)
2. Harmonised methodology for the development of EWF Guidelines, having included LOs (Topic 1, 1b, 3a, 3c4, 3c5 of international criteria and procedures for referencing)
3. Procedures for continuous improvement include: auditing activities, the revision of Guideline validity every 3 years and the revision of the question performance used on the harmonised evaluation every year. All training program have a student survey inquiry and this information is also reviewed.
4. Stakeholders, namely industries and training providers are represented by EWF members in all stages of the process
5. Internal (self-assessment) and external audits to the Training Centers and ANBs, according to the EWF quality assurance system



C -HOW EWF COMPLIES WITH THE CRITERIA FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCED TO THE EQF

6. Is an integral part of the internal management, including sub-contracted activities, of bodies issuing qualifications referenced to the EQF

7. Is based on clear and measurable objectives, standards and guidelines

8. Is supported by appropriate resources

9. Includes a systematic and cyclical evaluation by external monitoring bodies, based on at least the principles in this annex of internal quality assurance systems related to qualifications

10. Includes the publication of its evaluation results, including electronic accessibility at national and European Level

6. Quality Assurance is an integral part of the ANB internal management. Sub-contracting of the principal tasks (mentioned in topic 3b of International criteria and procedures for referencing) is prohibited

7. EWF Qualifications are based on training Guidelines setting the minimum requirements for training, including clear standards for training attendance, trainers and examination (Topic 3 of international criteria and procedures for referencing)

8. Appropriate resources administering the system, including Technical Committees, Working groups, Assessors team; ANB and Training Center

9. Multilevel, systematic and cyclical evaluation

10. Topic 4 of criteria and procedures for referencing



Areas needing improvement

- Involving all relevant stakeholders in all stages of the process



Other criteria for consideration

- **Specific tools for monitoring for use by external assessor**
- **Training Centre facilities and equipment**
- **Training staff requirements**
- **Trainee assessment/examination**
- **[EQAVET Indicator 5. Placement rate in VET programmes](#)**



Conclusion

- The establishment of criteria for referencing International Qualifications to the EQF is a very complex task
- Needs A WIDER DISCUSSION with all relevant stakeholders and decision makers from the industry and education and training fields at national and European levels

**THANK
YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS
SUPPORT**



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