

42nd MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP

Pilot Project on International Qualifications and Quality Assurance



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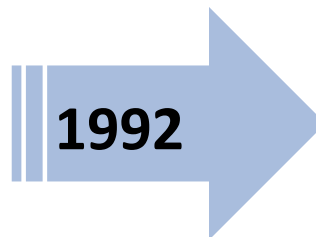
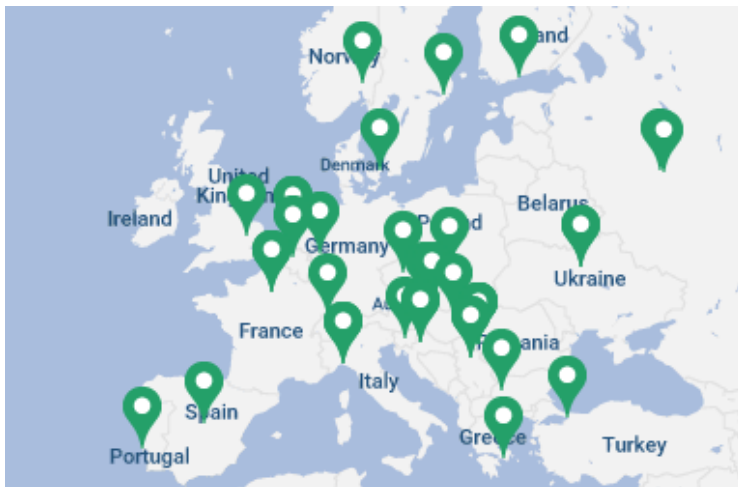
Summary

- **1. Why are International Qualifications important ?**
- **2. Why should International Qualifications relate to the EQF ?**
- **3. How do National Authorities integrate International Qualifications?**
- **4. Why is the linkage between International Qualifications and the EQF a critical process?**
- **5. What can be done to guarantee Quality in International Qualifications and thus to facilitate their relation with the EQF?**

1. Why are International Qualifications important ?

European Welding Federation

Welding Institutes of the European Community



The European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting, was created in 1992 by all the welding institutes of the European Community with the aim of updating and harmonising training and qualification in the field of welding technology.

EFW - Areas of Activity



Training Personnel in Welding, Joining & Cutting



Qualification of Personnel in Welding, Joining & Cutting



**Certification of Personnel
Certification of Companies**



**Collaboration
Projects**








Technical Information



Technical Products

EWF Systems

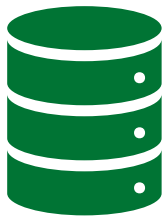
Harmonised Qualification System:

-  from project management to workshop level
-  used in 46 countries
-  referred in CEN and ISO Standards
-  based in training guidelines
-  based in harmonised examination database

Success driven by
recognition of “quality” of
the system by
stakeholders

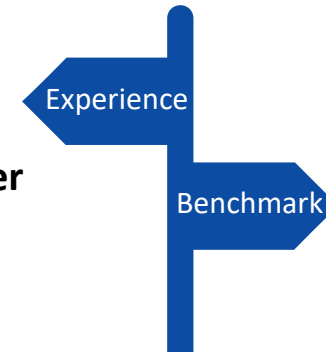


Quality Assurance System based on:



Rules/Requirements for Authorised
Nominated Bodies (ANBs)
Rules/Requirements for Authorised
Training Bodies (ATBs)
Harmonised Assessors Training and Peer
Review

Experience to be
benchmarked to other
professions.



25 Years of experience in international qualification of personnel for the manufacturing industries

ONE
SYSTEM



FORTY
SIX
COUNTRIES

 **MORE
THAN
650**
AUTHORISED
TRAINING
CENTRES

52 
COURSES
QUALIFICATIONS
& **CERTIFICATIONS**

**MORE
THAN** **300.000**
INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL QUALIFIED



25 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

EFW – European Visibility



1. Why are International Qualifications important ?

- **Because they reflect and are driven by sectors need for qualified skills**
- **Because they assure harmonised knowledge, skills and competences**
- **Because they guarantee mobility of workers in Europe and outside Europe**
- **Because they are recognised by a chain of stakeholders, including representatives from the industry, services and education and training**

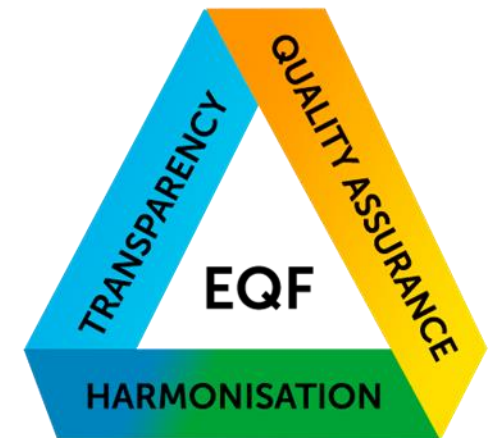
2. Why should International Qualifications relate to the EQF ?

European Welding Federation and EQF



Continuous improvement and update of EWF guidelines to new learning methods

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

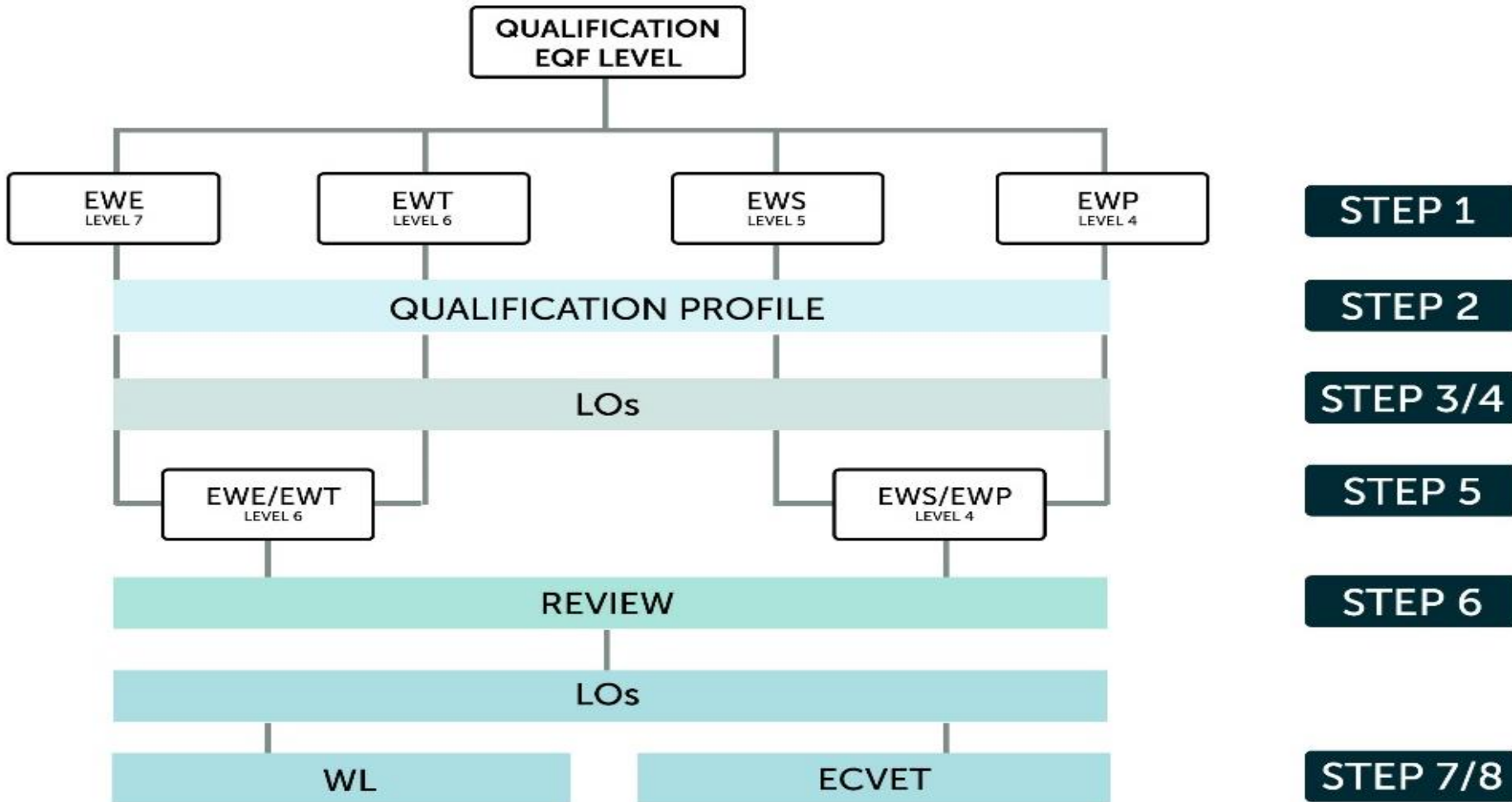


2. Why should International Qualifications relate to the EQF ?

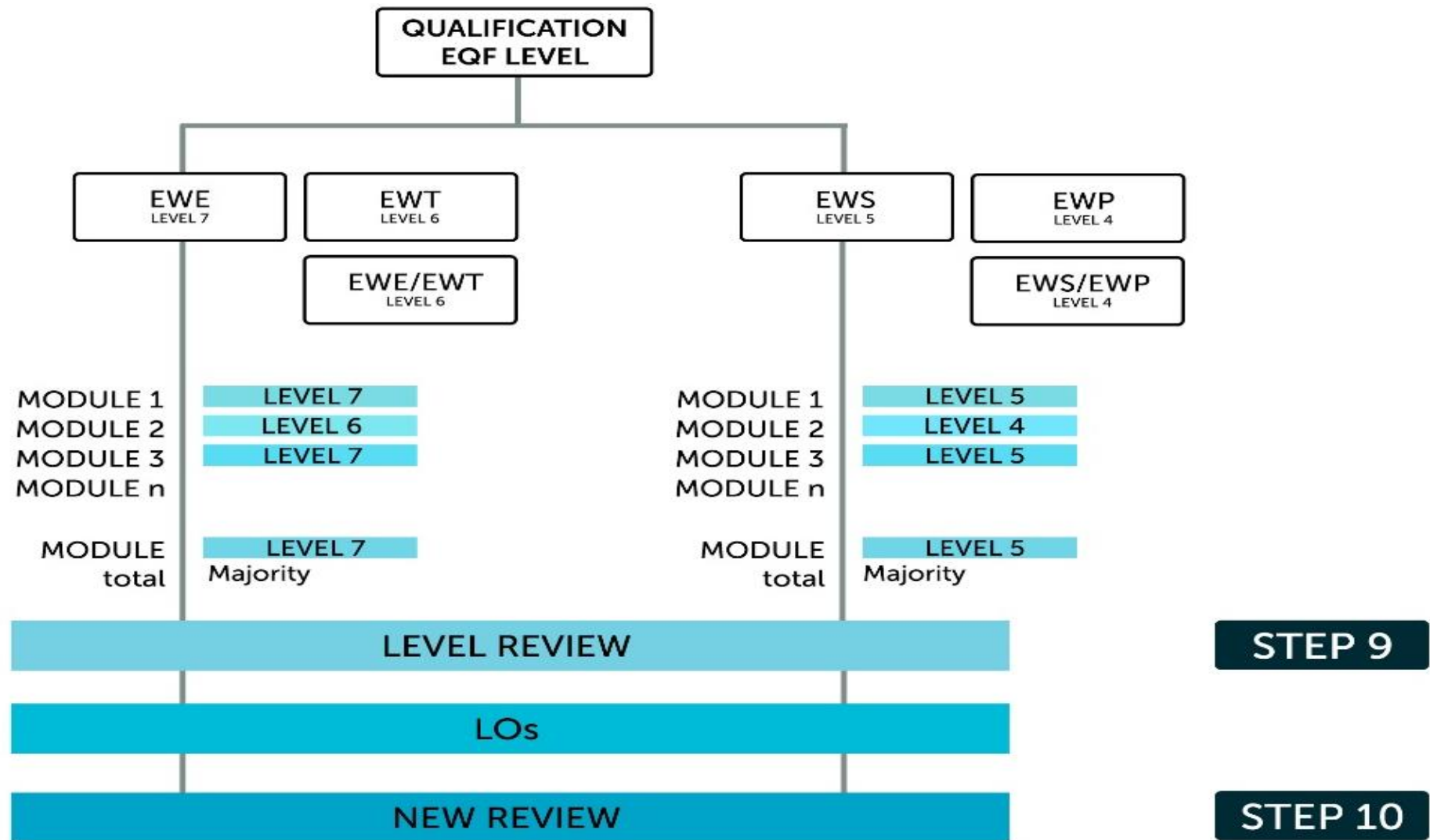
- **Improve the mobility of workers in the EU**
- **Broaden the EQF scope by including well established Qualifications, thus reinforcing its role as a transparency tool**

Which is the EWF approach for relating to the EQF ?

EWF strategy to relate to the EQF / Methodology to describe LOs



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EWF strategy to relate to the EQF / Methodology to describe LOs

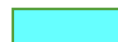


3. How do National Qualification Agencies integrate International Qualifications?

European Welder Qualification National Curricula

Design and structures of the European Welder Qualification in Finland vs Portugal

Finland	Portugal
Qualification name: Vocational Upper secondary education and training	Qualification name: Dual Education
General Education - 20 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory core subjects (e.g mother tongue, second national language, mathematics, physics and chemistry, health education, arts and culture, etc.) • Optional core subjects (e.g environment studies, information and communication, ethics, psychology, etc.) 	General Education - 900 hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship and Employability • Language and Communication • Mathematics for life • ICT's
Free-choice Modules – 10 Credits including students counselling	Learn with Autonomy (transversal component) – 40 hours
<u>Vocational Modules</u> – 90 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory modules for all • Study programme in manufacturing technology (according to EWF Guidelines for Welding) • Study programme in automation technology and maintenance • Study programme in casting technology • Optional modules for all (according to EWF Guidelines for Welding) <u>On job learning</u> – 20 credits <u>Entrepreneurship and final project</u> – 2 credits	<u>Technical Training Component</u> - 1000 hours: Compulsory technical programme , according to the EWF Guidelines - 800 hours Optional technical programme , according to the EWF Guidelines- 200 hours



Common aspects



Divergent aspects

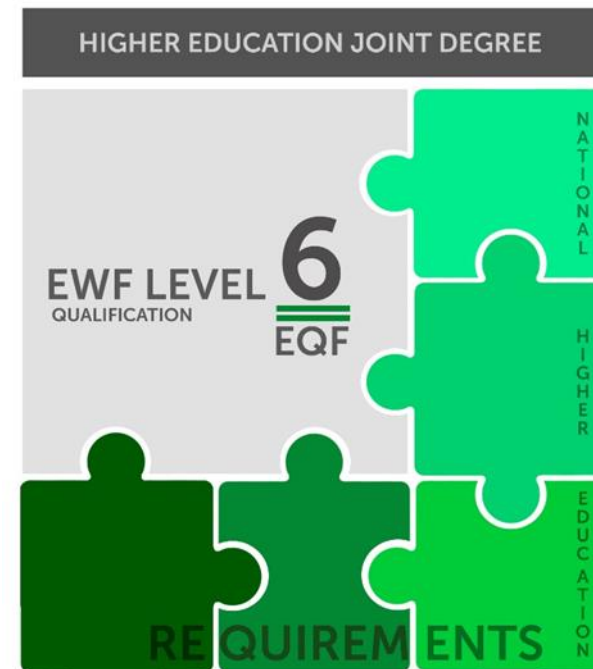
Uptake of EWF Qualification in VET and HE

Two distinct approaches can be identified when referencing the Welding International Sectoral Qualifications to the NQF

Integration of the EWF qualification in National VET System



Integration of the EWF qualification in the Higher Education System



Relationship between NQA and International Qualifications

- Both address skills mismatch by providing a quality product



Complementarity instead of competitiveness



4. Why is the linkage between International Qualifications and the EQF a critical process?

Findings about EWF Qualifications at National Level

Findings about the NQF level of the EWF Qualifications show divergence and poor agreement regarding the EQF levels in different countries

EWF/IIW	UK	PT	BG	NL	FI	CZ	DE
I/E Welding Engineer	-		-	6		-	-
I/E Welding Technologist	-		-	4		-	6
I/E Welding Specialist	-		-	2/3	5	-	6
I/E Welding Practitioner			-	1		-	
I/E Welder for tube	4	2	4	1	4	-	
I/E Welder for plate	3	2	4	1	4	-	
I/E Welder for Fillet	3	2	3	1	4	-	

Source: EWF Internal Survey to its members, based on national official information

4. Why is the linkage between International Qualifications and the EQF a critical process?

- Lack of information regarding International Qualifications?
- Lack of information regarding sector needs and specific requirements?
- Difficulty in trusting International Qualification Quality assurance mechanisms ?
- Lack of transparent procedures ?
- Lack of common criteria and procedures?
- Lack of cooperation between the involved organisations at national and European level?

5. What could be done to guarantee Quality in International Qualifications and thus to facilitate their relation with the EQF?

EWF Quality Assurance System

EWF Technical Committees

Qualification guidelines, rules and procedures are developed and approved by all members

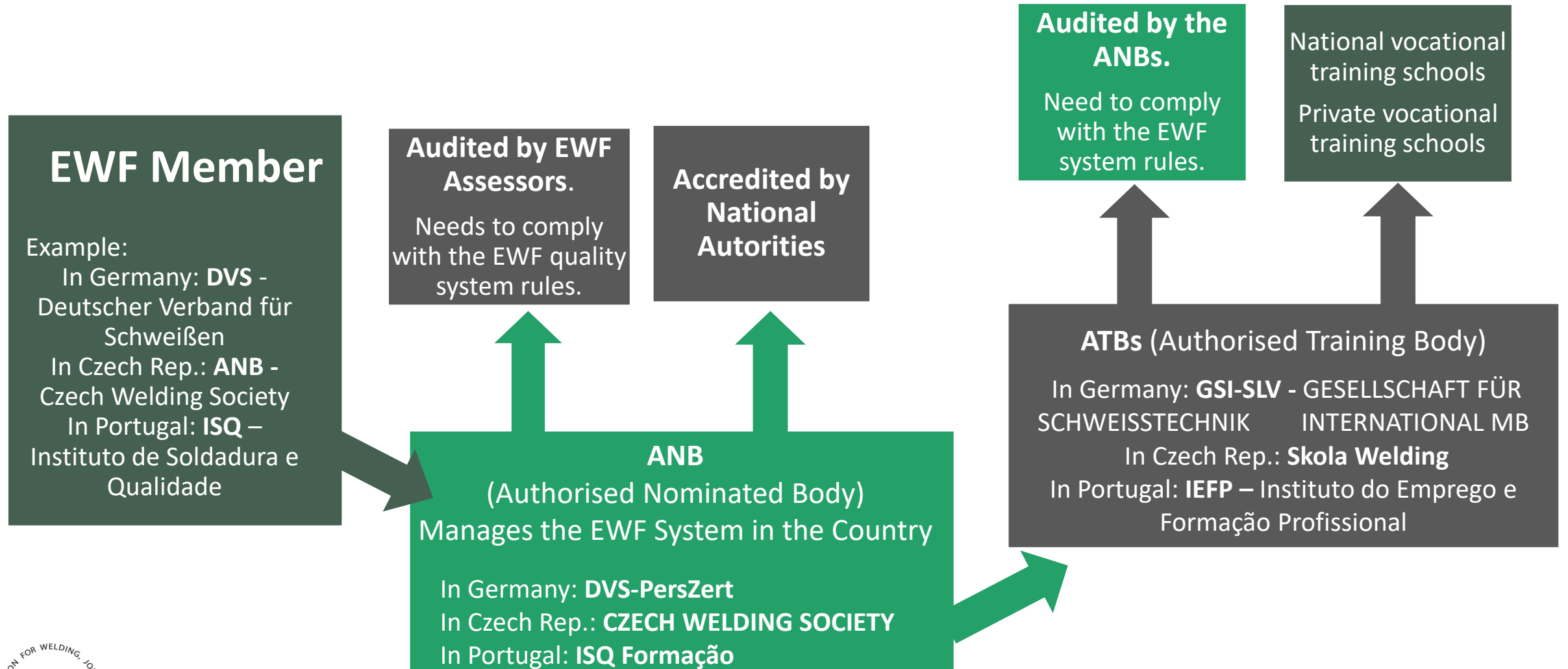
The National members

Responsible for the supervision and implementation of the system through the Authorised Nominated Bodies – ANBs

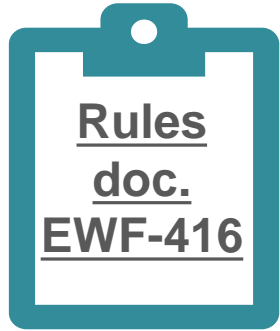
The Approved Training Centers

ATBs implement the qualification guidelines

EFW Quality Assurance System



EFW Quality Assurance System



Rules for the implementation of EWF Guidelines for the education, examination and qualification of welding personnel (based in EN ISO 17024, in future to be in line with EN ISO/CD 21001)

Operational Procedures (in total 26)



*Recruitment, Training and Authorisation of Assessors
(based EN ISO 19011)*



*ANB/ANBCC Assessment, Surveillance and Reporting Procedure
(based EN ISO 19011)*



Standard Requirements for Practical and Theoretical Education and Training of Personnel established according to EWF Guidelines in which the parent languages of teachers/examiners and Students are different



Evaluation of Distance learning Courses



Harmonised Examination

RAINBOW

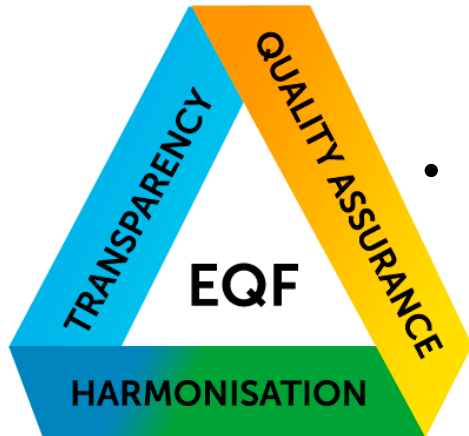
RELATING INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS TO EQF

- **Methodology for relating International Sectoral 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 Sectoral Qualifications* - ISQ 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**

Criteria to relate ISQ to the EQF

ISQ

EQF

Pre-conditions for Qualifications to be eligible as International Qualifications

Source: Study on International Sectoral Qualifications and Frameworks and systems (2016), European Commission

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

International Criteria and Procedures for Referencing

1. Design criteria to guarantee a clear link between the qualifications and the EQF levels;
2. Common European format for the description of LOs
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

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
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

Criteria for Quality Assurance of Qualifications referenced to the EQF

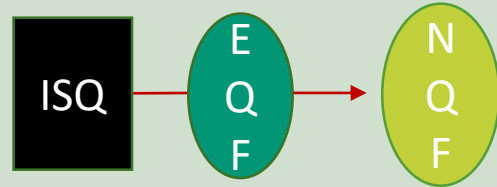
Source: Proposal for a Council Recommendation of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (2016), European Commission

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
 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
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
 6. Quality Assurance is a 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 administrating 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

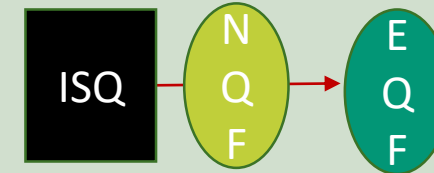
Criteria to relate ISQ to the EQF

EWF recommendations for referencing International Sectoral Qualifications to the EQF

DIRECT LINK



INDIRECT LINK



NEEDS

To be based in
clear criteria

NEEDS

Complementarity
Technical aspects
/ national
requirements

NEEDS

Improvement of
national
procedures &
requirements

NEEDS

Common
agreement on
national criteria

Conclusion

- **1. ISQ are important because they answer existing needs and are recognised by stakeholders**
- **2. ISQ should relate to the EQF to facilitate EQF acceptance by the industry and international stakeholders**
- **3. All EU National Authorities should consider to use the same procedures and methodologies to integrate ISQs**
- **4. Misalignment when referencing ISQ to the EQF does not help the reliability and transparency of the EQF**
- **5. Clear criteria, rules and requirements should be accepted by all to guarantee the Quality of ISQ to be referenced into NQF and EQF**



Thank you!



And visit our website

www.ewf.be