

International Qualifications Conference Guide

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International Qualifications / RAINBOW project

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1. Introduction to International Qualifications and RAINBOW project

The growing internationalisation of products and services has triggered an increasing number of qualifications – certificates and diplomas – awarded at international (sectoral) level, outside the jurisdiction of national authorities.

International sectoral qualifications, such as the European Welding Federation (EWF) Qualifications, are driven by the industry/market needs and based, in most cases, on standards issued by ISO and CEN. These qualifications set standards to perform welding tasks according to stakeholders' needs, ensuring the new technologies are embraced, as well as, the health and safety assurance requirements are met. Finally, they enable mobility and recognition of workers within the membership network.

The lack of formal procedures for the allocation of European Qualifications Framework (EQF) levels to international qualifications and the absence of agreed quality standards for awarding those qualifications have put RAINBOW project in place, so it could be possible to overcome these two problems.

EWF methodology to perform is based on a minimum set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria; workload and ECVET credit system and quality assurance principles, mechanisms and criteria for awarding EWF Qualifications.

Summing up, the expected outcomes of the project are established and are the following:

- Criteria to relate international Welding Qualifications to the EQF;
- Proposal for common Quality Assurance Principles;
- EWF Methodology for mapping all levels of International Welding Qualifications;
- Several Qualifications covering EQF level 2 to 7 will be tested and validated with national authorities and stakeholders;
- Validation Report;
- Dissemination to 30 countries.



2. Introduction to the Conference on International Sectoral Qualifications

The European Conference on International Sectoral Qualifications is the event where you can share best practice and learn about International Qualifications, technology and innovation trends, as well as, European policies updates on Qualifications transparency and mobility.

The event will join EWF Members, which are Welding Institutes from 30 European countries, Ministerial representatives from the Members States, Manufacturing industry, VET Providers and Higher Education Institutions, thus includes trainers, teachers, researchers and welding experts.



The focus of the event is to raise global awareness about International Qualifications and Quality Assurance issues when levelling them into National (NQF) and European Qualifications Frameworks (EQF).

The approach used in the conference will be based on the presentation and validation of the EWF methodologies and tools for aligning International Qualifications with EU tools (EQF, LOs and ECVET). In this regard, a plenary session will take place on day one, followed by an interactive workshop and face-to-face meetings on day two. Participants enrolling in the European conference will have several opportunities for interaction, express their opinion and for networking, through:

- Debate – comments and questions on each topic
- Impression corner – written comments and questions on each subject
- Coffee and lunch break – informal discussions and networking
- Social media – Twitter, Facebook.

3. Programme

Agenda of day one

Wednesday, 15th November

Room: Main conference hall

8:00 - 9:00	Registration Reception Hall. Please do your registration before attending the following schedule. Registration is done at the main reception hall.
9:00	Welcome Speaker: EWF, Chris Eady, United Kingdom
	EWF 25th Anniversary Speaker: EWF, Luísa Coutinho, Portugal
9:20	Programme for the day Speaker: EWF, Eurico Assunção, Portugal
9:30	Technology Innovation, New Professional Qualifications The Role of Eu tools and Policies. Speaker: CEDEFOP, Loukas Zahilas, Greece
9:40	AM and the need of a new workforce Speaker: European Commission, German Esteban, Belgium
9:50	AM Motion strategic action The importance on non-technological aspects. Speaker: PRODINTEC, Paula Queipo, Spain Moderator: Eurico Assunção
10:00-10:30	Coffee-break & Networking

Change room: Go to the Small hall.

10:30	International Qualifications Welding Sector - European Welding Federation - case study. Speaker: EWF, Chris Eady, United Kingdom
10:50	Steps To Modernise International Qualifications (IQ): A methodology for describing Learning Outcomes. Speaker: EWF, Elvira Raquel Silva, Portugal
11:10	New training tools based on a learner centred approach. Speaker: ISQ, Joana Santos, Lara Ramos, Portugal

Speakers by session

Welcome

Chris Eady, President, European Welding Federation (EWF)

EWF Anniversary

Luísa Coutinho, Executive Director, EWF

Eurico Assunção, Deputy Director, EWF

German Esteban, Research Programme Officer – Industrial Technologies, European Commission

Loukas Zahilas, Head of Department for VET systems and institutions, CEDEFOP

Paula Queipo, External Relation Director, Prodintec

Steps to modernise International Qualifications (IQ)

Elvira Raquel Silva, Project Manager, EWF

Joana Santos, Project Manager, Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade (ISQ)

Lara Santos, Project Manager, ISQ

Rute Batista, Agência Nacional para a Qualificação e Ensino Profissional (ANQEP)

Teresa Duarte, ANQEP

Enhanced transparency and Quality in IQ

Adelaide Almeida, Project Manager, EWF

Italo José Fernandes, Systems Manager, EWF

Nuria Moyes Prellezo, ESCO Secretariat – Skills and Qualifications, DG Employment Social Affairs & Inclusion

IQ in National Training Programmes

Luísa Coutinho, Executive Director, EWF

Maria Margarida Ségard, Deputy Director, ISQ

Vanina Marcelino, Senior Officer, ANQEP

Future of IQ

Koeno Nomden, Team Leader “Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications” – Skills and Qualifications, DG Employment Social Affairs & Inclusion

Wednesday, 15th November

Moderators in plenary session

Timothy Jessop, Consultant, Tim Jessop Consultancy

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www.ewf.be / www.project-rainbow.eu

Thursday, 16th November

6.

4. Communication and social media

The European Conference on International Sectoral Qualifications is the event where you can share best practice and learn about International Qualifications, technology and innovation trends, as well as, European policies updates on Qualifications transparency and mobility.

The focus of the event is to raise global awareness about International Qualifications and Quality Assurance issues when levelling them into National (NQF) and European Qualifications Frameworks (EQF).

During the first day of the conference, pictures and short videos will be recorded to promote the event on social media. Those not willing to appear in the images must inform the EWF Staff about their request before the event starts.

The images collected will serve for developing future media materials to disseminate the conference, the best practices, to explain the role and importance of international qualifications and quality assurance.

The event hashtag used on social media is **#internationalqualifications** and **#TrainingQualityAssurance**.

All the media and communication material (articles, press releases, photos and publications on social networks) will be available on www.project-rainbow.eu/ and www.ewf.be.

Be sure to follow EWF on its social networks: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to be up to date on the news.



5. What is the International Qualification plenary session about?

Organisation

- Total duration: 8 hours
- 14 Presentations: 20 minutes each
- Debates of 25 minutes
- 17 Panel of speakers
- 3 Moderators
- Number of attendees up to 100
- Venue: Taguspark Oeiras, Portugal
- Official language: English

Spirit

- Speakers are invited to exchange views in a friendly and interactive manner, supported or not by slides presentation;
- Moderators will structure discussion, based on the live questions and answers coming from the audience
- Participants are free to express their view of each session using the impression corner

Approach to the sessions

The opening session **welcomes** participants and introduces them to the EWF System. The focus will go to the relationship between fast innovation of manufacturing technologies, qualification of personnel and competitiveness of industrial firms.

Steps to modernise International Qualifications session, explores several strategies for continuous improvement and adjustment of the training systems to innovative learning methods and approaches, to guarantee high quality in VET in a lifelong learning perspective.

Enhanced transparency and Quality regarding International Qualifications explores what can be done to guarantee Quality when linking qualifications to the EQF, namely the added value of setting a common language and agreed mechanisms, requirements and rules.

International Qualification in National Training programmes session explores two distinct possibilities when International Qualifications are uptaken by National VET and HE systems. The Portuguese showcase of good practice is presented for other countries to follow.

The plenary session finishes with a wide reflection about the future of International Qualifications.

The speakers represent distinct areas and interests and have been brought together for reflecting on the nowadays challenges of qualifications systems, towards the European industry needs and educational policy reforms/recommendations.

Seven speakers come from EWF, meaning an international sectoral organisation promoting international standards for the qualification and certification of personnel and certification of companies (EWF).

Five of the speakers represent European bodies responsible for employment, social affairs and inclusion (DG Employment) and for the development of vocational education and training (CEDEFOP).

5. What is the International Qualification plenary session about?

Two speakers represent a sectoral organisation (ISQ) with a double responsibility as welding awarding and training body. Two speakers come from a National Qualification Agency, acting in the regulation and accreditation of qualifications (ANQEP).

And one speaker is from a private innovation and technology centre specialised in industrial design and production.

Moderators will highlight key issues and launch two questions to the speakers.

Members of the audience will have an opportunity to react.

Around five questions will be answered per session.

Expected outcome

After day one conference, it is expected that participants have a shared understanding of the role of International Qualification in the European context, namely how they:

- Reflect and are driven by sectors, which require qualified skills
- Assure harmonised knowledge, skills and competences
- Guarantee mobility of workers in Europe and outside Europe
- Relate and are supported by a chain of stakeholders, including representatives from the industry, services and education and training

6. What is the workshop about?

Organisation

- Total duration: 4 hours
- Dynamic group activities
- 6 Moderators
- Around 60 participants
- Venue: Taguspark Oeiras, Portugal
- Official language: English

Spirit

- Moderators will facilitate and guide the groups through several brainstorm activities
- Participants are invited to work together, share opinions and express their point of views

Reflecting about the **Alignment of International Qualifications and National Qualification Systems**, aims at understanding how EWF Qualifications are addressed in the national levels and setting common quality criteria for referencing International Qualifications to the EQF. The overall questions to be discussed by National Qualification Agencies and EWF Members are:

- What is the status of the EWF qualifications in your country?
- How to align International Qualifications with National Qualifications?

Reflecting on **Technology Innovation and the Role of Higher Education (HE)** aims at understanding how fast technology innovation is tackled at higher level. The overall questions to be discussed by HE institutions and R&D centres are:

- How do universities respond to the fast technology innovation?
- What is the added value of International Qualifications addressing fast innovative technologies?

The same reasoning is applied for **Technology Innovation and the Role Vocational Education and Training (VET)**. Thus, the overall questions to be discussed by Training providers are:

- How do VET Providers respond to the fast technology innovation?
- What is the added value of International Qualifications addressing fast innovative technologies?

Expected outcome

After the second day of the conference, it is expected that participants have agreed on common solutions and actions regarding procedures to approach International Qualifications in the national context, from policy regulation to the implementation in different Educational Systems, VET and HE.

6. List of participants

	NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
1	Ana Cabral	Portugal	ISQ-Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade
2	Ated Ben Khalifa	Tunisia	ENIM
3	Bernardo Sousa	Portugal	Instituto Superior Técnico
4	Carmen Muşat	Romania	National Centre for TVET Development
5	Caroline Vetsmany	Portugal	
6	Catarina Miranda	Portugal	ISQ-Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade
7	Catrina Sinescu	Romania	Teamnet World Professional Services
8	Chris Eady	UK	TWI Certification Ltd
9	Christian Ahrens	Germany	CA-IWC
10	Davide Meinerio	Belgium	I&D Consulting
11	Dorin Dehelean	Romania	ASR
12	Eduarda Castel – Branco	Portugal	European Training Foundation
13	Edward Chlebus	Poland	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
14	Emanuele Gandolfo	Italy	IIS CERT
15	Emiiliyana Dimitrova	Bulgaria	NAVET - National Agency for Vocational Education and Training
16	Emil Duong	Germany	Fraunhofer ILT
17	Emma Freckingham	UK	TWI Certification Ltd
18	Eoghan O'Donoghue	Ireland	SEAM-Waterford Institute of Technology
19	Fernando Gutierrez Justo	Spain	Dirección General de Formación. Comunidad de Madrid
20	Franz Gramlinger	Austria	ARQA-VET
21	Germán Hernández	Spain	CESOL
22	Gerhard Hörmann	Austria	SZA
23	Helder Costa	Portugal	CENFIM
24	Hugo Balau	Portugal	Atec - Academia de Formação
25	Ibukun Micheal Adeyemi	Nigeria	Swift Network limited
26	Imran Saeed	Pakistan	UFONE-PTML
27	Inês Pires	Portugal	Instituto Superior Técnico
28	Inês Reis	Portugal	
29	Janno Dreger	Estonia	Tallinn University of technology
30	Joerg Vogelsang	Germany	GSI mbH

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	NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
31	Jorge Juan Huete Chugunowa	Spain	CESOL
32	Liliana Ghimie	France	
33	Luca Costa	Italy	IIS Progress.it
34	MAMADU CIRÉ DJALO	Guine Bissau	Najd palace
35	Manuel Grilo	Portugal	CENFIM
36	Marc Harzenmoser	Switzerland	Swiss Welding Association
37	Martin Dury	United Kingdom	The Manufacturing Technology Centre
38	Mattheus Pijls	Netherlands	NCP NLQF
39	Mnaouar Chouchane	Tunisia	National Engineering School of Monastir, Tunisia
40	Monika Zatrochova	Slovakia	Slovak technical university
41	Muneeb Hussain	Pakistan	
42	Mustafa Megahed	Germany	ESI Group
43	Ngulambembe Fabrice Milunda	Congo	
44	Nuria Moyes	Belgium	Everis
45	Pawel Kurzynski	UK	Cranfield University
46	Pedro Miguel Ferreira	Portugal	Other Signs Lda.
47	Peter Klamo	Slovakia	VUZ
48	Philippe Leca	France	Institut De Soudure
49	Pogany Alexander	Austria	BMVIT
50	Qudus Kunle Adebayo	Nigeria	Pilot Finance Limited
51	Ramesh Raghavendra	Ireland	SEAM-Waterford Institute of Technology
52	Ribwar Mohammed	Iraq / Kurdistan Region	University of Raparin
53	Ricardo Garcia	Germany	SODECIA
54	Ridwan Wale Adebayo	Nigeria	PILOT FINANCE LIMITED
55	Roger Lyon	United Kingdom	EFNDT
56	Rousseau Michel	France	AFS
57	Rui Esteves	Portugal	Direcção Regional de Cultura do Norte
58	Rute Batista	Portugal	ANQEP
59	Samir Lahouar	Tunisia	ENIM University of Monastir Tunisia
60	Stefania Belmonte	Italy	ANPAL

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	NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
61	Stefano Morra	Italy	IIS CERT
62	Stuart Edwardson	UK	University of Liverpool
63	Teresa Duarte	Portugal	ANQEP
64	Teresa Ribeiro	Portugal	ANQEP
65	Till Grundmann	Germany	German Welding Society
66	Tuba Karahan	Turkey	Istanbul Gedik University
67	Vaclav Minarik	Czech Rep.	CWS ANB
68	Vitor Dias	Portugal	CENFIM
69	Vladimir Kudelka	Czech Republic	CWS ANB
70	Yvonne Olgers	Netherlands	Netherlands Institute of Welding



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