

Implementation and exploitation of NQFs

National Qualifications Frameworks:
for work and learning without borders
Conference: Athens 30 November 2016

Where are we now?

- HQF has been developed as the national qualifications framework for Greece
- Process of referencing to the EQF has been completed
 - Accepted by the EQF Advisory Group
 - HQF is now the single reference point in Europe for Greek qualifications
 - Uploading on the European platform is the final action

What remains to be done?

- HQF has yet to be fully implemented
- Opportunity to decide how to exploit the HQF

Implementing an NQF

- Technical tasks
- Policy and structural issues

Technical tasks in NQF implementation

- Describing the learning outcomes of specific qualifications
 - whose responsibility?
 - a task for the awarding bodies
 - also a need for leadership and coordination of the process – who has a mandate to lead?
- Quality assurance of certification processes
- Establishing a Register (or Listing) of qualifications in the NQF
- Development of new qualifications designed to fit NQF specifications
- Development of new qualifications types
 - e.g. new apprenticeships, qualifications for non-formal or informal learning

Policy and structural issues in NQF implementation

- Legal underpinning – new laws, decrees, amendments to existing laws
 - possibly employment laws as well as education
- New organisations
 - new roles and powers for existing organisations
 - new relationships between organisations
- Awareness of the NQF
 - communications campaign
 - inserting new concepts into the national discourse on education, training and employment

An NQF...what can we do with it?

- Purposes of an NQF are usually decided
 - before the development phase, or
 - early in the development phase;
 - but new objectives often adopted as the possibilities of the NQF become clear!
- An NQF is a classification instrument
 - may also have a reforming function
 - or even a structure for transforming the qualifications system of a country

NQF – a classifying instrument

- For domestic purposes
- For transnational purposes
- Referencing to meta-frameworks
 - EQF, Bologna
- Alignments with other countries
 - e.g. Ireland with Poland (pre EQF), Australia, New Zealand
- Supporting labour mobility, student mobility, promotion of foreign investment

NQF – a reforming function

- Range of possibilities
- Encouraging development of new qualifications
 - modernising existing qualifications – e.g. new apprenticeships
- Shifting the balance between GE, VET, HE
- Basis for rationalising systems
 - qualifications systems become complex and diffuse over time

NQFs in Europe in 2015

- 38 European countries are developing NQFs
 - 34 of these are comprehensive NQFs
 - 32 NQF are 8-level frameworks
- 29 NQFs have been formally adopted
- 18 countries have reached operational stage
 - 7 NQFs are fully operational
- 27 countries have presented EQF referencing reports

Next steps for the HQF

- Technical tasks
 - Register
 - identifying the learning outcomes of specific qualifications
 - Quality assurance of certification?
- Policy objective: to consolidate the HQF as the main level for reforming the Greek education system
 - HQF to be formally adopted as national policy
 - communications and awareness-raising plan
 - New qualifications? New qualifications types?