



Hellenic Qualifications Framework

Qualifications
without borders
for work
& learning



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
"HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT"

HELLENIC MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE



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INTERMEDIATE MANAGING BODY:
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HELLENIC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Hellenic Qualifications Framework: To use it, learn about it

What it is

For the first time in Greece, the **Hellenic Qualifications Framework** is being established, which is a framework for the classification of qualifications, i.e. the titles of study obtained by each citizen. These titles have been obtained upon completion of a learning process.



Who is competent for developing HQF

The **National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP)** is competent for creating and developing the Hellenic Qualifications Framework and for referencing it to the **European Qualifications Framework**, under the supervision and coordination of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Who it is addressed to

It is addressed to anyone who can make use of its benefits: trainees, employees, unemployed, employers, providers of education and training, Awarding bodies, vocational guidance counsellors, vocational branches, social partners and any citizen holding a title of study.

What its Aim is

The development of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework ensures the presence of a unique tool, which can be used for describing and evaluating all qualifications awarded in Greece.

The initial objective is to create a coherent and easy-to-understand system for classifying qualifications, i.e. titles of study for all education levels in the country.

At a later stage, a system shall be developed for classifying qualifications obtained through non-formal education and training and informal learning.

What it offers

- All citizens will be able to systematically present the content of their qualifications, by referencing them to the Hellenic and European Qualifications Framework.
- Trainees and employees mobility are provided with a tool for “translating” and comparing their qualifications.
- Employers can quickly identify the knowledge, skills and competencies hidden behind qualifications (degrees, diplomas, certificates, certificates of competency).
- The national qualifications certification system becomes clear and easy to understand at international level.
- Lifelong Learning becomes attractive for citizens, since they know that, through the Hellenic Qualifications Framework, the interlinking between all forms of learning is enhanced and the qualifications obtained via any learning pathway (formal, non-formal, informal) are assessed, validated, accredited, certified, classified at the levels of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework and referenced to the levels of the European Qualifications Framework.
- A wide range of stakeholders collaborate through open dialogue.
- The analysis of the qualifications characteristics with the purpose of classifying them into the levels of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework contributes to mobility and facilitates entrance into the labour market, while ensuring quality and transparency.

How the Hellenic Qualifications Framework operates and how it is structured

The structure of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework is simple:

Levels - Learning outcomes - Descriptors - Qualification types

The current needs of the country as well as the relevant European and international developments were taken into account when designing the Hellenic Qualifications Framework.

Levels

Levels cover the entire range of qualifications, from compulsory education to higher education. Each level is defined by a set of knowledge, skills and competencies which determine the learning outcomes for this particular level.

Learning outcomes

The qualifications have the form of learning outcomes which are classified into levels. **Learning outcomes**, i.e. what a person knows, understands and is competent of upon completion of a learning process, are classified into knowledge, skills and competencies.

Descriptors

Learning outcomes corresponding to the qualifications of a specific level are defined by **descriptors**, which are determined by qualitative and quantitative grading of knowledge, skills and competencies.

Qualification Types

Qualifications are classified into types. **Qualification Types** represent groups of titles with common characteristics. The use of Qualification Types facilitates the procedure of classifying titles of study belonging to the same level.

What is the HQF implementation framework?

The project entitled “Development of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework”, as specified by the applicable legislation¹, is implemented until the end of 2015 by the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP), under the supervision of the Directorate for the European Union of the Hellenic Ministry for Education and Religious Affairs. It falls under the Operational Programme titled “Human Resources Development”, which is co-financed by the European Union (European Social Fund - ESF) and national funds. The Intermediate Management Body is the Special Management Agency of the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning” of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Which are the steps followed?

The actions taken by EOPPEP under the supervision of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs were focused on the following:

- Determination of its architectural structure.
- Registration and analysis of “former” and “existing” qualifications.
- Design and implementation of methodological tools for the classification of formal education qualifications in its levels.
- Its referencing to the European Qualifications Framework.

1. Law 4115/2013 (A' 24/30-1-2013) “Establishment and operation of a Youth and Lifelong Learning Institution and of the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance and other provisions”.



The milestones in the implementation course of the HQF in 2013 are the following:

| Time | Action |
|------------------------|---|
| February 2013 | Formulation of Proposal by EOPPEP for the Hellenic Qualifications Framework. |
| March 2013 | Formulation of recommendation by the competent Advisory Committee with regard to EOPPEP's proposal for the Hellenic Qualifications Framework. |
| April 2013 | Issuing of Decision by the Board of EOPPEP with regard to the final form of the Proposal for the Hellenic Qualifications Framework. Forwarding of the Proposal to the Minister for Education and Religious Affairs. |
| May - September 2013 | Description of the Qualification "Types" for the formal education system and analysis of their "specifications" by work groups comprising of members appointed by the Assembly of University Rectors, the Assembly of TEI Presidents and Vice Presidents, the Ministries of Education and Religious Affairs, National Defence, Culture and Sports, Tourism, Mercantile Marine and the Aegean, EOPPEP and by the Secretariat General for Lifelong Learning. |
| 10 July 2013 | Announcement of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework by the Minister for Education and Religious Affairs. |
| August - November 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of the procedure for referencing the Hellenic Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework. • Establishment of a Referencing Committee with representatives from the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, EOPPEP, the Assembly of University Rectors, from the Assembly of TEI Presidents and Vice-Presidents, the Authority for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ADIP), and with the participation of one international expert of EOPPEP, as well as two international experts. • Three meetings of the Referencing Committee. • Expansion of the Referencing Committee by including representatives of the social partners. • Compiling the Draft Referencing Report of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework. |
| 17 December 2013 | Presentation by EOPPEP of the Draft Referencing Report of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework during the 22nd Meeting of the EQF Advisory Group in Brussels. |

The milestones in the implementation course of the HQF in the beginning of 2014 are the following:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 24 January 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business meeting at the facilities of CEDEFOP with the purpose of consulting with the social partners on the final formulation of the Referencing Report of the HQF to the EQF. • 4th meeting of the Referencing Committee. |
| 25 and 26 February 2014 | Presentation by EOPPEP of the final Referencing Report of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework during the 23rd Meeting of the EQF Advisory Group in Birmingham, UK. |

Why is its development dynamic?

Within the context of the reforms under way in the country and in line with the European initiatives ‘Rethinking Education’ and ‘European Alliance for Apprenticeship’, the Hellenic Qualifications Framework is a dynamic tool taking into account the outcomes of reforms.

How is it connected to European reality?

In view of the “Europe 2020” common European strategy, which aims at **a development that is smart, sustainable and without any discriminations**, the Hellenic Qualifications Framework and its referencing to the European Qualifications Framework offers a tool for “translating” and comparing qualifications and aims at becoming an opportunity for promoting the mobility of learners and employees between Greece and other European countries.

How is quality assured?

The collaboration with representatives of the competent bodies and social partners, the operation of the competent Advisory Committee, and the involvement of experts with knowledge and international experience in the development of Qualifications Frameworks are crucial for the successful outcome of its development and referencing to the European Qualifications Framework.



ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΛΑΙΣΙΟ ΠΡΟΣΟΝΤΩΝ
The Hellenic Qualifications Framework



European
Qualifications
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