



OVERVIEW OF
NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPMENTS
IN **EUROPE** 2017

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE

Country	Scope of the framework	Number of levels	Level descriptors	Stage of development	NQF linked to EQF
Albania	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> theoretical and factual knowledge cognitive and practical skills competence (autonomy and responsibility) 	Formally adopted, under revision	
Austria	Designed as comprehensive NQF; currently, includes qualifications awarded in higher education and VET qualifications at levels 4, 5 and 6 from formal education.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	Operational	2012
Belgium-fl	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge/skills context/autonomy/responsibility 	Operational	2011, 2014 update
Belgium-fr	Designed as comprehensive framework; will include all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge/skills context/autonomy/responsibility 	Formally adopted	2013
Belgium-de	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> occupational competence (knowledge and skills) personal competence (social competence and autonomy) 	(Early) Operational	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	Formally adopted	
Bulgaria	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight and a preparatory level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competences (personal and professional) 	Formally adopted	2013
Croatia	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. It is a qualification and credit framework.	Eight with sublevels at levels 4 and 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills autonomy and responsibility 	(Early) operational stage	2012
Cyprus	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the system of vocational qualifications.	Eight with sublevels at levels 5 and 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	(Early) operational stage	2017
Czech Republic	Partial national framework for vocational qualifications (the national register of vocational qualifications (NSK) and a draft of the higher education framework.	Eight in NSK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> competences (including knowledge and skills) 	The national register of vocational qualifications (NSK) is operational	2011
Denmark	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	Operational	2011
Estonia	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the system of occupational qualifications.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills scope of responsibility and autonomy 	Operational	2011, 2016 update
Finland	Comprehensive framework including all state recognised qualifications.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrated level descriptors include knowledge, skills and key competences 	Operational	2017
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and vocational qualifications.	Eight with several sublevels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	(Early) operational	2016
France	NQF covers all levels and types of vocationally or professionally oriented qualification; general education qualifications are not included.	Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated learning outcomes including knowledge, skills, attitudes, autonomy and responsibility 	Operational	2010

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Germany	Comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning; includes qualifications from general education, VET, higher education and qualifications from regulated further training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> professional competence (knowledge and skills) personal competence (social competence and autonomy) 	Operational	2012
Greece	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	(Early) operational stage	2015
Hungary	Comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning encompasses all state-recognised national qualifications acquired in general education, HE and those vocational qualifications registered in the national vocational qualifications register.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills attitudes autonomy and responsibility 	(Early) operational stage	2015
Iceland	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Seven with sublevels at levels 5 and 6; no descriptor or qualification linked to EQF level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrated level descriptors include knowledge, skills and competence 	(Early) operational	2013
Ireland	Comprehensive NQF including all types and levels of qualification from formal education and training; is open to those awarded by professional and international organisations.	10 and four award types: major, minor, special-purpose and supplemental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	Operational	2009
Italy	Comprehensive framework will include all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and regional qualifications.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills autonomy and responsibility 	Formally adopted	2013 major national qualifications from formal education and training linked directly to EQF
Kosovo	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and non-formal and informal learning.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills wider competences 	(Early) operational stage	2016
Latvia	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	Operational	2011
Lithuania	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> characteristics of activities (complexity, autonomy, changeability) types of competences (functional, cognitive and general) 	Operational	2011
Liechtenstein	Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning, currently includes qualifications from VET and higher education; general education qualifications are not yet included.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competences 	Operational	2016
Luxembourg	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge aptitudes attitudes 	Operational	2012
Malta	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competences 	Operational	2009, 2012 and 2016 update
Montenegro	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the system of national vocational qualifications (NVQs).	Eight with sublevels at levels 1, 4 and 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge skills competence 	(Early) operational stage	2014
Netherlands	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training; opens up towards qualifications offered outside formal education system.	Eight levels, including a sublevel at level 4 (4+), and an entry level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> context, knowledge skills responsibility and independence 	Operational	2011

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Norway	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Seven with sublevels at levels 5 and 6; no descriptor or qualification linked to EQF level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • general competence 	Operational	2014
Poland	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. It is open to qualifications from the private and non-formal sectors.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • social competence 	(Early) operational	2013
Portugal	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the national system for the recognition, validation and certification of competences.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • attitudes 	Operational	2011
Romania	Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competences 	(Early) operational stage	
Serbia	Comprehensive NQF under construction, aiming to bring together frameworks for higher education and VET.	Eight with sublevels at levels 6, 7 and 8 proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • attitude and ability 	Design/development stage	
Slovakia	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. It includes also sub-framework of occupational qualifications.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competences 	(Early) operational	2017
Slovenia	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training, from the system of national vocational qualifications and supplementary qualifications.	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competences 	Operational	2013
Spain	Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning; will include all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. NQF for higher education in place.	Eight proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills and abilities • competence 	Advanced development stage	
Sweden	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training; opens up towards qualifications awarded outside the formal education system.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence 	Operational	2016
Switzerland	NQF for vocational and professional qualifications (NQF-VPQ) and NQF for higher education.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competences (professional and personal) 	Operational	2015
Turkey	Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from national vocational qualification system.	Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • skills • competence 	(Early) operational	2017
UK – England and Northern Ireland	Two frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulated qualifications framework (RQF) covers all regulated academic and vocational qualifications; • a higher education framework (FHEQ). 	Eight plus entry levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • skills 	Operational	2010 Joined UK referencing report
UK – Scotland	Comprehensive credit and qualifications framework (SCQF) including all level and types of qualification.	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • practice: applied knowledge, skills and understanding • generic cognitive skills communication numeracy and ICT skills • autonomy, accountability and working with others 	Operational	2010 Joined UK referencing report
UK – Wales	Comprehensive credit and qualifications framework of Wales (CQFW) including all level and types of qualification. It consists of three pillars: regulated qualifications, HE qualifications and quality-assured lifelong learning.	Eight plus entry levels	Level descriptors of the quality-assured lifelong learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding • application and action • autonomy and accountability 	Operational	2010 Joined UK referencing report



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FURTHER INFORMATION

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