

National qualifications framework: higher education qualifications framework

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 CZECHIA

Timeline

2018 **Approved/Agreed** 2019 **Implementation** 2020 **Implementation**
2021 **Implementation** 2022 **Implementation** 2023 **Completed**

ID number 28809

Background

The Czech Republic has not yet developed a comprehensive national qualifications framework. The National register of qualifications (*Národní soustava kvalifikací – NSK*) functions as a qualifications framework for the system of validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) and CVET qualifications. The NSK was referenced to the EQF in 2011. All qualifications awarded in secondary education, higher education, and the qualifications included in the NSK are linked to EQF levels.

In 2015, a higher education qualifications framework was proposed and discussed with higher education institutions, but the plan to introduce it into national legislation was not successful.

Description

The higher education qualifications framework was approved by the Ministry of Education in November 2018, but has not been included in the Higher Education Act so far. The approval provides a formal basis for the implementation of the document. The final step in the implementation of the Framework will be the development of the self-certification report, which will demonstrate the compatibility of the framework with the overarching qualifications framework of the European higher education area.

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Implementation

Implementation started in 2019. A number of conditions set for the certification, such as interconnection with the quality assurance system, compatibility with the ECTS system, will be gradually fulfilled. Incorporation into the Higher Education Act is envisaged for 2020/21.

2020 Implementation

In June 2020, the Strategic plan of the Ministry of Higher Education for the period from 2021 onwards was adopted. Among other things it foresees the implementation of the

higher education qualifications framework at the higher education institutions level as a basis for the recognition of prior education. Incorporation of the framework into the Higher Education Act is envisaged for 2021, the amendment to the act is in legislative process.

2021 Implementation

The Amendment to the Act prepared in 2019/20 was not included in the discussion procedures of the Czech Parliament prior to the change of Government in October 2021; it was returned to the legislative process. The qualifications framework is expected to be addressed by means of an implementing regulation to the Higher Education Act, most likely with the effect from January 2023.

2022 Implementation

The Amendment to the Act is a subject of ongoing discussions of relevant stakeholders (esp. academic and governmental representatives).

2023 Completed

The 2016 amendment to the Higher Education Act (Act No. 137/2016 Coll.) significantly advanced the implementation of the Bologna Process in the Czech Republic. This amendment enhanced the Czech higher education system's international compatibility with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) principles. Key changes included aligning the accreditation system with European standards and strengthening the emphasis on education quality and student mobility, moving the Czech Republic closer to achieving Bologna Process goals.

While the Higher Education Act does not explicitly reference the EHEA Qualifications Framework, its main principles are incorporated into the legislation through its amendments, especially concerning the structure of study programmes, the accreditation process and the credit system. At the moment, it is therefore not certain whether the mention of the QF EHEA will be part of the legislation. Further legislative changes specifically mentioning the QF-EHEA are not currently considered necessary, as the QF-EHEA principles have already been effectively implemented in the Czech Republic.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Adult learners

Other

Higher education
institutions

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[National register of qualifications \(NSK\)](#)

[Higher education qualifications framework](#)

[Strategic plan of the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports for the period from 2021](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Completed

The strategic plan for higher education for the period 2021+

The SP2021+ formulates a general vision for higher education and its significance for society.

Six priority objectives have been set:

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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