

# National qualifications framework

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****REGULATION/LEGISLATION** SWEDEN

## Timeline

**ID number 28540**

## Background

The introduction of the national qualifications framework (NQF) in line with the European Parliament and Council recommendation on the establishing of the European qualifications framework for lifelong learning (EQF).

## Objectives

The national qualifications framework aims to increase employability and mobility in the labour market as it facilitates comparison of qualifications gained through studies and/or work experience.

## Description

The legal basis supporting the Swedish national qualifications framework (SeQF) came into force on 1 October 2015. The SeQF was referenced to the European qualifications framework (EQF) in June 2016 and can be considered to have reached (an early) operational status. It is operated by the National Agency for Higher Vocational Education assisted by a council comprising representatives from social partners, national education and employment agencies and student organisations. A register of qualifications was put in place and made accessible via the SeQF web portal.

- 2015 Approved/Agreed**
- 2016 Approved/Agreed**
- 2017 Implementation**
- 2018 Implementation**
- 2019 Implementation**

In 2019, awarding bodies outside the formal education system are able to have their qualifications assessed and placed at a level within the framework by submitting an application to the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education. Six qualifications have been assessed and were placed in the framework until March 2019. Since then, new applications have been submitted but no qualifications have been placed in the system.

### **2020 Implementation**

A total of eleven qualifications have been assessed and were placed in the framework until end of 2020.

### **2021 Implementation**

In 2021 new qualifications were added during the year.

### **2022 Implementation**

In 2022, a total number of 27 qualifications have been assessed and were placed in the framework until February 2022. As of February, 31 additional applications are waiting to be assessed. The interest in placing a qualification in the system has increased.

### **2023 Implementation**

On 1 January, 2023, the ordinance governing SeQF (SFS 2015:545) was updated. The descriptor 'competences' describing learning outcomes are aligned to the EQF and replaced with 'responsibility and autonomy'. As of 12 January 2023, a total of 55 non-formal qualifications were levelled to the SeQF. During 2022, a qualifications database was developed in which all non-formal qualifications are published.

### **2024 Implementation**

In 2024 new qualifications were added during the year.

## **Bodies responsible**

- National Agency for Higher VET

## **Target group**

### **Other stakeholders**

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

### **Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications**

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

## **Subsystem**

## Further reading

[SeQF web portal](#)

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[Cedefop \(2019\). Sweden: European inventory on NQF 2018](#)

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[ReferNet Sweden - the national qualification framework has been launched](#)

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[Ordinance on The Swedish National Qualification Framework](#)

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[Qualification Data Base](#)

### “ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). National qualifications framework: Sweden. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28540>