

# Referencing the national qualifications framework to EQF

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 ROMANIA

## Timeline

2018 **Approved/Agreed**

2019 **Design**

2020 **Implementation**

2021 **Implementation**

2022 **Implementation**

2023 **Implementation**

2024 **Implementation**

2025 **Implementation**

ID number 28515

## Background

The Romanian national qualifications framework was adopted in 2013. It brings together nationally recognised qualifications from initial and continuing VET, general education and higher education. The framework has eight levels, defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competences. It is at its early operational stage. The framework implementation activities were undertaken in the project Financial support for the EQF - NCP in Romania, funded by the European Commission.

## Objectives

To allow comparing the qualification levels of different countries using the EQF grid description based on learning outcomes.

## Description

The Romanian national qualifications framework was referenced to the EQF in April 2018 and the next revision of the referencing report is foreseen to take place in 2023.

### 2018 **Approved/Agreed**

#### 2019 **Design**

In 2019, the referencing report was published online on the European Commission's dedicated site and further disseminated through an Erasmus+ project on EQF and Europass, implemented by the National Qualifications Authority (ANC) in 2018-20.

Communication with the relevant European online platform (currently the Learning opportunities and qualifications portal) ensured appropriate transparency and comparability of the Romanian NQF to the NQF of other European countries.

A printed version of the report was also made available and disseminated to stakeholders during events organised by ANC and other national stakeholders.

The report was being revised/updated to include the legislative changes that occurred after its approval in 2018.

### **2020 Implementation**

In 2020, an ESF project, Capacity building of the National Qualifications Authority and the Ministry of Labour through legislative systematisation in the field of qualifications development, took the following actions for NQF implementation:

- (a) analysis of labour market needs in terms of economic sectors and qualifications required for the period 2025-30. The results of the study were used to update the National register for qualifications and to develop new qualifications;
- (b) development of a methodology for allocation of NQF levels to the existing or new qualifications;
- (c) mapping all occupations and skills from level 1 to level 5 NQF in relation to ESCO and the Romanian classification of occupations;
- (d) development of a methodological framework for using the credit system, integrating principles of ECVET and ECTS;
- (e) development of the methodological guide for organising study programmes for post university qualifications registered in the National register for qualifications.

### **2021 Implementation**

In 2021, the National Qualifications Authority, together with the labour ministry, continued to implement the project on legislative systematisation in the field of qualifications development. Technical steps were taken to select experts for the revision/update or development of 53 occupational standards. The development of instruments for assessing learning outcomes in qualifications also began.

### **2022 Implementation**

By 2022, the ANC had continued to approve occupational standards: 7 in 2020, 69 in 2021, 105 in 2022. Based on the approved standards, it had also approved 61 qualifications (NQF levels 1-4) since 2020.

In 2022, the development of assessment instruments of the learning outcomes for qualifications of various EQF/NQF levels continued.

### **2023 Implementation**

In 2020-23, 296 occupational standards (OS) were developed/approved.

### **2024 Implementation**

In 2024, 10 occupational standards were approved (developed at labour market initiatives). Based on these standards, other 10 qualifications at EQF level 2-4 were approved to be further implemented and introduced in the National Register of Professional Qualifications (RNCP).

Following the provisions of the new education laws (pre-university education law no.198/2023, higher education law no. 199/2023), the following regulations were updated:

- (a) joint order of the Minister for Education and the Minister for Labor and Social Solidarity no.5039/2126/2018 for the approval of the correspondence between the education or qualification documents, the type of education and professional training programme through which qualification levels can be acquired, and the reference levels of the European qualifications level,
- (b) order of the Minister for Education no. 619/2024 approving the Methodology for the development and updating of professional qualifications. For IVET the order applies starting from the 2026/27 school year,
- (c) order of the Minister for Education no. 4696/2024 approving the Methodology on

the recognition of certificates acquired outside the national education system, and in formal, non-formal and informal system at EQF levels 1-5, generically called professional training certificates, at authorised vocational training providers /accredited or in authorised/accredited skills assessment centres and abroad.

The 2024 order of the Minister for Education no. 6194 also approved the Methodology for the development and updating of professional qualifications. For IVET the order applies starting from the 2026/27 school year.

### **2025 Implementation**

In 2025, 22 occupational standards were approved (10 at NQF level 3, 5 at NQF level 4 and 7 at NQF level 6).

The updated referencing report was presented to the EQF advisory group in the fall of 2025, in line with the latest package of laws in education (Law no.198/2023, Law no. 199/2023). This new legal education framework triggered the update of:

- (a) Government Decision no. 53/2025 on the approval of the format and content of the National Qualifications Framework;
- (b) Order no. 6390/ 2025 regarding the approval of the authorisation/accreditation process of centers for the assessment of professional competencies obtained in non-formal and informal learning contexts;
- (c) Order no. 5196/2025 approving the Framework methodology regarding the structure, development, validation and approval of qualification standards;
- (d) Order no. 4837/2025 approving the Methodology for identifying, assessing and recognizing learning outcomes in non-formal and informal contexts;
- (e) Order no. 3976/2025 approving the Methodology regarding the template for the certificates used, the interoperability of registers and exchange of data for adult vocational training programmes at NQF levels 4 and 5, organised at higher education level;
- (f) Order 4148/2025 approving the Framework Methodology for the organisation and delivery of postgraduate adult vocational training programmes.

## **Bodies responsible**

- National Qualifications Authority (ANC)
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of National Education (until 2021)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (until 2021)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Adult learners

### **Education professionals**

Teachers  
Trainers  
Adult educators

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

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

Coordinating VET and other policies

## **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

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

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

[Government Decision No 918/2013 regarding the approval of the NQF, modified by GD No 567/2015 and GD No 132/2018](#)

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[Order of the Minister of Education no. 6194/2024 Methodology for the development and updating of professional qualifications](#)

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[Order of the Minister of Education no. 4696/2024 for the approval of the Methodology on the recognition of certificates acquired, as the case may be, in formal, non-formal and informal system](#)

## **Related policy developments**

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### **2025 Implementation**

#### **National strategy for adult training 2024-27**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity has drafted the National strategy for adult training 2024-27. The strategy was approved by the Government in December 2023. The strategy development was co-financed by the EU (Erasmus+).

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#### **Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### **Subsystem**

CVET

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### **2025 Implementation**

#### **National strategy for employment 2021-27**

The National strategy for employment 2021-27 outlines an integrated vision of labour market demand and supply policies.

**Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2025 Implementation**

## Transferable credit system

The development of the transferable credit system includes methodology for granting transferable credits for the professional training of adults including categories of skills to be considered for certification of competences: key, technical and occupation-related.

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

CVET

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**2025 Implementation**

## IVET provision in line with the labour market needs

Educated Romania underlines the commitment to adjusting the education system to current and emerging challenges. Education and skills-related measures and actions are to be implemented with the support of State budget and EU funds.

**Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

**Subsystem**

IVET

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**2021 Completed**

## Support for adults acquiring key competences

The 2015-20 lifelong learning strategy addressed the acquisition and validation of key competences that help early leavers from education to find jobs. The measures included revision of the validation methodology, quality assurance and training of staff in assessment centres of prior learning.

**Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

**Subsystem**

CVET

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2025 **Approved/Agreed**

**Developing mechanisms for recognition of prior learning**

In 2018, the regulatory framework for validation and recognition was revised with a view to introducing QA measures for validation and recognition.

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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2025 **Implementation**

**Revising training standards in IVET**

In 2013-16, the training standards for IVET (131 initial VET qualifications at EQF level 3 and 69 qualifications at level 4) were revised and, in 2016, were approved by ministerial order.

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET

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2021 **Completed**

**Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20**

Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20 was adopted in 2015. It addressed the need for strengthening partnerships between VET providers and enterprises, to increase the quality and labour market relevance of VET.

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**Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

**Subsystem**

CVET

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“ … ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28515>