

National qualifications framework

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**REGULATION/LEGISLATION** LATVIA

Timeline

2015 Implementation	2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation
2021 Implementation	2022 Completed	

ID number 28393

Background

The development of the Latvian qualifications framework (LQF) started in 2009. Coordination of the referencing process was carried out by the Academic Information Centre. The LQF, comprising only qualifications from formal education, was established and referenced to EQF and QF-EHEA in 2011.

Objectives

To promote a clear structure of qualifications and standards.

Description

The Latvian qualifications framework (LQF) is a comprehensive eight-level framework covering formal education and training, including VET. It is a framework for developing standards and qualifications, and promoting quality in education and training.

All VET diplomas include a reference to LQF.

2015 Implementation

In 2015, amendments to the Vocational education law set the link between professional qualification levels and the LQF levels, and the general regulation of the LQF. The LQF became a comprehensive eight-level framework based on learning outcomes and encompassing general, vocational and higher education as well as professional qualifications.

2016 Implementation

In September 2016, new Cabinet of Ministers regulations called for developing occupational standards in line with LQF levels. Regulations supporting the use of the learning-outcomes approach, while developing occupational standards, vocational

education content and assessment methods, have been in force since May 2016.

2017 Implementation

Since January 2017, vocational education certificates and diplomas include reference to LQF levels. On 13 June 2017, the Government adopted new Regulations on the classification of the Latvian education system, including reference to LQF/EQF, and LQF level descriptors in terms of knowledge, skills and competences, which replaced the previous version of regulations with the same title (approved in 2008).

In 2017, sectoral qualifications frameworks were revised within the framework of the ESF project Development of sectoral qualifications system for vocational education development and quality assurance (2016-21) implemented by VISC (the National Centre for Education). Descriptors of sectoral qualifications levels were developed or revised in line with LQF levels, and general descriptions of sectoral occupations and specialisations were updated.

2018 Implementation

Upon agreement between education and sectors, 15 sectoral qualifications frameworks were officially approved in April 2018; craftsmanship qualifications were incorporated into sectoral qualifications frameworks.

In 2018, a new qualification was introduced and included in the LQF: professional Doctor diploma in arts (LQF level 8).

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the updated self-assessment report Referencing the Latvian qualifications framework to the European qualifications framework for lifelong learning and the Qualifications framework for the European higher education area, was prepared and presented to the EQF Advisory Group.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the Latvian National contact point (NCP) prepared three video presentations on LQF and qualifications: Latvian qualifications framework and how it is referenced to the European qualifications framework (EQF); Latvian qualifications database and how to use it; and the new Europass platform, its functions and benefits, including CV creation.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the Latvian National contact point conducted a study on micro-credentials in Latvia to prepare for national level discussions on opening the LQF to qualifications acquired outside formal education.

In 2021, the sectoral expert councils updated the sector qualifications frameworks (referenced to LQF). Amendments deleted obsolete qualifications and added new professional qualifications and specialisations. Necessary changes were also made in the LQF levels of professional qualifications. The titles of professional qualifications were clarified in accordance with the needs of the sectors, aiming to ensure international comparability and recognition of professional qualifications.

2022 Completed

The 2022 amendments to the Vocational Education Law expanded its scope in relation to the LQF to cover all levels of the framework, including professional higher education. The levels of professional qualifications were referenced to the LQF. Professional education and qualification terms were separated (two separate documents upon completion). The professional standard includes professional qualification

requirements and it is now possible to combine the requirements of related professional qualifications in one professional standard. The professional standard also identifies the parts of the qualification that are recognisable in the labour market. In addition to the existing State vocational education standards, the State continuing vocational education standard and the State professional development education standard were presented in the legislation.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science
- Academic Information Centre (AIC)

Target group

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

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

[Cedefop \(2017\). European inventory on national qualifications framework 2016: Latvia](#)

[Regulations on documents certifying acquisition of State-recognised vocational education and professional qualifications, modules and completion of part of a vocational education programme, Cabinet of Ministers No 52 of 7 February 2023](#)

[Referencing the Latvian qualifications framework to the European qualifications framework for lifelong learning and the qualifications framework for the European higher education area. Updated self-assessment report \(2018\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Amendments to the VET law

Amendments to the law should allow students to receive a State-recognised partial vocational qualifications, thus promoting a competence-based approach in VET.

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation**VET sectoral qualifications**

Since 2016 the National Centre for Education (VISC) has been developing sectoral qualifications frameworks as part of vocational education reform supported by a 2016-21 ESF project.

**Type of development**

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). National qualifications framework: Latvia. 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/28393>