

Hellenic qualifications framework (HQF)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 GREECE

Timeline



ID number 28256

Background

A Hellenic qualifications framework (HQF), with eight levels based on learning outcomes, has been developed. It is defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competences. The first stage of development has focused on qualifications awarded within the formal system but the long-term perspective is for the plan to accommodate non-formal and informal learning. A qualifications framework for higher education is part of the overarching HQF. The National Organisation for Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) is responsible for developing the HQF and for putting it into practice.

Description

The HQF was referenced to the EQF in 2015 but self-certification against the qualifications framework for the European higher education area (EHEA) remains a challenge.

In 2017, a ministerial decision on a quality framework for VET curricula was adopted. The content of the decision included the definition of learning outcomes, the connection with occupational profiles and issues regarding the design of VET curricula.

Moreover, as a consequence of Law 4485/2017 (Official Gazette 114/A/4.8.2017), according to which the Integrated Master qualification was introduced, respective Ministerial Decrees of the Minister for Education have been issued. The decrees specify the qualifications that are awarded in HE and fall under this type of qualification.

According to Cedefop's classification of the NQF implementation stages, in the HQF:

- (a) the implementation structures are in place (stable and agreed governance structures, day-to-day administrative capacities, predictable financing);
- (b) the main working methods and instruments are in place (databases, communication strategies, quality assurance arrangements, by-laws and administrative regulations);
- (c) end-users are being made aware of the existence of the NQF and related services;
- (d) the HQF is a reference point for the use of learning outcomes and for the continuous revision and renewal of qualifications;

- (e) the criteria and procedures for the allocation of qualifications to levels are in place and allocation of qualifications continues;
- (f) the HQF is gradually playing a role in improving transparency and comparability of qualifications at national and international level;
- (g) the HQF is gradually supporting reform and renewal of education, training and qualifications systems at national level.

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

As a consequence of Law 4186/2013, that set up EPAL apprenticeship programmes, several Ministerial Decrees of the Minister for Education were issued, in which the curriculum of each specialisation was described according to the learning outcomes approach. In addition, according to Acts of the Synod of University Rectors, HQF levels seven and eight were mentioned in the approvals of the regulations of postgraduate and doctoral studies, e.g. Official Gazette 3093/B/1.8.2019, Official Gazette 447/B/13.2.2020.

A Ministerial Decree by the education ministry set the content of the preparatory programme attended by graduates of the EPAL apprenticeship programme to prepare for the certification exams (the level 5 learning outcomes of the programme was also presented) (Official Gazette 32/B/16.1.2019).

2020 Implementation

In December 2020, Law 4763/2020 institutionally established the HQF. According to Articles 45-49, the HQF aims to create a coherent and comprehensive system of classification of all qualifications obtained through formal and non-formal education and informal learning in Greece. The main issues regulated by the law are:

- (a) the governance of HQF; EOPPEP is the statutory body for the development and implementation of HQF in correspondence with the European qualifications framework (EQF). Additionally, EOPPEP is the national coordination point for EQF in Greece (NCP);
- (b) the architectural structure of HQF, which is developed and implemented in eight levels;
- (c) its implementation and operational procedures;
- (d) the referencing process and methodological tools for classifying qualifications in HQF levels.

Moreover, the qualifications database, ran by EOPPEP, was reformed according to EU instructions, and its link to the respective EU portal was improved.

The universities sent around 500 new qualifications to EOPPEP to be included in the qualifications database. These qualifications were described using the learning outcomes approach.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, EOPPEP continued editing and uploading the submitted qualifications.

2022 Implementation

EOPPEP completed editing of 500 additional qualifications and uploaded them to the Qualifications database. In 2022, the Greek Qualifications database contained more than 1 220 qualifications.

2023 Implementation

During the reporting period, the Greek EQF National Coordination Point (NCP) focused on supporting the ongoing implementation of the Hellenic Qualifications Framework (HQF), primarily through the following actions:

- (a) strengthening the use of learning outcomes to enhance trust and confidence in VET qualifications.
- (b) developing synergies with other EU networks such as EQAVET, Europass, and Euroguidance to better inform both targeted and broader audiences. As part of this cooperation, a dissemination plan was developed and implemented in 2023. Promotional videos and infographics highlighting the Greek NQF were distributed via websites and social media channels.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, the Greek EQF-NCP EOPPEP launched a research study to evaluate the impact of HQF implementation on education policies and practices, marking nearly 10 years since its referencing to the European Qualifications Framework (December 2015). The study is currently ongoing.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, findings from the EQF National Coordination Point (EQF-NCP) research study, 'Impact study on the implementation of the national qualifications framework, conducted within the responsibilities of EOPPEP as the national contact point for the period 2024–2026', showed that individuals holding qualifications issued by EOPPEP with an explicitly stated HQF level were significantly more aware of both EOPPEP and the Hellenic Qualifications Framework. The results also indicated that awareness of the benefits of HQF classification increases with higher levels of educational attainment, while employers remain largely unfamiliar with EOPPEP and its activities. Overall, the findings underline the need to strengthen communication activities and to develop more targeted outreach towards key stakeholder groups. The publication of the study is expected.

Bodies responsible

- National Organisation for Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP)
- Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Education professionals

Guidance practitioners

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[EOPPEP \(2016\). Greece EQF referencing report](#)

[Greek qualifications register](#)

[Further information about the HQF and the EQF](#)

[Ministerial Decision 26412/2017 on the quality framework of VET curricula. Official Gazette, 490B/2017, 20.2.2017.](#)

[Law 4763/2020 on the National system of VET and lifelong learning](#)

[The Greek qualifications framework \(NQF\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Reform of the national system of VET and lifelong learning

In December 2020, Law 4763/2020 introduces a legal framework regulating VET and LLL and describing the organisation of each school type, the qualifications and the role of their staff (manager, teachers, career/vocational counsellors).

 GREECE

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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