

NQF state of play

 **Denmark 2024**

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Overview

Stage of development: Operational stage

NQF linked to EQF: 

Scope of the framework:

The NQF includes all levels and types of formal qualifications, along with qualifications awarded outside the formal system.

Number of levels:

Eight

Legal basis/stage of development:

Administrative decision on the Danish NQF for LLL approved by the Ministers for Education; for Science, Technology and Innovation; for Culture; and for Economic and Business Affairs (2009)

Integrated in sectoral legislation

NQF/EQF website:

 [Website](#)

Qualifications register/database:

 [Register of qualifications and programmes in the NQF](#)

Introduction and context

1.1. Policy context

In Denmark, the rate of learners leaving education and training early (aged 18-24) has remained steady at 10.0% (2022). In 2022, the rate of tertiary education attainment was among the highest in the EU, at 49.0% for people aged 25-34, compared with the EU average of 42.0%. The employment rate of recent graduates from all qualification levels is also high, with little difference between higher and vocational education and training (VET) graduates. In 2021, public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP was 6.0%, compared to the EU average of 4.8% (European Commission. DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, 2023). In 2022, participation in initial VET was significantly lower than the EU average (40.2% versus 49.0%) ([1]). VET continues to be a high policy priority, with the government proposing a 10% increase in investments in VET by 2030 compared to 2022. The focus is on modernising equipment and supporting teacher training (European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, 2023). Since 2019, Denmark has started including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in the DKQF. This aims to strengthen a lifelong learning culture among citizens and to create a coherent foundation, as well as a common language based on learning outcomes, for qualifications awarded within and outside the formal system (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024).

1.2. NQF legal basis

In 2009, the Minister for Higher Education and Science (*Uddannelses- og forskningsministeriet*), Minister for Children and Education (*Børne- og undervisningsministeriet*), and Minister for Culture (*Kulturministeriet*) approved the DKQF for lifelong learning. No specific legal act on the DKQF has been adopted. The framework is integrated into sectoral legislation. In higher education, it is implemented via the Accreditation Act ([2]). In March 2018, with the amendment of this act, it was formally decided that private and public non-formal qualifications could be included in the DKQF (Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024). At all other levels, it is integrated into educational orders.

Policy objectives

The overall objective of the DKQF, as expressed in the referencing report, is to support the transparency of qualifications and to promote opportunities for mobility and lifelong learning. More specifically, the framework aims to provide a comprehensive overview of qualifications approved by national authorities, while making routes through the education system visible, helping learners understand how to build upon the qualifications they already have.

The framework also aims to promote mutual recognition between national and international qualifications, support validation of prior learning and increase attendance at VET programmes. Since 2019, a key objective has been to include qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in the DKQF, linking formal and non-formal parts of the system (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024).

Levels, learning outcomes and qualifications

3.1. NQF structure and level descriptors

The DKQF is a learning-outcomes-based framework with eight levels. The level descriptors are defined based on knowledge (*viden*), skills (*færdigheder*) and competences (*kompetencer*). Knowledge descriptors emphasise the type of knowledge (knowledge of theory, practice, a subject or a field within a profession), the complexity of knowledge, and understanding (the ability to place one's knowledge in context). Skills descriptors refer to what a person can do or accomplish, and they reflect, for instance, the type of skills (practical, cognitive, creative or communicative) and the complexity of the task/problem-solving to which these skills can be applied. Competence descriptors refer to responsibility and autonomy, and cover, for instance, the type of work/study context in which knowledge and skills will be used, the ability to take responsibility for one's own work and the work of others, and the complexity of the cooperative situations in which one engages (Danish Evaluation Institute, 2011). These level descriptors are used to address both full and supplementary qualifications, and for assessing the levels of qualifications awarded outside formal education.

The DKQF draws a clear distinction between levels 1 to 5 and levels 6 to 8. The latter are identical to the level descriptors of the qualifications framework for higher education and contain explicit references to research-related outcomes. A broader descriptor has been designed for DKQF level 5 than the corresponding descriptor for short-cycle degrees in the national qualifications framework for higher education; this makes it possible to include level 5 qualifications acquired through some VET and maritime VET programmes.

3.2. NQF scope and coverage

The DKQF covers all types and levels of qualifications awarded and quality-assured by public authorities (general education, VET, higher education and supplementary qualifications). It also includes qualifications awarded outside formal education and training, meaning private and public education programmes not under the remits of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the Ministry of Children and Education, the Ministry of Culture and the Royal Danish Defence college ([3]). Since 2019, 55 such qualifications have been level-assessed by the

[Danish Accreditation Institution](#) (*Danmarks Akkrediteringsinstitution*) and included in levels 4 to 7 of the DKQF (August 2024) (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024). Supplementary qualifications are acquired through adult education and training; they are particularly important for adult education and continuing VET. A supplementary qualification can be an addition to or a part (module) of a qualification ([4]), or an independent entity not related to any other qualification. Qualifications awarded outside formal education and supplementary qualifications can be microcredentials (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024).

3.3. Use of learning outcomes

The DKQF has promoted the use of learning outcomes, especially in higher education and, following the opening up of the framework in 2019, among qualifications awarded outside formal education and training. Learning outcomes have been used in VET long before the adoption of the DKQF. Education programmes are designed to cover the intended learning outcomes of the different DKQF levels (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024). Further, learning outcomes increase the transparency of qualifications and promote lifelong learning.

The learning outcomes approach is widely accepted in all segments of education and training, and is increasingly being used to define and describe curricula and programmes. However, the descriptions are often divided by subject, meaning that there is not always a comprehensive presentation of the overall learning outcome for the entire qualification. For example, in VET, learners must meet both defined learning outcomes and competence objectives to gain admission to the main course after the basic course, and to be awarded a VET certificate. In higher education, all qualifications are clearly described using learning-outcomes-based terminology. This shift from input- to output-based steering is supported by the country's quality assurance approach to accreditation. Learning outcomes are an important reference point for the accreditation of new and existing programmes (Danish Evaluation Institute, 2011).

3.4. Quality assurance arrangements

The Accreditation Act establishes that the Danish Accreditation Institution evaluates whether higher education institutions have consistent measures to ensure that intended learning outcomes at different degree levels can be achieved through their study programmes (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022). For each degree level, there is a typological description of required learning outcomes. Higher education

institutions must design learning outcomes following this typology and ensure that graduates achieve the intended learning outcomes upon completing the study programme.

When including qualifications in the DKQF, there are procedures for accreditation and/or approval of new qualifications, as well as quality assurance procedures for levelling qualifications from each education subsystem ([5]). The opening up of the DKQF to qualifications awarded outside formal education and training has adopted a balanced approach to quality assurance. It secures solid quality assurance mechanisms in line with the EQF recommendation and those applied to other DKQF qualifications. At the same time, it does not impose burdensome quality assurance procedures that might demotivate providers from applying or exclude smaller ones. The requirements that providers must meet ensure transparent quality assurance of these qualifications. The 2022 evaluation showed that the non-formal providers that applied for a level assessment found that participating in this procedure stimulated them to improve the quality of their qualifications (Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024).

Institutional arrangements and stakeholder involvement

The interdepartmental national coordination committee for the DKQF, set up in 2006, has overall responsibility for the DKQF. The committee comprises representatives from the education (two persons), culture (one) and higher education ministries (two), the Danish Accreditation Institution (one), and the Royal Danish Defence college (two) ([6]) (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024). The coordination committee for the DKQF meets at least three or four times a year.

At the operational level, the higher education ministry is the [EQF national coordination point \(NCP\)](#) ([7]), responsible for day-to-day implementation, while the education ministry represents the country in the EQF Advisory Group. Two people work for the EQF NCP - one full-time equivalent - one person from the education ministry and one from the culture ministry (as a member of the committee). The activities are mainly funded through the EQF NCP contract and the ministries (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022).

The EQF NCP functions as the information office for questions relating to the EQF and the correlation between the EQF and the DKQF, including how the DKQF levels align with the EQF levels. It also provides information on the background of the EQF and the purpose of establishing it and administers and develops the DKQF website. One of the main tasks for the EQF NCP, in addition to coordinating the stakeholders involved in the DKQF's implementation, is disseminating information to the wider public. Responsibility for other areas, such as levelling qualifications to the DKQF and quality assurance of qualifications, lies with the education, culture, and higher education ministries. The Danish Accreditation Institution is responsible for the process of levelling qualifications awarded outside formal education and training to the DKQF.

The committee consults stakeholders such as rectors' conferences, trade committees and social partners on all developments regarding the framework's implementation, including its regular updates. All stakeholders have, for example, been consulted on the principles and procedures used for the inclusion in the DKQF of qualifications awarded outside formal education and training. Regarding higher education, the main stakeholders are the rectors' conferences. In VET, the main

stakeholders are the social partners, who are involved in designing VET programmes and in levelling VET qualifications to the framework, mainly by participating in trade committees (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022).

Recognising and validating non-formal and informal learning and learning pathways

5.1. Recognising and validating non-formal and informal learning and learning pathways

At the national level, the legal framework for validation of prior learning (VPL) has been in place since 2007 ([8]). The implementation is decentralised at the provider level, carried out by VET, higher education and adult education and training providers. The framework has introduced common principles for almost all formal adult education and training. However, an evaluation of VPL has shown that awareness among the broader public is still relatively low (Husted, 2024).

Learning outcomes are used in recognising and validating prior learning throughout the education system. The descriptions of learning outcomes of education programmes are based on the DKQF level descriptors, which serve as a reference point in VPL. The results of the validation are guaranteed by the linkage to the DKQF. The certificates issued as a result of the VPL are the same as those obtained for completing the relevant formal programme (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024). VPL related to the DKQF enables learners to progress to different education levels and/or subsystems and to obtain a qualification by combining validation credentials (Husted, 2024).

Validation arrangements can provide access to programmes leading to formal qualification at levels 5, 6 and 7 and/or credits or exemptions towards such qualifications. In relation to the links between validation and formal qualifications below level 4, the landscape is more diverse; nevertheless, validation arrangements can provide access to programmes leading to general, vocational and adult education qualifications and/or exemptions towards a qualification. Validation arrangements can lead to a full VET certificate (levels 3-5) and according to Husted (2024) more frequently, to a full adult VET certificate (levels 2-5). It is not so common for qualifications awarded outside formal education and training to be linked to validation arrangements (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024).

5.2. Recognition of foreign qualifications

The EQF-NCP is also the designated ENIC-NARIC Office. The DKQF is used daily in the recognition of foreign qualifications to reference them to its

levels and compare their learning outcomes with the DKQF level descriptors (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024). As of 2020, recognition decisions include references to the DKQF level of the Danish qualification to which a foreign qualification is compared ([9]). The ENIC-NARIC Office widely uses a [subsidiary text](#) to the Lisbon Recognition Convention on the use of qualifications frameworks in recognition.

5.3. Promoting lifelong learning

The DKQF supports lifelong learning by providing transparency and indicating existing learning pathways in the education and training system. The opening up of the DKQF to qualifications awarded outside formal education and its use in VPL are seen as key elements in promoting lifelong learning (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024).

NQF implementation and impact

6.1. Stage of implementation

The DKQF is operational and has already undergone a review (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022). DKQF/EQF levels are indicated on certificates. There is also a qualifications database.

6.2. Procedures for including qualifications in the NQF

Including qualifications in the DKQF follows specific principles and procedures. Qualifications and supplementary qualifications at levels 1 to 5 are assigned according to a 'best fit' principle ([10]). The minister for education determines the inclusion of general education and adult general education qualifications into the DKQF. The level of each (adult) VET qualification is assessed by the relevant trade committee, consisting of social partner representatives; the committee then submits its recommendation to the education minister, who takes the final decision on levelling the qualification. Higher education qualifications at levels 5 to 8 are assigned according to the 'full fit' principle ([11]). The Danish Accreditation Institution examines whether higher education qualifications provide learning outcomes at a given DKQF level and meet the legal requirements set by national authorities and the qualifications framework for higher education ([12]) (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024).

A two-phase process for including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in the DKQF, lasting approximately three months ([13]), was established in 2019 and evaluated in 2022. Providers apply to the Danish Accreditation Institution for a level assessment of a qualification. In the first phase, the institution evaluates each qualification against the following requirements:

- a. a clear description of the purpose and relevance of the qualification to the labour market and/or an area of culture or leisure;
- b. a clear description of the qualification's learning outcomes in relation to the specific DKQF level descriptors (knowledge, skills and competence);
- c. the sustainability of the education programme, in terms of the times it is carried out;
- d. a description of how teaching evaluation is conducted, including

student evaluation;

- e. a description of how the learning outcomes are assessed;
- f. the issuing of a certificate indicating the achieved learning outcomes, the DKQF level and the study load.

Once the applicant passes the first phase, the institution, in cooperation with an external expert, performs a thorough assessment of whether the qualification's learning outcomes align with the DKQF level applied for, whether the employed teachers hold the necessary academic qualifications, and whether the teaching evaluation is adequate. The procedure follows the best-fit principle, while the requirements are determined by the National Coordination Committee for the DKQF. Inclusion in the DKQF does not provide formal rights to the qualification (e.g. automatic recognition and transfer of credits). An assessment is valid for four years, and the provider can apply for a renewal (Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024). As of November 2024, 72 applications had been received; 56 had been included in the DKQF, and three were still in progress. Moreover, seven applications for renewal had been successfully completed, while two had been rejected ([14]).

6.3. Indicating EQF/NQF levels

Most VET formal qualifications at levels 1 to 5, including adult VET qualifications, indicate DKQF levels on the certificate or diploma and on the Europass certificate supplement. Formal qualifications at levels 6 to 8 have DKQF and EQF levels indicated only on the diploma supplements. Qualifications awarded outside formal education and training that are levelled to the DKQF have DKQF and EQF levels on the certificates; in some cases, they also have learning outcomes described on diploma supplements (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024).

6.4. NQF dissemination

The communication actions primarily target experts, such as qualification developers and those who use the DKQF in their daily work. The main communication channel disseminating information on the DKQF is its [web page](#), which provides information for national and international target groups, presenting the DKQF and the qualifications it covers. The website for the national database addresses a national target group. This website also provides comprehensive information on the DKQF, explaining the concept of learning-outcomes-based levels and how learners can use them. The Danish Accreditation Institution has a [web page](#) explaining the procedures for applying for accreditation of non-formal qualifications. Since 2022, the main focus of communication activities has been on

promoting the procedure for including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in the DKQF (e.g. through [online news items](#)). Webinars have been held for providers of such qualifications. Relevant information has also been sent (through [letters](#) and emails) to all State-recognised education institutions. The aim was to raise awareness among these institutions of the level and quality of DKQF qualifications to ensure informed decisions regarding credit transfers and the admission of applicants holding these qualifications ([15]) (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024).

6.5. Qualifications databases and registers

The database [UdannelsesGuiden](#) has a high level of awareness among learners and education stakeholders. Coordinated by the education ministry, it describes all study programmes leading to a DKQF qualification. It provides information in Danish on the awarding institution of each qualification (including a link), the field of study, DKQF/EQF level, credit points, entry requirements, relationship to occupations or occupational fields, possible study grants, related legal documents, and content descriptions (not in learning outcomes), as well as a link to relevant supplements. Providing information on other characteristics of each DKQF qualification is optional, for example, internal and external quality assurance. Some qualifications are registered without a DKQF/EQF level. This applies to a few programmes outside the formal education system that are eligible for study grants ([16]). Learning outcomes are described in diploma supplements and Europass certificates. The database is connected to the [website](#) for foreign learners, which provides information in English. The database is also an important tool for job centres. The country plans to carry out a feasibility study to explore ways to connect the database with the Europass platform and make it interoperable with the European Learning Model v.3 (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024).

[Uddzoom](#) is a digital tool that enables users to compare up to three programmes (without a reference to the DKQF). For example, it provides information on the mode of delivery, workload, study environment, students' wellbeing, dropout rate, and employment and salary expectations (measured at graduation and 10 years after).

6.6. Awareness and use of the NQF

Awareness of the DKQF is very high among those who design study programmes and learning outcomes, including teachers and those working in quality assurance and recognition authorities. It is used in the

accreditation process in higher education, while trade committees responsible for the quality of upper secondary VET programmes check the level of learning outcomes and include the relevant qualifications in the DKQF. DKQF/EQF levels are actively used in designing qualifications. Any new qualification must align with the DKQF, and it is used daily in recognising foreign qualifications (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024). Guidance and counselling practitioners are aware of the DKQF but use it to a moderate extent, mainly to promote international mobility of learners. Learners, workers, and jobseekers are less familiar with the framework. Learners and recent graduates are potentially aware of the level of their qualification as it is mentioned on their certificates. DKQF awareness is very low among workers and jobseekers. Learners use the DKQF mostly for cross-border mobility. Awareness and use of the DKQF are low among labour market stakeholders (employers, trade unions, employment services); it is rarely used in job advertisements. Only trade union representatives involved in developing the framework or in the process of including qualifications in it have high awareness of the DKQF (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024).

6.7. Monitoring and evaluating the NQF

The first evaluation of the framework was completed in 2013, examining its implementation and assessing the need to review it ([17]). In 2022, an evaluation of the process and principles of levelling qualifications awarded outside formal education and training to the DKQF was completed ([18]). This evaluation involved qualitative interviews with providers that had applied for level-assessing their qualifications, providing positive overall feedback. The key findings were that the level assessment process had a positive impact on the quality of qualifications (one participant described how the process has created an increased focus on internal evaluation), and that it forced providers to use learning outcomes when developing their programmes, thus promoting comparability with formal ones. It also revealed the need to better communicate the DKQF and, more specifically, the impact of levelling these qualifications to the framework. This facilitates progress to the formal system and credit transfer (Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024).

Both evaluations concluded that information on the DKQF should be better communicated to reach a wider audience, and raise awareness of the framework's purpose and use.

6.8. Impact of the NQF

All qualifications must be designed, and learning outcomes written, to adhere to the DKQF. This has promoted the use of the learning outcomes approach, especially in higher education and qualifications awarded outside formal education and training (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024).

The DKQF has reinforced the transparency of qualifications, and improved understanding of qualification levels and progression pathways in education and training. It has also eased progression - both horizontal and vertical - in education and training, reducing barriers between the formal education sector and non-formal and informal learning. Opening up the framework to qualifications awarded outside formal education and training has increased their transparency and made them more comparable with formal qualifications. Consequently, State-recognised education institutions have a solid basis for making decisions on admission and credit transfer for graduates of non-formal programmes. According to the 2022 evaluation, including qualifications awarded outside formal education in the DKQF often acts as a quality stamp, increasing both internal and external recognition, and attracting more learners to these programmes. This suggests that this procedure can help build trust in these qualifications, improving permeability and parity of esteem between the formal and non-formal education sectors (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024; Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024).

The DKQF helps build trust in VPL, as validation results are linked to the DKQF, and validation certificates are identical to those obtained by completing the formal programmes. The DKQF has also supported the international mobility of learners and migrant workers by facilitating the recognition of foreign qualifications and learning outcomes acquired abroad through mobility schemes. Employers can better assess job applicants holding these qualifications. Further, some qualification providers are encouraged to design qualifications at a higher DKQF level, offering more advanced learning outcomes than those typically included in their qualifications (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024; Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024).

Referencing to the EQF

The national qualifications framework for higher education was self-certified against the QF-EHEA in 2010. The DKQF was referenced to the EQF in May 2011 (Danish Evaluation Institute, 2011). An addendum to the referencing report, which outlines the principles and procedures for including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in the DKQF, was published in 2024. This addendum complements the original report, which remains valid (Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science, 2024).

Important lessons and future plans

Including qualifications awarded outside formal education and training in the DKQF has been a significant development, ensuring the quality of such qualifications while strengthening links between the non-formal and formal education subsystems. Overall, the framework has improved the transparency of qualifications, become an important tool for validation, and played a crucial role in recognising foreign qualifications (European Commission & Cedefop, 2022; 2024). Evaluations of the framework have triggered discussions on improving communication about the DKQF. A key challenge is raising awareness among learners and employers. The country's main priority is to connect qualifications awarded within and outside formal education and training better (European Commission & Cedefop, 2024).

Main sources of information

[URLs accessed 17/2/2025]

Danish Accreditation Institution.

Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science.

DKQF website.

Database [UdannelsesGuiden](#).

Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science. (2024). [*Addendum to the Danish referencing report from 2011.*](#)

National qualification framework (NQF)

NQF LEVEL	QUALIFICATION TYPES	EQF LEVEL
8	<p>PhD degree (Ph.d. grad)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p>	8
7	<p>Master's degree - Candidatus (Kandidat og masteruddannelser)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>The master's degrees are research master programmes, giving direct access to doctoral programmes.</p> <p>Master's degree in arts/fine arts</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>Example: Master of Music - cand.musicae</p> <p>Master degree</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>The master degree is the adult and further education degree not giving direct access to doctoral programmes. The master's degrees are research master programmes in the ordinary education system giving direct access to doctoral programmes. Example: Master of Science in Biology - cand. scient i biologi</p> <p>Master of military studies</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>Level-assessed private and public education programme</p> <p>Example: Master in management</p>	7

Bachelor's degree (Bachelor og diplomuddannelser)**Category**

Certificate or degree

Example: Bachelor of Arts in History - Bachelor i historie

Bachelor's degree in arts**Category**

Certificate or degree

Example: Bachelor of Fine Arts - Billedkunstner BFA

Professional bachelor's degree**(Professionsbacheloruddannelser)****Category**

Certificate or degree

Example: Bachelor in Social education - Professionsbachelor som pædagog

Diploma degree**Category**

Certificate or degree

Example: Diploma of Valuation- Diplom i Vurdering og Ejendomsinvestering

Diploma of military studies**Category**

Certificate or degree

Level-assessed private and public education programme

Examples:

CISPA 3 years professional acting course*

Copenhagen International School of Performing Arts: 3-year professional acting course*

Financial advisor wealth advisory (Eksamineret finansrådgiver formuesrådgivning)*

Diploma of military studies

*Outside the remits of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Ministry of Children and Education, and Ministry of Culture.

VET certificate**Category**

Certificate or degree

Example: Flight Engineer (Flytekniker)

Academy profession degrees (Erhvervsakademi uddannelser)**Category**

Certificate or degree

Example: AP Graduate in Agro Business and Landscape Management - jordbrugsteknolog AK

Academy profession (AP) degree in military studies**Category**

Certificate or degree

Certificate for supplementary single-subject courses at academy profession level**Category**

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training.

Adult VET certificate**Category**

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training. Example:

Regulation and service on gas facility (Indregulering og service på gasanlæg, AMU)

Level-assessed private and public education programme

Examples:

Acupuncture (AkupunkturAkademiet)*

Nordic acupuncture education (Nordisk akupunkturuddannelse)*

Certified private client advisor within insurance (certificeret privatkunderådgiver)*

*Outside the remits of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Ministry of Children and Education, and Ministry of Culture.

Higher General Examination Programme, 3-year or 2-year programme (stx, 2-årig stx)

Category

Certificate or degree

Higher Technical Examination Programme, 3-year programme (htx)

Category

Certificate or degree

Higher Commercial Examination Programme, 3-year programme (hhx)

Category

Certificate or degree

Higher Preparatory Examination, 2-year programme (hf)

Category

Certificate or degree

VET certificate

Category

Certificate or degree

Example: Ernæringsassistent (Nutrition assistant)

Certificate for supplementary single-subject courses at upper secondary level

Category

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training.

Adult VET certificate

Category

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training. Example:
Installation of solar heating system (Installation af solvarmeanlæg, AMU)

Certificate for single subject VET

Category

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training.

<p>3</p> <p>Level-assessed private and public education programme</p> <p>VET certificate</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>Example: CNC tekniker (CNC technician)</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Certificate for preparatory basic education and training (FGU)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>Example: Preparatory Basic Education Certificate (FGU Uddannelsesbevis/FGU Kompetencebevis)</p>	
<p>Certificates for supplementary, single-subject VET courses</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training.</p>	
<p>Higher preparatory courses, single-subject courses (hf-enkeltfag)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training.</p>	
<p>General adult education level D</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training.</p>	
<p>Adult VET certificate</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training. Example: Safety in exterior work with asbestos materials (Sikkerhed ved udv. arbejde med asbestmaterialer)</p>	
<p>Certificates for single-subject courses in VET</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training.</p>	

Leaving certificate for primary and lower secondary school - 10th grade (10. klasse afgangsprøve)**Category**

Certificate or degree

Certificate for preparatory basic education and training (FGU)**Category**

Certificate or degree

Basic VET certificates**Category**

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training.

General adult education (levels E and F, approximately 10th grade)**Category**

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training.

Adult VET certificate**Category**

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training. Example:

Utilization of a chain saw 1 (Anvendelse af motorsav 1, AMU)

Basic programme VET**Category**

Certificate for supplementary qualifications

Acquired in adult education and training.

1	<p>Leaving certificate for primary and lower secondary school (ninth grade) (Folkeskolens afgangsprøve)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>Certificate for preparatory basic education and training (FGU)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate or degree</p> <p>Certificate for preparatory adult education</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training.</p> <p>Certificate for general adult education (level G, approximates to ninth grade)</p> <p>Category</p> <p>Certificate for supplementary qualifications</p> <p>Acquired in adult education and training.</p>
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Acronyms

DKQF Danish national qualifications framework

EQF European qualifications framework

NCP national coordination point

NQF national qualifications framework

VET vocational education and training

VPL validation of prior learning

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[URLs accessed 17/2/2025]

Danish Agency for Higher Education & Science. (2024). [*Addendum to the Danish referencing report from 2011.*](#)

Danish Evaluation Institute. (2011). [*Referencing the Danish qualifications framework for lifelong learning to the European qualifications framework. Copenhagen.*](#)

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Notes

[1]More information at [Eurostat \[educ_ue_enra13\]](#), accessed 30 October 2024.

[2]The Accreditation Act (AkkrediteringsbekendtgÅrelsen): [BEK nr 1558 af 02/07/2021: BekendtgÅrelse om akkreditering af videregÅende uddannelsesinstitutioner og godkendelse af videregÅende uddannelser](#) (in Danish).

[3]In Table 1, they are mentioned as level-assessed private and public education programmes.

[4]Supplementary qualifications can be partial qualifications.

[5]More information on [quality assurance procedures](#).

[6]Source: Internal communication with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

[7]More information on the [EQF NCP](#).

[8]Law on changes of different laws under the merit of the Ministry of Education ([Lov om Ändring af forskellige love pÅ Undervisningsministeriets omrÅde](#)) (in Danish).

[9]Source: Internal communication with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

[10]The learning outcomes of a qualification fit better (in terms of knowledge, skills and competences) with the level descriptors of a given DKQF level than with those of other levels.

[11]The learning outcomes of a qualification should completely correspond to the level descriptors of a given DKQF level.

[12]The DKQF page provides [detailed information](#) on these procedures.

[13]This is a revenue-covered activity.

[14]Source: Internal communication with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

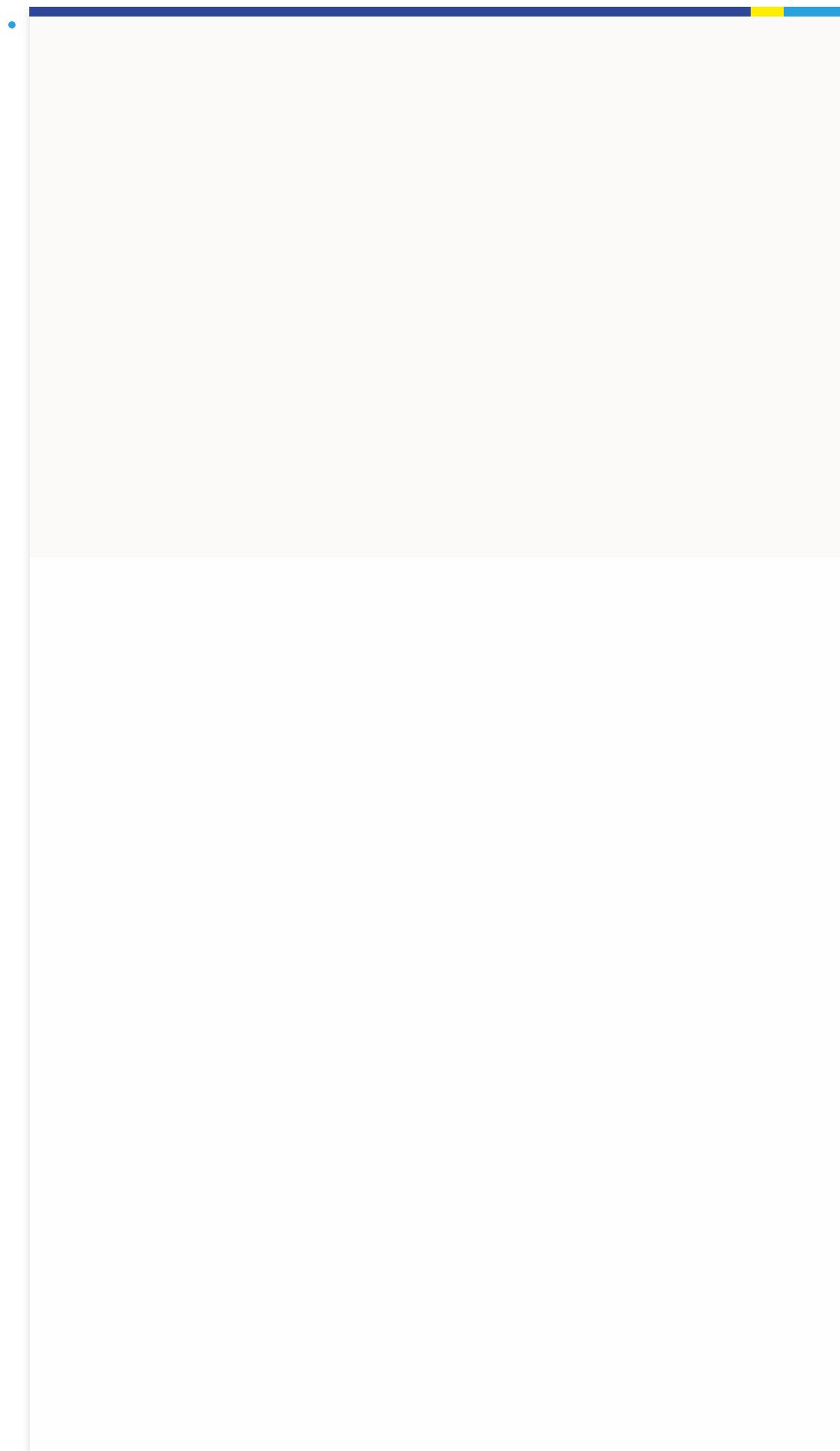
[15]Source: Internal communication with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

[16]The providers of these programmes can also apply for referencing of their programmes through the non-formal route.

[17]More information about the [qualifications framework's background](#) (in Danish).

[18]For more information (in Danish), see Danish Evaluation Institute (2022).

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