OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Scope of the framework</th>
<th>Number of levels</th>
<th>Level descriptors</th>
<th>Stage of development</th>
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| Albania | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Eight | • theoretical and factual knowledge  
• cognitive and practical skills  
• competence (autonomy and responsibility) | Formally adopted, under revision | |
| Austria | Designed as comprehensive NQF; currently, includes qualifications awarded in higher education and VET qualifications at levels 4, 5 and 6 from formal education. | Eight | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | Operational | 2012 |
| Belgium-fl | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system. | Eight | • knowledge/skills  
• context/autonomy/responsibility | Operational | 2011, 2014 update |
| Belgium-fr | Designed as comprehensive framework; will include all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the professional qualifications system. | Eight | • knowledge/skills  
• context/autonomy/responsibility | Formally adopted | 2013 |
| Belgium-de | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Eight | • occupational competence (knowledge and skills)  
• personal competence (social competence and autonomy) | (Early) Operational | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Eight | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | Formally adopted | |
| Bulgaria | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Eight and a preparatory level | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competences (personal and professional) | Formally adopted | 2013 |
| Croatia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. It is a qualification and credit framework. | Eight with sublevels at levels 4 and 8 | • knowledge  
• skills  
• autonomy and responsibility | (Early) operational stage | 2012 |
| Cyprus | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the system of vocational qualifications. | Eight with sublevels at levels 5 and 7 | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | (Early) operational stage | 2017 |
| Czech Republic | Partial national framework for vocational qualifications (the national register of vocational qualifications (NSK) and a draft of the higher education framework. | Eight in NSK | • competences (including knowledge and skills) | The national register of vocational qualifications (NSK) is operational | 2011 |
| Denmark | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Eight | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | Operational | 2011 |
| Estonia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the system of occupational qualifications. | Eight | • knowledge  
• skills  
• scope of responsibility and autonomy | Operational | 2011, 2016 update |
| Finland | Comprehensive framework including all state recognised qualifications. | Eight | • integrated level descriptors include knowledge, skills and key competences | Operational | 2017 |
| former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and vocational qualifications. | Eight with several sublevels | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | (Early) operational | 2016 |
<p>| France | NQF covers all levels and types of vocationally or professionally oriented qualification; general education qualifications are not included. | Five | • integrated learning outcomes including knowledge, skills, attitudes, autonomy and responsibility | Operational | 2010 |</p>
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| Germany      | Comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning; includes qualifications from general education, VET, higher education and qualifications from regulated further training.                                                      | Eight            | • professional competence (knowledge and skills)  
                                  • personal competence (social competence and autonomy)                                      | Operational                                                   | 2012                |
| Greece       | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                  | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • competence                                                                 | (Early) operational stage                                              | 2015                |
| Hungary      | Comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning encompasses all state-recognised national qualifications acquired in general education, HE and those vocational qualifications registered in the national vocational qualifications register. | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • attitudes  
                                  • autonomy and responsibility                                                                 | (Early) operational stage                                              | 2015                |
| Iceland      | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                     | Seven with sublevels at levels 5 and 6; no descriptor or qualification linked to EQF level 1 | • integrated level descriptors include knowledge, skills and competence              | (Early) operational   | 2013                |
| Ireland      | Comprehensive NQF including all types and levels of qualification from formal education and training; is open to those awarded by professional and international organisations.                                               | 10 and four award types: major, minor, special-purpose and supplemenental | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • competence                                                                 | Operational                                                   | 2009                |
| Italy        | Comprehensive framework will include all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and regional qualifications.                                                                               | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • autonomy and responsibility                                                                 | Formally adopted                                               | 2013                |
| Kosovo       | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                                 | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • wider competences                                                                                       | (Early) operational stage                                             | 2016                |
| Latvia       | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                   | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • competence                                                                                           | Operational                                                   | 2011                |
| Lithuania    | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                                 | Eight            | • characteristics of activities (complexity, autonomy, changeability)  
                                  • types of competences (functional, cognitive and general)                                                 | Operational                                                   | 2011                |
| Liechtenstein| Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning, currently includes qualifications from VET and higher education; general education qualifications are not yet included.                                                   | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • competences                                                                                           | Operational                                                   | 2016                |
| Luxembourg   | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                                 | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • aptitudes  
                                  • attitudes                                                                                             | Operational                                                   | 2012                |
| Malta        | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training.                                                                                                                                 | Eight            | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • competences                                                                                           | Operational                                                   | 2009, 2012 and 2016 update |
| Montenegro   | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the system of national vocational qualifications (NVQs).                                                                 | Eight with sublevels at levels 1, 4 and 7 | • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • competence                                                                                           | (Early) operational stage                                             | 2014                |
| Netherlands  | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training; opens up towards qualifications offered outside formal education system.                                                      | Eight levels, including a sublevel at level 4 (4+), and an entry level | • context,  
                                  • knowledge  
                                  • skills  
                                  • responsibility and independence                                                                   | Operational                                                   | 2011                |
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| Norway                  | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Seven with sublevels at levels 5 and 6; no descriptor or qualification linked to EQF level 1 | • knowledge  
• skills  
• general competence | Operational | 2014 |
| Poland                  | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. It is open to qualifications from the private and non-formal sectors. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• social competence | (Early) operational stage | 2013 |
| Portugal                | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from the national system for the recognition, validation and certification of competences. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• attitudes | Operational | 2011 |
| Romania                 | Comprehensive NQF including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competences | (Early) operational stage | 2017 |
| Serbia                  | Comprehensive NQF under construction, aiming to bring together frameworks for higher education and VET. | Eight with sublevels at levels 6, 7 and 8 proposed | • knowledge  
• skills  
• attitude and ability | Design/development stage | 2015 |
| Slovakia                | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. It includes also sub-framework of occupational qualifications. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competences | (Early) operational | 2017 |
| Slovenia                | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training, from the system of national vocational qualifications and supplementary qualifications. | 10               | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competences | Operational | 2013 |
| Spain                   | Designed as comprehensive NQF for lifelong learning; will include all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training. NQF for higher education in place. | Eight proposed   | • knowledge  
• skills and abilities  
• competence | Advanced development stage | 2017 |
| Sweden                  | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training; opens up towards qualifications awarded outside the formal education system. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | Operational | 2016 |
| Switzerland             | NQF for vocational and professional qualifications (NQF-VPQ) and NQF for higher education. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competences (professional and personal) | Operational | 2015 |
| Turkey                  | Comprehensive NQF, including all levels and types of qualification from formal education and training and from national vocational qualification system. | Eight            | • knowledge  
• skills  
• competence | (Early) operational stage | 2017 |
| UK – England and Northern Ireland | Two frameworks:  
• regulated qualifications framework (RQF) covers all regulated academic and vocational qualifications;  
• a higher education framework (FHEQ). | Eight plus entry levels | • knowledge and understanding  
• skills  
• competence | Operational | 2010 Joined UK referencing report |
| UK – Scotland           | Comprehensive credit and qualifications framework (SCQF) including all level and types of qualification. | 12               | • knowledge and understanding  
• practice: applied knowledge, skills and understanding  
• generic cognitive skills communication numeracy and ICT skills  
• autonomy, accountability and working with others | Operational | 2010 Joined UK referencing report |
| UK – Wales              | Comprehensive credit and qualifications framework of Wales (CQFW) including all level and types of qualification. It consists of three pillars: regulated qualifications, HE qualifications and quality-assured lifelong learning. | Eight plus entry levels | Level descriptors of the quality-assured lifelong learning:  
• knowledge and understanding  
• application and action  
• autonomy and accountability | Operational | 2010 Joined UK referencing report |

Source: Cedefop.
OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE 2017

FURTHER INFORMATION

Slava Pevec Grm
Slava.Pevec-Grm@cedefop.europa.eu
and
Jens Bjørnåvold
jens.bjornavold@cedefop.europa.eu

CEDEFOP
European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

Europe 123, 570 01 Thessaloniki (Pylea), GREECE
PO Box 22427, 551 02 Thessaloniki, GREECE
Tel. +30 2310490111, Fax +30 2310490020, Email: info@cedefop.europa.eu
visit our portal www.cedefop.europa.eu