

European Inventory on NQF 2012

LIECHTENSTEIN

Introduction

In February 2011, the government took the decision to develop an NQF for lifelong learning for Liechtenstein.

This decision was part of a process under way since Liechtenstein committed to the EQF in 2008. In December 2010, a proposal for a qualifications framework for higher education, in line with the QF-EHEA, was prepared (NQF.li-HE, 2011) ⁽¹⁾. It will constitute an integral part of the NQF for lifelong learning. It is expected that the NQF will be established by spring 2014.

Since May 2011, the coordination and planning process has been under the National Agency of International Education Affairs (AIBA) in Liechtenstein.

NQF developments are coordinated with NQF development in Switzerland and Austria due to close connections with the education and training systems of these neighbouring countries. Most Liechtenstein students (in VET or higher education) do their studies in Switzerland but some also continue in Austria. An alignment of Liechtenstein NQF developments with framework developments in these countries, and particularly Switzerland, is crucial.

Policy objectives

One of the first objectives is to map and describe national qualifications in the NQF and to reference it to the EQF. It is planned that all new certificates will have reference to NQF and EQF levels.

In the longer term, NQF is seen as a tool which will support lifelong learning through better understanding of qualifications and learning opportunities, improved access to and participation in education and training, and participation, valuing all learning outcomes, in formal, non-formal and informal settings.

Stakeholder involvement and framework implementation

Work on the NQF was initiated by the government. On behalf of the Ministry of Education, an expert from AIBA has been appointed to provide technical and administrative support to the process.

⁽¹⁾ *Qualifikationsrahmen für den Hochschulbereich im Fürstentum Liechtenstein: NQF.li-HE, December 2011.* <http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-sa-nationaler-qualifikationsrahmen-entwurf-2011-12.pdf> [accessed 5.12.2012].

A steering group has been set up with representatives from the Office for Vocational Training and Career Counselling, the Ministry of Education (section higher education), the University of Liechtenstein, Chamber of Industry and Trade and the Chamber of Commerce, who are informed about progress and have the authority for final decisions.

For a public involvement and information there will be an NQFL homepage established by spring 2013, where all relevant information and updates can be seen and followed.

Liechtenstein started the Bologna process several years ago and this is now an integral part of the University of Liechtenstein. NQF developments will build on the experience with the development of the QF for HE.

Level descriptors and learning outcomes

Liechtenstein will have an eight-level framework though descriptors have not yet been formulated. Learning outcomes already play an important role in higher education and in the school system in general. VET qualifications are also evaluated in learning outcomes.

Referencing to the EQF

The referencing report will be adopted by the government in spring 2013.

Main sources of information

Ministry of Education. <http://www.4icu.org/institutions/177.htm> [accessed 24.8.2012].
National Agency of International Education Affairs (AIBA) in Liechtenstein.