

European Inventory on NQF 2012

SERBIA

Introduction

Developments in establishing a national qualifications framework have been under way since 2005, when a green paper on the NQF was prepared. The Education Law (2009) (Serbian National Assembly, 2009) ⁽¹⁾ explicitly mentioned learning outcomes, competences and national qualifications framework. A Council for VET and adult education was established as a new body. This body has been empowered to develop level descriptors for levels 1 to 5. Descriptors for higher education are being developed separately.

Development of the NQF is one of the key activities in the 'national action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the vocational education and training in the Republic of Serbia, 2009-15' ⁽²⁾ and is strongly supported in the recently adopted Education strategy 2020.

Main policy objectives

Apart of being a transparency and communication tool, the NQF is seen as an important support to national reforms in education and training.

The main policy objectives of the NQF are to:

- improve transparency of education and training through a clear system of qualifications and progression routes;
- improve international comparability of Serbian qualifications with the EQF and support student mobility;
- promote competence-based and learning-oriented education;
- improve links with the labour market and ensure that qualifications are aligned with up-to-date occupational standards;
- support lifelong learning and acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences at all ages and at all levels, through better connection between formal, non-formal and informal learning;
- improve quality of education through clearly defined education standards.

⁽¹⁾ *Zakon o osnovama sistema obrazovanja i vaspitavanja* [The law on the foundations of the education system 2009].
http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Serbia/Serbia_Law_fundamentals_education_system_cs.pdf [accessed 19.12.2012].

⁽²⁾ <http://www.vetserbia.edu.rs/Strateski%20dokumenti/Akcioni%20planovi/ACTION%20PLAN%20VET.pdf> [accessed 30.10. 2012].

Stakeholder involvement and framework implementation

The main body supervising the development of the NQF for VET is the National Council for Vocational and Adult Education, operational since 2011. Technical development is carried out by the VET Centre. A working group has been set up, consisting of representatives of ministries for Education, Labour and of Economic and Regional Development, National Employment Service, Statistical Office, chambers and educational institutions.

It is foreseen that a high level coordination body will be established, including representatives of three education councils, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic and Regional Development and public institutes.

Sectoral committees are being established to define a list of qualifications by sector and standards of knowledge, skills and competences.

Level descriptors and use of learning outcomes

A concept paper has been provided though the number of levels has not yet been decided. Level descriptors for levels 1-5 are being developed but levels 6-8 are currently out of the framework and are being developed separately in the higher education system.

Development of standards is seen as the key to promoting greater consistency across the education system.

Main sources of information

Ministry of Education and Sports. <http://www.mpin.gov.me/en/ministry> [accessed 12.3.2013].