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# GLOBAL INVENTORY OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS 2017

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## This publication: capture, record and analyse a global trend in qualifications frameworks. Our 3rd edition.

A collaborative production, covering the globe together : Unesco, Cedefop, ETF & Unesco Institute for Lifelong learning

- Our scope is **global**: addressing high, medium & low income countries: all the continents
- 8 thematic chapters, **100 individual country descriptions and 7 regional Qualifications Frameworks**

Inventory's uses: inform decisions by ministries, authorities and other actors. Share knowledge with world network of experts and officials implementing national or regional qualifications frameworks, NQFs, or RQFs.



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NQFs – **for** lifelong learning, quality, mobility. Better qualifications.

Instrument for **structuring qualification system**, via a hierarchy of levels. Purposes may be multiple and ambitious.

Most NQFs **share principles and common features** - levels structure, basis in learning outcomes, QA functions, etc. Create a common language among stakeholders about qualifications.

Most combine domestic - lifelong learning and quality; and international functions - recognition for mobility.

Challenge – making a sophisticated instrument **sustainable and visible**



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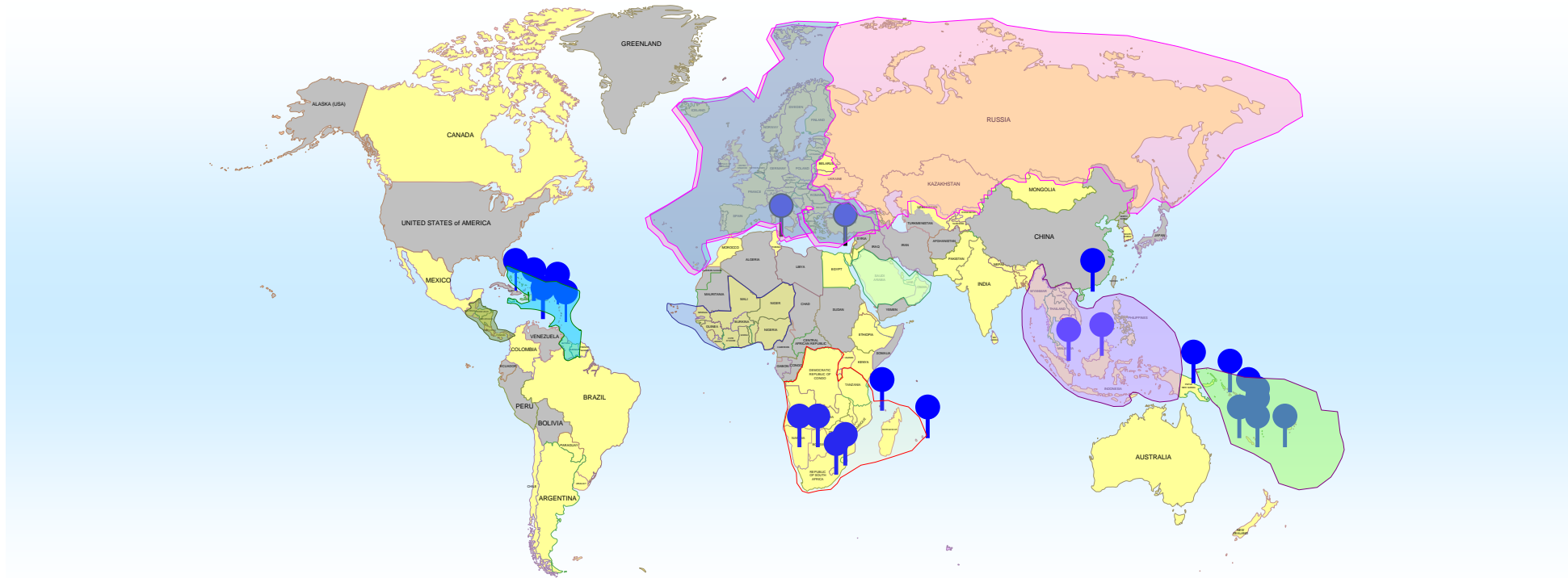
**NQFs:** global context, rapid growth, common aims.

National, world-regional and world dimensions. More than **150 countries** developing NQFs.

Support goals of Education 2030 and SDG 4; and EU's New skills agenda for Europe

Regional and global developments: European Qualifications Framework, ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework; Southern African Development Community, Caribbean, Pacific region are all building regional QFs

**World Reference Levels**



## **INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENTS**

**Regional, Transnational & National Qualifications Frameworks involving 154 countries**



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- *Progress since 2015:*
  - NQFs are settling and embedding: fundamental principles accepted.
  - Strengthening regional cooperation between NQFs: **European qualifications Framework (EQF) fully operational.**
  - **Measuring impact: research evidence growing as NQFs are embedded,** so that we can measure impacts in more advanced NQFs.
  - Growing global cooperation at technical expert level.



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## FINDING 1

- Making National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) work requires 4 fundamentals: proportionate legislation; sustained stakeholder cooperation; institutional robustness; national quality assurance strategies.
- NQFs provide visible structures and common standards to support recognition and validation of non-formal learning.
- Established NQFs have mainstreamed validation systems.

## FINDING 2

- NQFs influence quality assurance and strengthen focus on learning outcomes. Quality assurance may be integrated in NQFs, or linked to them.
- Learning outcomes – common conceptual basis of almost all NQFs.
- Global study, comparing VET qualifications in 26 countries worldwide, demonstrated that learning outcomes indeed provide useful tool and common language for comparing qualifications.





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## FINDING 3

- NQF Impacts: 2 main conditions are sustainability and visibility.
- Most impact: move to outcomes in qualifications; transparency of systems of qualifications; validation of non-formal learning; stakeholder engagement in qualifications.
- Less impact: visibility to learners and employers; pathways within national systems.

**International recognition**



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## Following up

- **World Reference Levels Group: develop guidelines to capture and compare learning internationally.**
- **Resourcing especially lifelong learning dimension of NQFs.**
- **Making NQFs visible; reaching the learner, provider and employer.**
- **Report back in 2019.**
- **Inter-agency group ready to support ASEM dialogue around qualifications reforms and recognition of qualifications.**