



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

50
YEARS
SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE

Snapshot of today: NQFs in the Union of Skills

Iraklis Pliakis, Expert in qualifications and credentials –
future of VET, Cedefop

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR



CEDEFOP

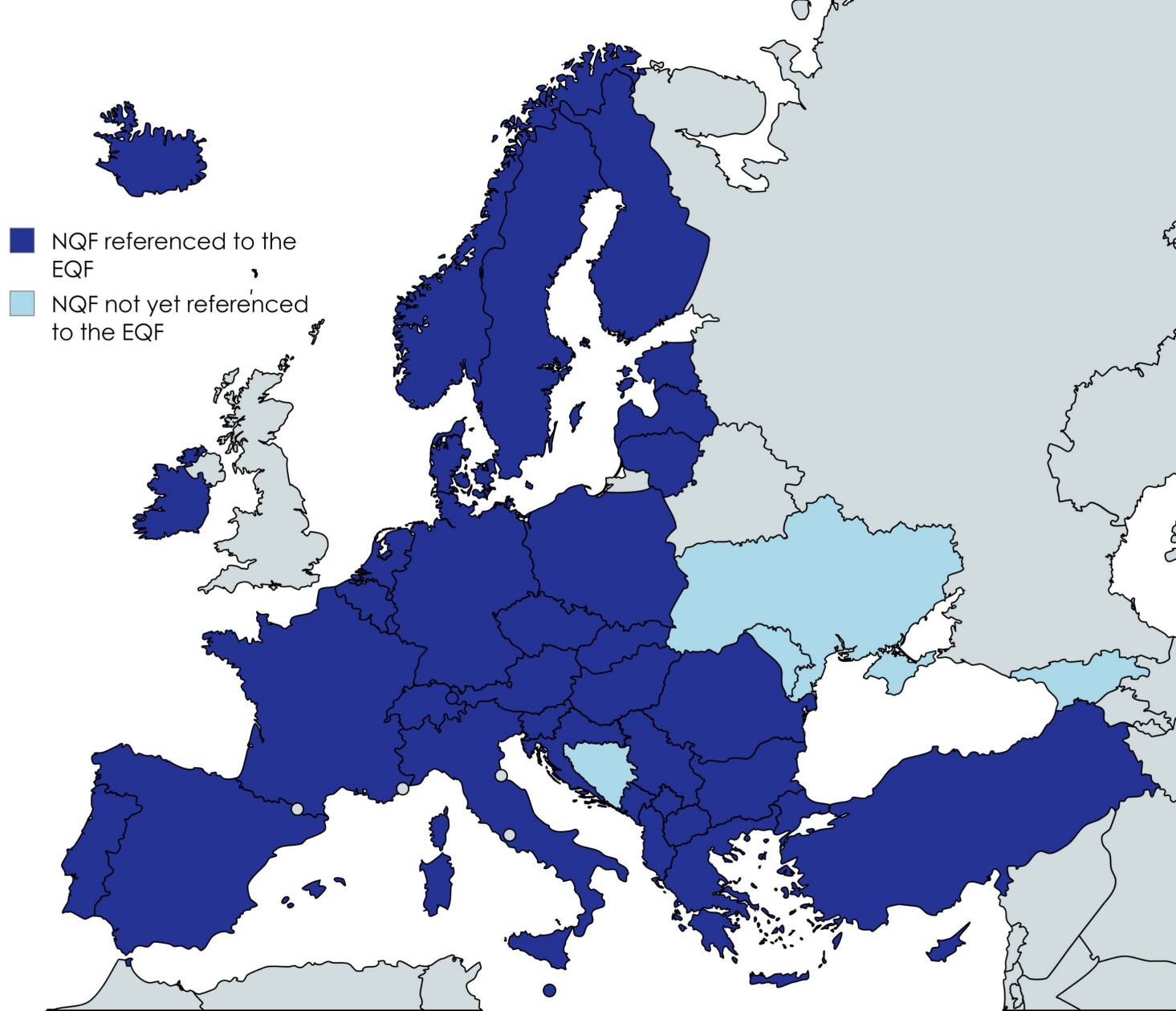
European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

50
YEARS
SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE

Setting the scene

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR

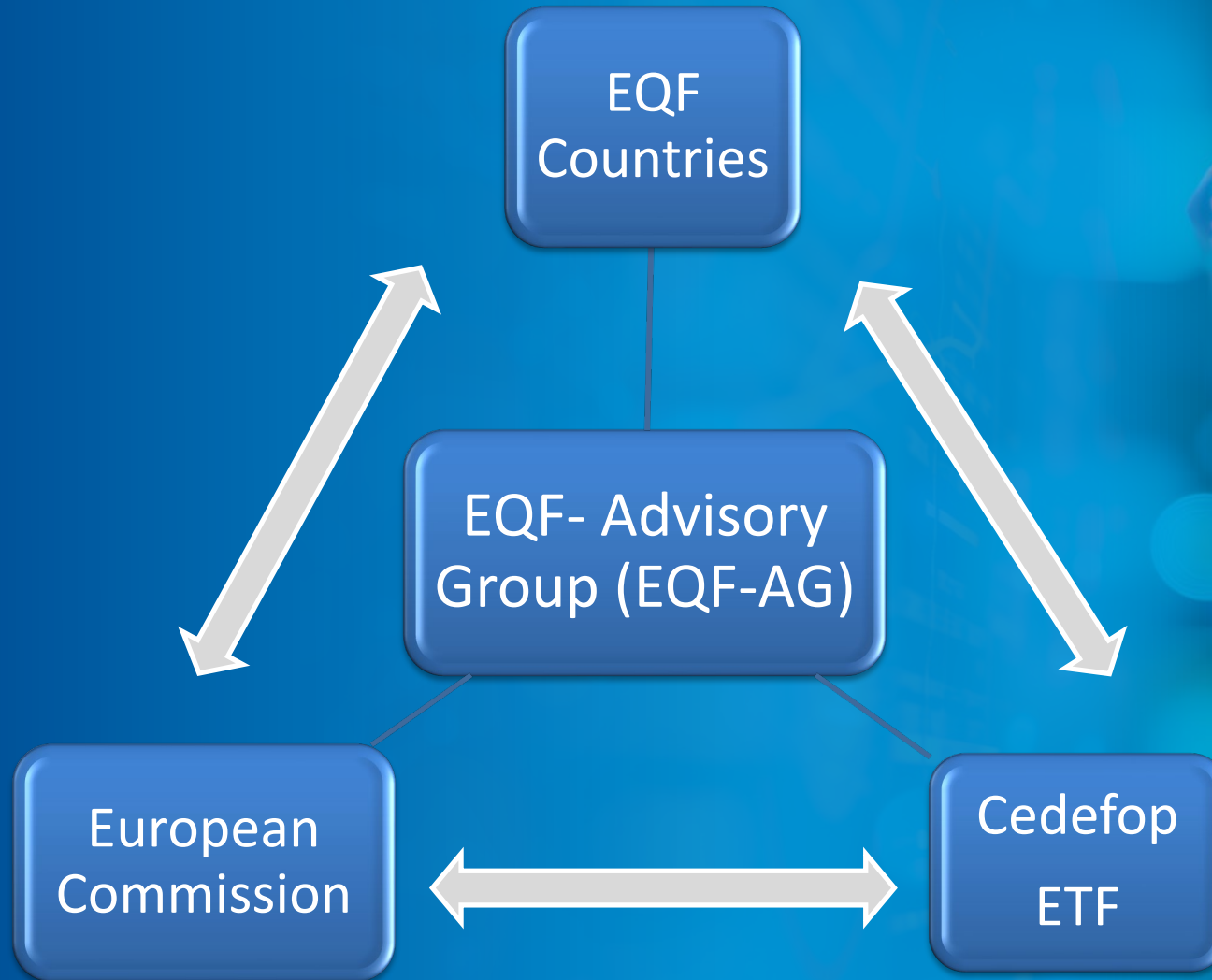
Countries in the EQF process



41 EQF countries

- ✓ 37 countries have referenced their NQFs to EQF (all EU)
- ✓ 12 updated referencing reports
- ✓ 11 countries plan to update

Setting the scene





CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

ISSN: 2529-3397

50
YEARS

SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE



CEDEFOP

Making qualifications and skills more visible

The potential of national qualifications
frameworks (NQFs) in the Union of Skills

POLICY BRIEF

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR





CEDEFOP

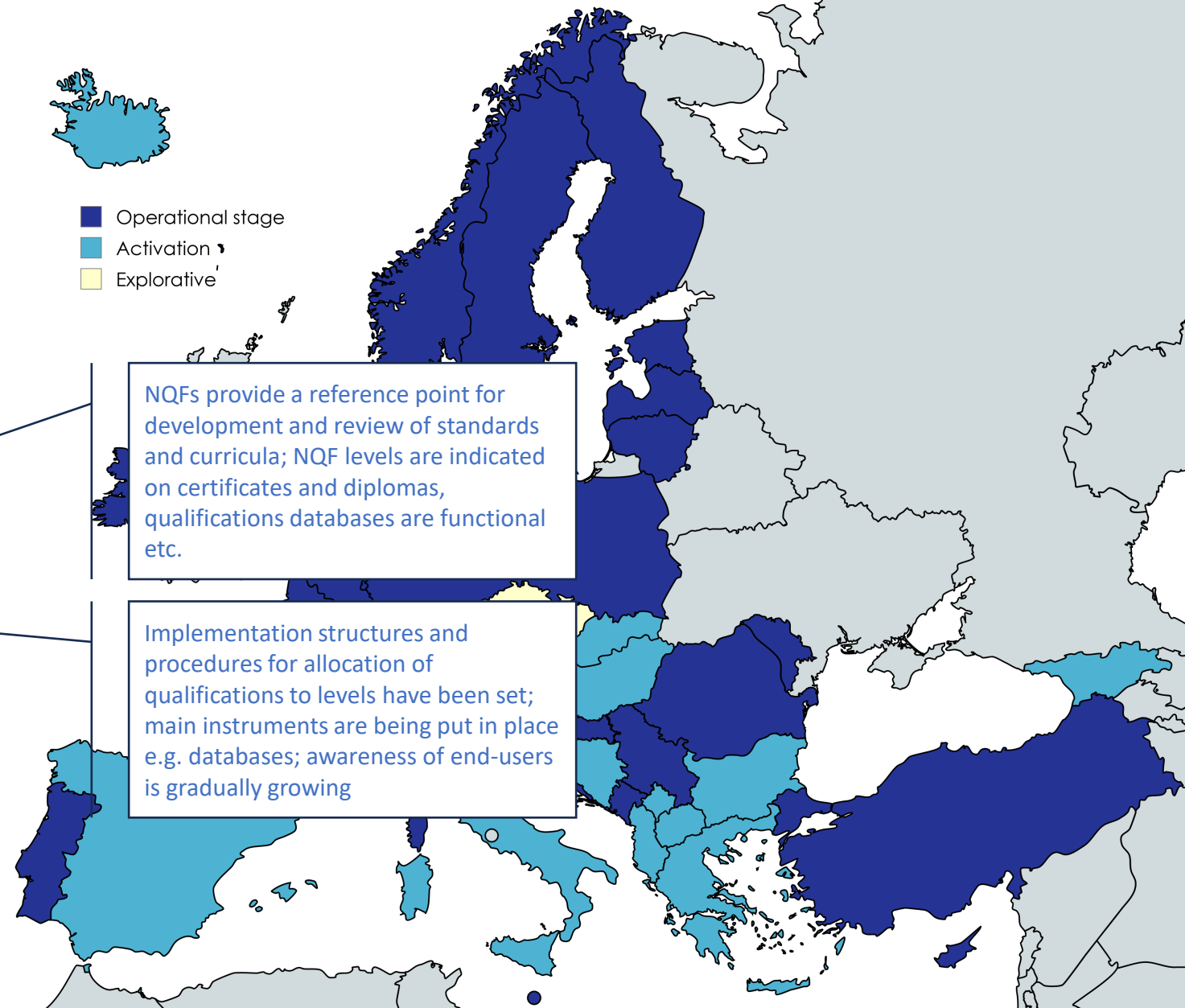
European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

50
YEARS
SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE

Overview of NQFs in Europe

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR

Development stage



25 NQFs at operational stage

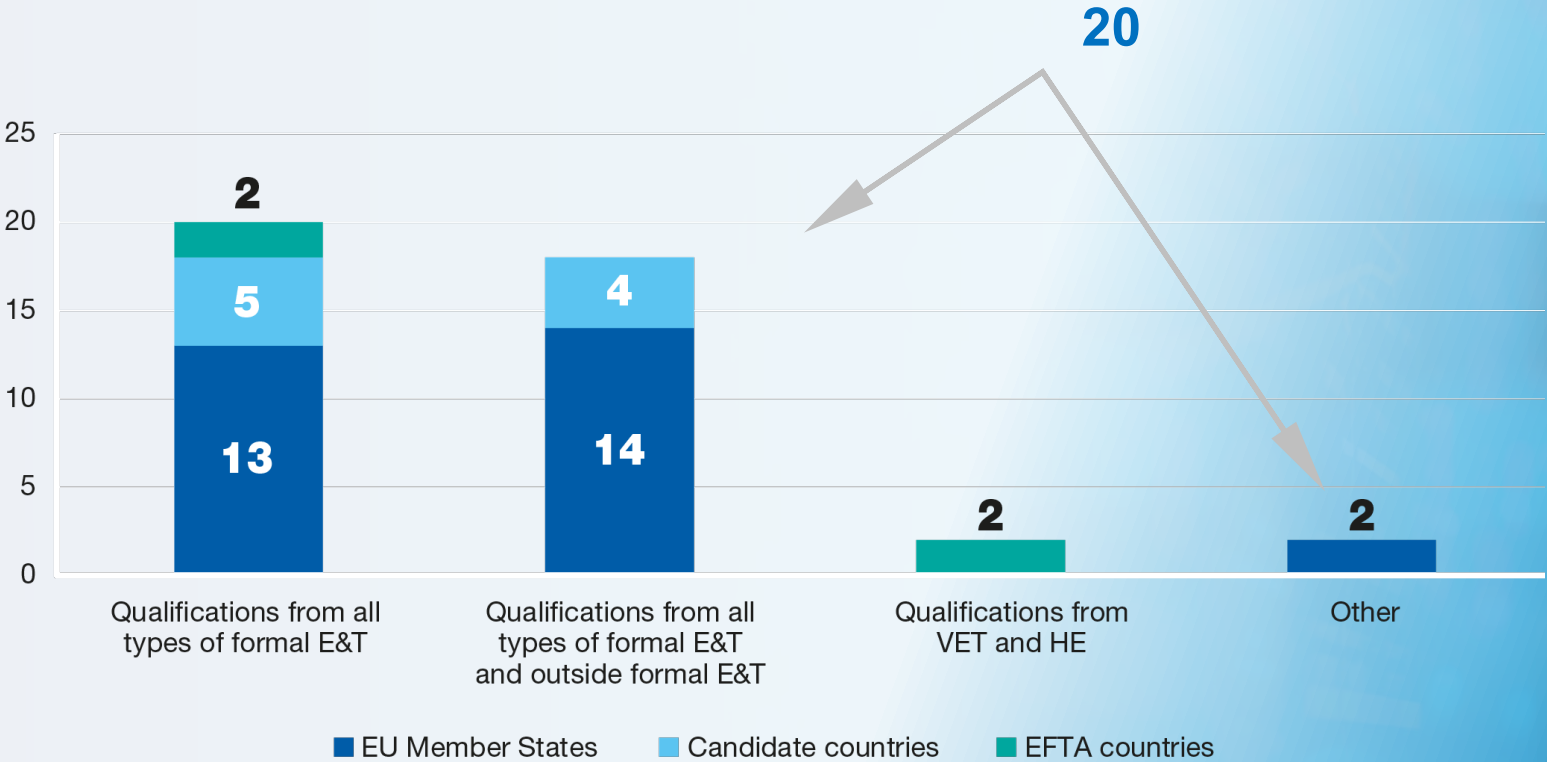
16 NQFs at activation stage

European NQFs are advanced

NQF implementation differs among countries

Speed and intensity varies

Developing comprehensive NQFs



7 NQFs are open but do not include yet such qualifications

11 countries are planning to include (more) such qualifications

Microcredentials in NQFs



Source: Cedefop.



Partial qualifications, micro-qualifications, supplementary qualifications, awards, minor awards, free-market qualifications, vocational qualifications and professional certificates, validation certificates

Microcredentials can be awarded within and outside formal education and training



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

50
YEARS
SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE

Use of NQFs

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR

Key areas of use of NQFs



**DESIGN
AND REVIEW
OF QUALIFICATIONS**



**QUALITY
ASSURANCE
OF QUALIFICATIONS**



**RECOGNITION
OF FOREIGN
QUALIFICATIONS**

Education and training providers design, or review qualifications based on NQF level descriptors.

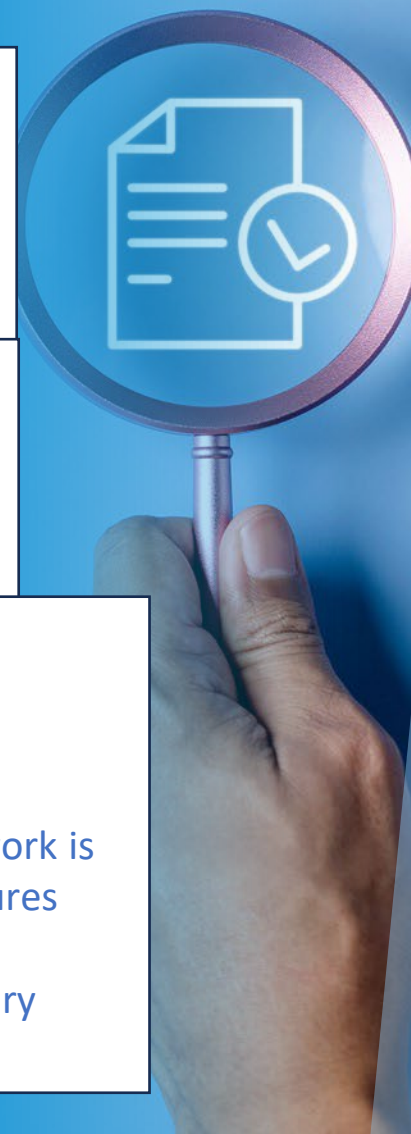
A clear indication of active use of NQFs is the increasing number of levelled

One of the criteria for the accreditation of a study programme is compliance with NQF regulations.

In 5 countries, the use of the NQFs is stipulated by legal arrangements or government regulations.

Often countries report that the framework is extensively used in recognition procedures

NQFs may also serve as a complementary source of information.



Key areas of use of NQFs

Learners



Low to medium level of use, mainly when planning studies abroad or for recognition purposes.



Use of NQFs in the labour market



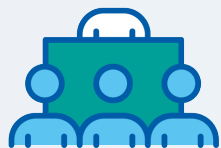
Inter-stakeholder committee



In the 2020s, use of NQFs in the labour market has gradually increased but remains low. 18 countries reported that NQF levels are used in recruitment procedures



Sectoral council

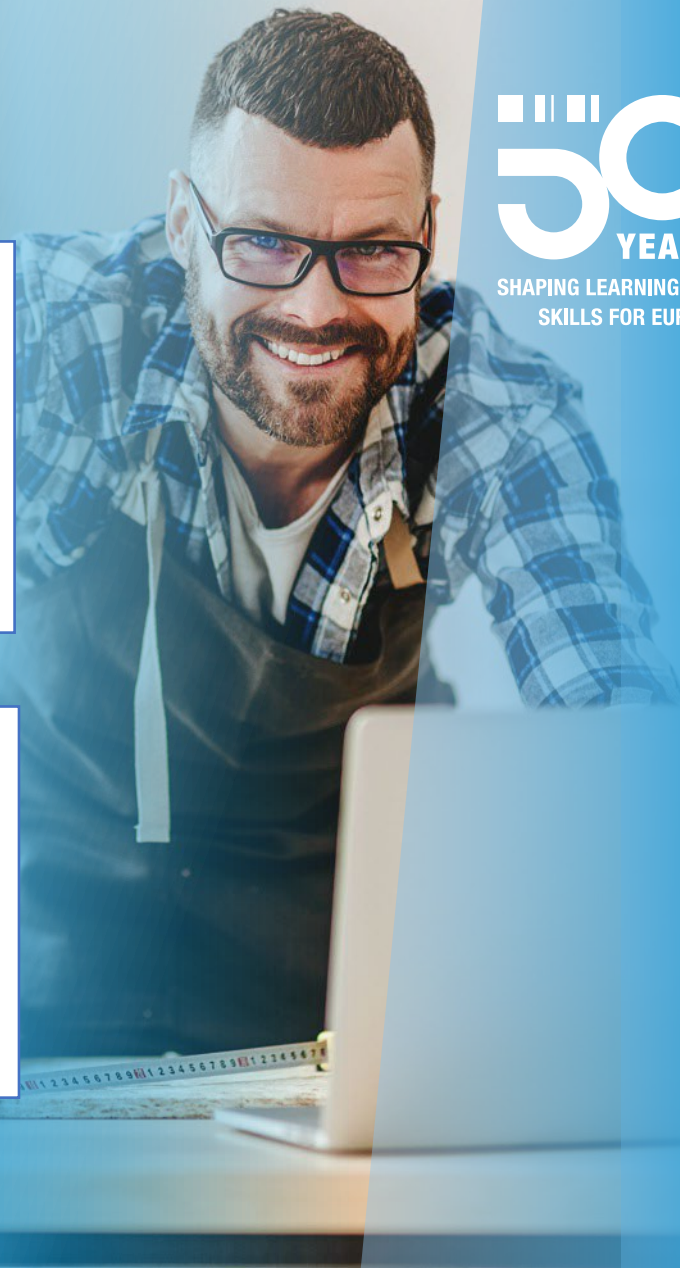


Low level of use of NQFs. Most common ways of using NQFs:

- developing CVs
- aiming to work in another country
- trying to access further training



Advisory body





CEDEFOP

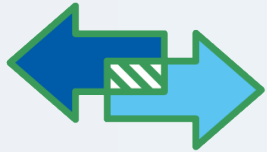
European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

50
YEARS
SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE

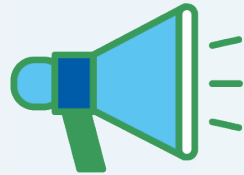
Impact of NQFs

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR

Key areas of impact of NQFs



Transparency and comparability of qualifications



Promoting Learning Outcomes



Progression in education and training and promoting LLL



Dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders



Promoting international comparability of qualifications and mobility



Parity of esteem between education and training subsystems



Addressing labour market needs, increasing mobility

What is the potential of NQFs in the Union of Skills?



Future priorities



Raise awareness of NQFs



Expand NQF coverage



Develop new or improve existing
databases



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

The NQF team

50
YEARS

SHAPING LEARNING AND
SKILLS FOR EUROPE



Aristos
Theocharous



Vicky
Oraiopoulou



Dagfinn
Hertzberg

Marialena
Katsoura



Zelda Azzara

9 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.00-11.45 CET | ONLINE WEBINAR

Thank you

For further information:

Iraklis.PLIAKIS@cedefop.europa.eu

Policy brief: Making qualifications and skills more visible

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/9207>

NQF online tool

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/nqfs-online-tool>

European Inventory of NQFs

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/country-reports/european-inventory-of-nqfs>

Project page

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/projects/national-qualifications-framework-nqf>

www.cedefop.europa.eu

Follow us on social media



CEDEFOP

European Centre
for the Development
of Vocational Training