

NEW APPROACHES, NEW SKILLS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

Alignment of quality assurance and qualifications in the European context

This paper underpins all objectives defined for the NANSSI project

The table below links the policy driver of improving the quality of lifelong learning across Europe with the policy enabler of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

In other words the analysis of EQF is designed to demonstrate how those aspects of policy which providers are measured against through the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET (EQARF) can be developed and delivered in each nation through alignment with the EQF. It is provided as an outcome to the NANSSI project since it is a useful tool for managers and leaders in thinking how, by addressing low skills issues, they can contribute more effectively to meeting EQARF requirements, especially when working together across borders.

EQARF indicator	Link to EQF	Implications for cooperation framework
Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers	All qualifications within national systems must be quality assured by robust and consistent processes and articulated to the EQF	As all national qualifications should now be aligned with the EQF, qualification recognition and equivalency should occur and support the mobility of learners. This should be the core principle for a future VET cooperation framework
Investment in training of teachers and trainers	Indirectly relevant to the project; delivery of initiatives to encourage social inclusion and new skills development cannot occur without excellent teachers and trainers	
Participation rate in VET programmes	Participation rate can be enhanced through using the flexibilities allowed through national qualifications frameworks which are aligned to the EQF	The project is about ways to increase engagement and participation for those who are at risk of social exclusion. This will enable Europe to move

		forward in an increasingly competitive global environment
EQARF indicator	Link to EQF	Implications for cooperation framework
Completion rate in VET programmes	Completion is enhanced if courses and programmes are fit for purpose for the client group.	Cooperation must include an emphasis on in-country or across Europe completion, such as could be supported by the proposed VET alumni scheme
Placement role from VET programmes	Scope of EQF includes employability and through credit transfer systems in the process of being developed national NQFs will be able to encourage placement and cross-European mobility of labour	Mobility of labour coupled with portability of qualifications should be at the heart of VET cooperation
Utilisation of acquired skills in the workplace	EQF can be used to define progression routes including workplace acquired skills; RPL systems will support this	No repeat of learning and no 'dead ends' in career progression for learners vital in a cooperation framework
Unemployment rates are reduced	EQF, with its ability to facilitate bite-sized learning, is instrumental in defining quality assured programmes designed to support employability/re-training	As above: the whole project is about increasing participation for those who are at risk of social inclusion through engagement that is relevant
Prevalence of vulnerable groups	As above: EQF: enables bite-sized learning suited for vulnerable learners – especially when contextualised to specific interests as identified through NANSSI	Priority for cooperation
Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market	Nations can respond more quickly to changing labour markets by re-packaging NQF units aligned to EQF rather than having to develop completely new qualifications	Priority for cooperation given the new skills for new jobs agenda
Schemes used to promote better access	NQFs aligned to EQF at heart of better access – bite size learning that is accredited and, in principle, recognised	Priority for cooperation

to VET	and transferable across Europe	
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