

**PARALLEL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEMS LINKED TO THE EQF/NQF – STRUCTURE – INTERNATIONAL - REFERENCE**

EQF	HE (EHEA) Higher Education	BPT Business and Personal Training			VPE Vocational-Professional Education	Sector
	Formal	Training Non-Formal	Training Non-Formal	Training Non-Formal	Formal	
8	Doctorate				VPE-8	Tertiary
7	Master				VPE-7	
6	Bachelor				VPE-6	
5	Associate				VPE-5	
Vocational Education and Training / General Education / Others						Secondary

- It is a proposal for a general structure for formal and non-formal education and training at levels 5 and higher of the EQF (Tertiary).
- A general international name was chosen for the Short Cycle HE, which can only be used for HEIs that offer formal education within the EHEA.
- To make the distinction clear with the EHEA, the proposal is to give the name VPE for the sector that builds on the European VET sector in a formal sense. It is a combination of the characteristics of being strongly professional and labor market oriented. By linking the level to it, it is clear how the qualification has a place in the entire system.
- All non-formal qualifications fall under Business and Personal Training. They are linked via a National Coordination Point to a level of the NQF and thus to the EQF. Three types can be distinguished: offered by institutes that are also allowed to offer HE, the same but then for VET providers, and other institutions (think of Business Academies and other private training providers).
- The separation between formal and non-formal education (education and training) is also important for the VPE sector as it is also the case in HE. All qualifications that are considered as non-formal provided by HEIs are not covered by the EHEA.
- It is emphatically not a blueprint for national systems. It is just a reference at European level to give all qualifications a place, recognizable in an international setting. National systems can have their own names and titles. Also the use of names for national institutions offering VPE qualifications at the higher levels is up to themselves, to be decided in the context of the national system.
- The names (degrees, titles) concern proposals for use in the international circuit. The use in an international context by organisations, institutions and other target groups makes it clear where a qualification can be placed.
- The start is the level of the EQF. Next, it is important whether it is formal education (regulated by the government in a certain way) or non-formal education (regulated and guaranteed by other organisations).
- This means that the status of the institution does not determine whether it is HE, VPE or BPT. An institution that offers both HE and VET therefore consists of two distinct providers. To give an example: If an HEI may also offer a VPE-5 qualification, the HEI must place it in a different entity.
- So the starting point is the EQF. And ultimately all qualifications (5, 6, 7 and 8) that are linked to this, fall within 'tertiary education'.