

PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL STRUCTURE FOR FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT LEVELS 5 AND HIGHER OF THE EQF (TERTIARY SECTOR) - as an international reference

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

1. A general international name was chosen for **Short Cycle HE**, which could only be used by HEIs that offer formal education within the EHEA.
2. To make a clear distinction within the EHEA, the proposal is to give the name VPE for the sector that builds on the European VET sector in a formal sense. Therefore, combining the characteristics of being strongly professional and labor market-oriented. By linking the level to it, it is clear how the qualification has its position in the system.
3. All non-formal qualifications are covered under the Business and Personal Training. They are connected via a National Coordination Point to a level of the NQF and thus to the EQF. Three types can be distinguished: one for by institutes that are also allowed to offer HE, a second one which is the same but then by VET providers, and the third one by Business Academies and other private training providers, among others.
4. The separation between formal and non-formal education (education and training) is also important for the VPE sector, likewise for the HE. All qualifications that are considered as non-formal provided by HEIs are not covered by the EHEA.
5. This is categorical, not a blueprint for national systems. Hence, it is just a reference to give all qualifications a position at the European level, which could be recognizable in an international setting. Nevertheless, the national systems could use their names, degrees and titles. Even more, the use of names for national institutions offering VPE qualifications at the higher levels will be decided by them in the national context.
6. The proposed names (degrees, titles) to be used by organisations, institutions and other target groups in the international context will make clear where a qualification can be positioned.
7. The starting point 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).
8. 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, consist 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.
9. As previously mentioned, the starting point should be always the EQF, and ultimately all qualifications (5, 6, 7 and 8) that are connected to this, and included within 'tertiary education'.

Acronyms:

EQF: European Qualifications Framework / HE: Higher Education / HEIs: Higher Education Institutions / EHEA: The European Higher Education Area / VPE: Vocational-Professional Education / NQF: National Qualifications Framework / BTP: Business and Personal Training