Transforming EQF5 education in Flanders

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1. Context
2. Programming
3. Evaluating the process

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Context: EQF implementation in Flanders

- Educational qualifications (EQ)
    - vs. Professional qualifications (PQ)
- Primary & secondary education (EQF 1-4)
    - vs. Higher education (EQF 5-8) → learning outcomes

→ Associate degree: EQ & level 5
- BUT strongly linked to PQ & have historically not been in higher education

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Programming
Step 1: Professional qualification (PQ)

- Made by sectoral organization
- Without involvement educational institutions
- Coordinated by governmental agency

PQ describes a profession
- Tasks, activities, knowledge, skills…
- Experienced professional

EQF level decided by special commission

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Programming
Step 2: Educational qualification

- Flemish government decides:
  - Which PQ will be translated to an EQ
  - How PQ's will be clustered

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Programming
Step 3: Educational qualification (EQ)

Educational qualification = domain-specific learning outcomes
- Level: EQF level 5
- Content: PQ & other relevant/necessary competences
→ Minimal requirements for diploma

Who is involved?
- University colleges + governmental agency
- Consultation of stakeholders (students, labour market, related programs & international experts)

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Programming
Step 4: Initial accreditation

- Application contains info about:
  - Expected learning outcomes (Flemish domain-specific learning outcomes as minimum, university college can adapt)
  - Teaching environment (incl. personnel & infrastructure)
  - Evaluation system
  - Quality assurance
- Evaluation by NVAO (accreditation organization of the Netherlands and Flanders), jury of independent experts

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Programming
Step 5: government recognition

- By Flemish government
- Start within 2 years

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Evaluating the process

Strengths	Challenges
EQF connection level 5	Level of PQ not transparent Experienced vs. starting professional
Link to labour market < PQ	Very "procedural" link < fragmented procedure PQ not written for educational purposes
	Very long process (↔ flexibility)
Freedom EI to formulate learning outcomes & apply for programming	Strong steering by government

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Questions?

Anne Foqué, policy officer
anne.foque@vlhora.be

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