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# *The EQF: 10 Years and what has happened in Ireland and in Europe...*

***Bryan Maguire***

Director of Quality Assurance, QQI

**EQF Level 5 Forum, Dublin**

12 June, 2018




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# European

## meta-framework characteristics

- 
- **QF-EHEA**
  - Higher education
  - May 2005
  - Agreement between national ministers of higher education
  - 47 countries
  - 3 cycles
  - End-of-cycle descriptors
  - Verification of compatibility (self-certification)
  - **EQF-LLL**
  - Lifelong learning
  - April 2008
  - Recommendation of EU Parliament & Council
  - 34 countries referenced, 5 still working
  - 8 levels
  - Level descriptors
  - Referencing report (& peer commentary by EQF advisory group)



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# EQF referencing process

- **Criteria and procedures in 10 points to ensure that**
  - the information made public
  - is validated by the competent authorities
  - is relevant and transparent
  - can be compared
  - generates trust
- **Similar to QF-EHEA criteria and procedures**





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# Referencing of Irish NFQ to EQF

- Working group established
- Draft report presented for public comment
- International experts gave feedback
- Report presented to EQF Advisory Group and discussed 2009
- Framework included on EQF portal  
<https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en/compare>



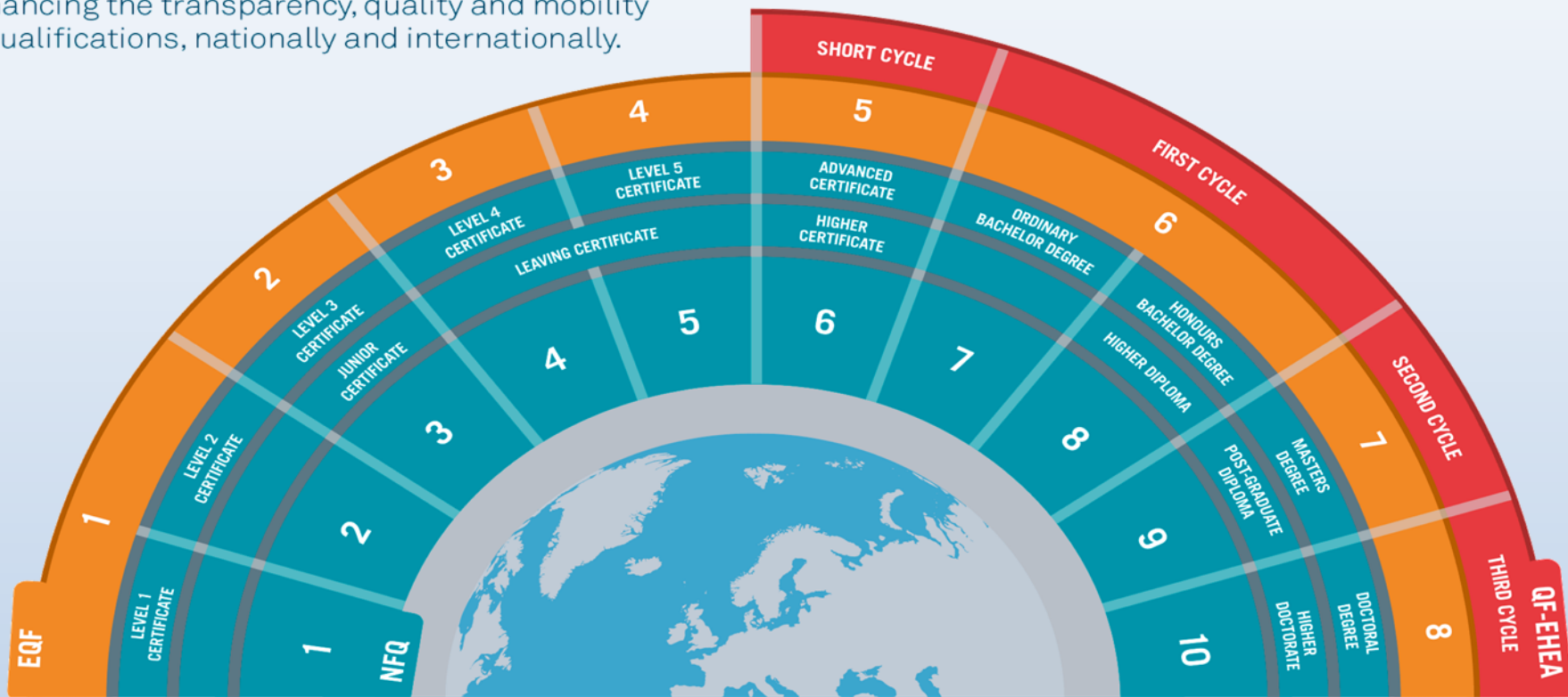


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## Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global

Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



- NQF
- EQF
- QF-EHEA

Irish National Framework of Qualifications  
European Qualifications Framework  
Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area

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## Scorecard categories







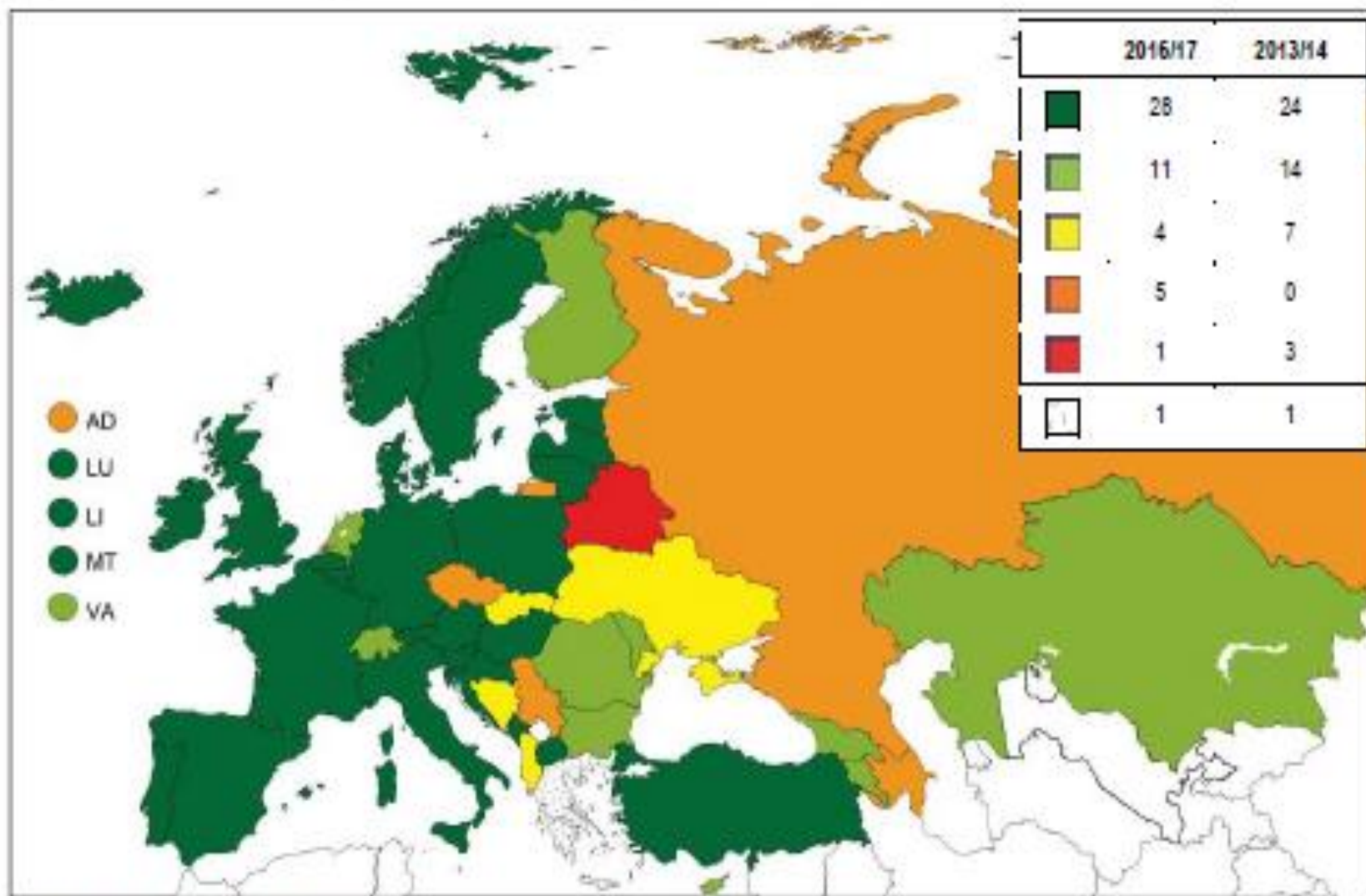
	<p>Steps 10-11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 11. Stakeholders* use the NQF (as a reference point) for at least one specific agreed purpose.</li><li>○ 10. The NQF has self-certified its compatibility with the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area.</li></ul>
	<p>Steps 7-9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 9. Qualifications have been included in the NQF.</li><li>○ 8. Study programmes have been re-designed on the basis of the learning outcomes included in the NQF.</li><li>○ 7. Implementation of the NQF has started with agreement on the roles and responsibilities of higher education institutions, quality assurance agency(ies) and other bodies.</li></ul>
	<p>Steps 5-6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 6. The NQF has been adopted in legislation or in other high level policy fora.</li><li>○ 5. Consultation/national discussion has taken place and the design of the NQF has been agreed by stakeholders.</li></ul>
	<p>Step 4: The level structure, level descriptors (learning outcomes), and credit ranges have been agreed.</p>
	<p>Steps 1-3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 3. The process of developing the NQF has been set up, with stakeholders identified and committee(s) established.</li><li>○ 2. The purpose(s) of the NQF have been agreed and outlined.</li><li>○ 1. Decision to start developing the NQF has been taken by the national body responsible for higher education and/or the minister.</li></ul>
	<p>Data not available</p>





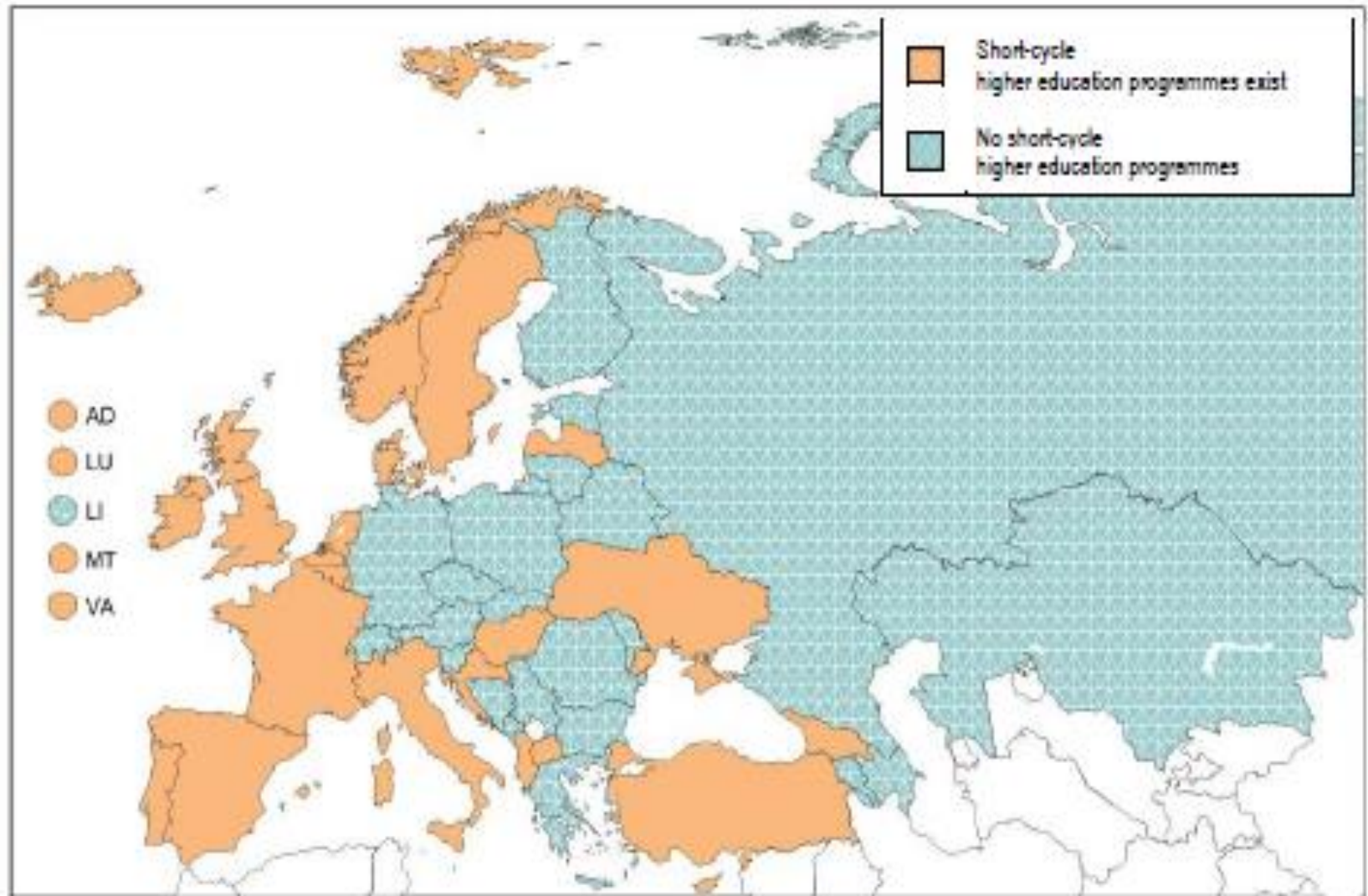
Figure 3.25: Scorecard indicator n°3:  
Implementation of national qualifications frameworks, 2016/17



Source: BFUG data collection.



**Figure 3.7: Presence of short-cycle programmes considered as part of higher education, 2016/17**

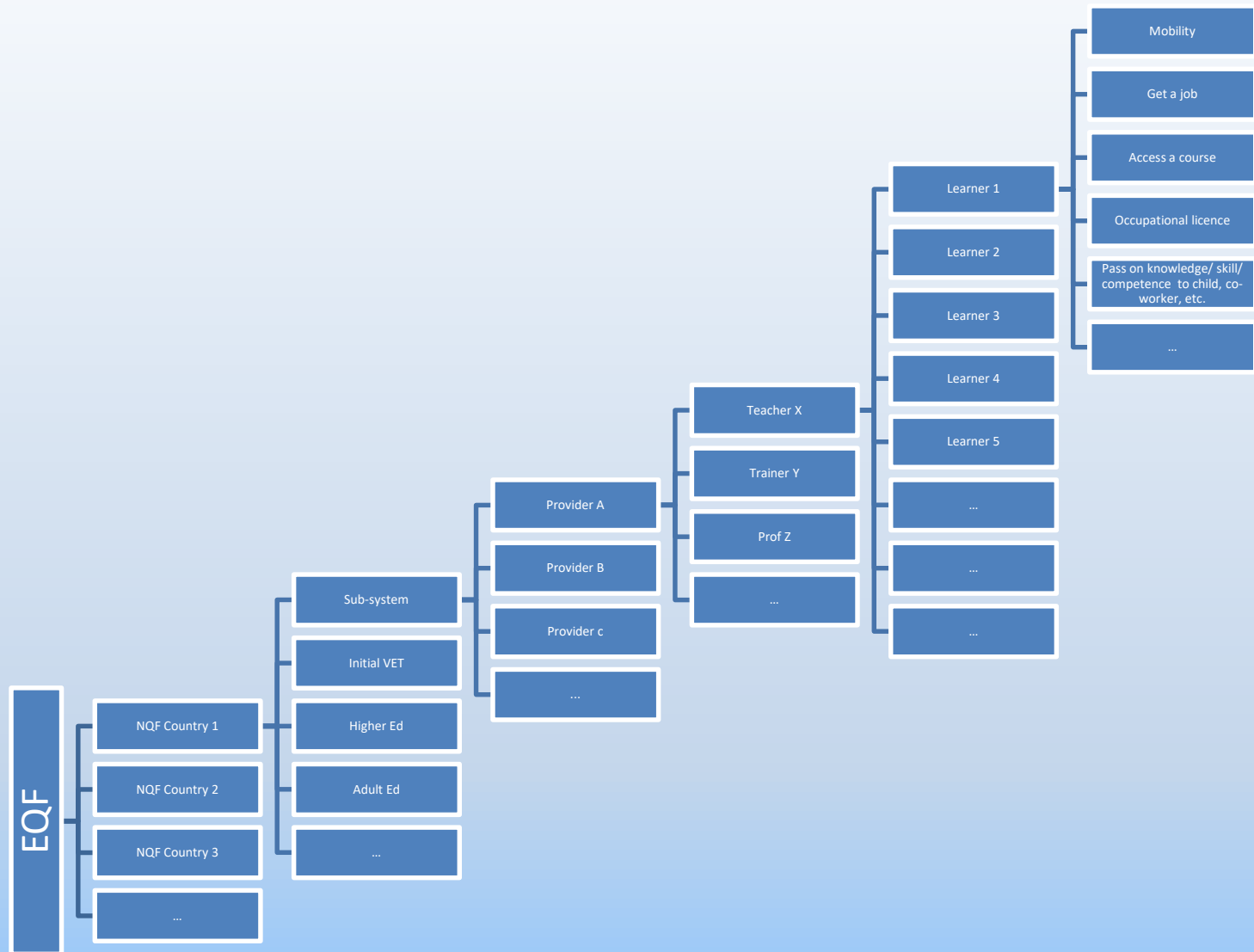






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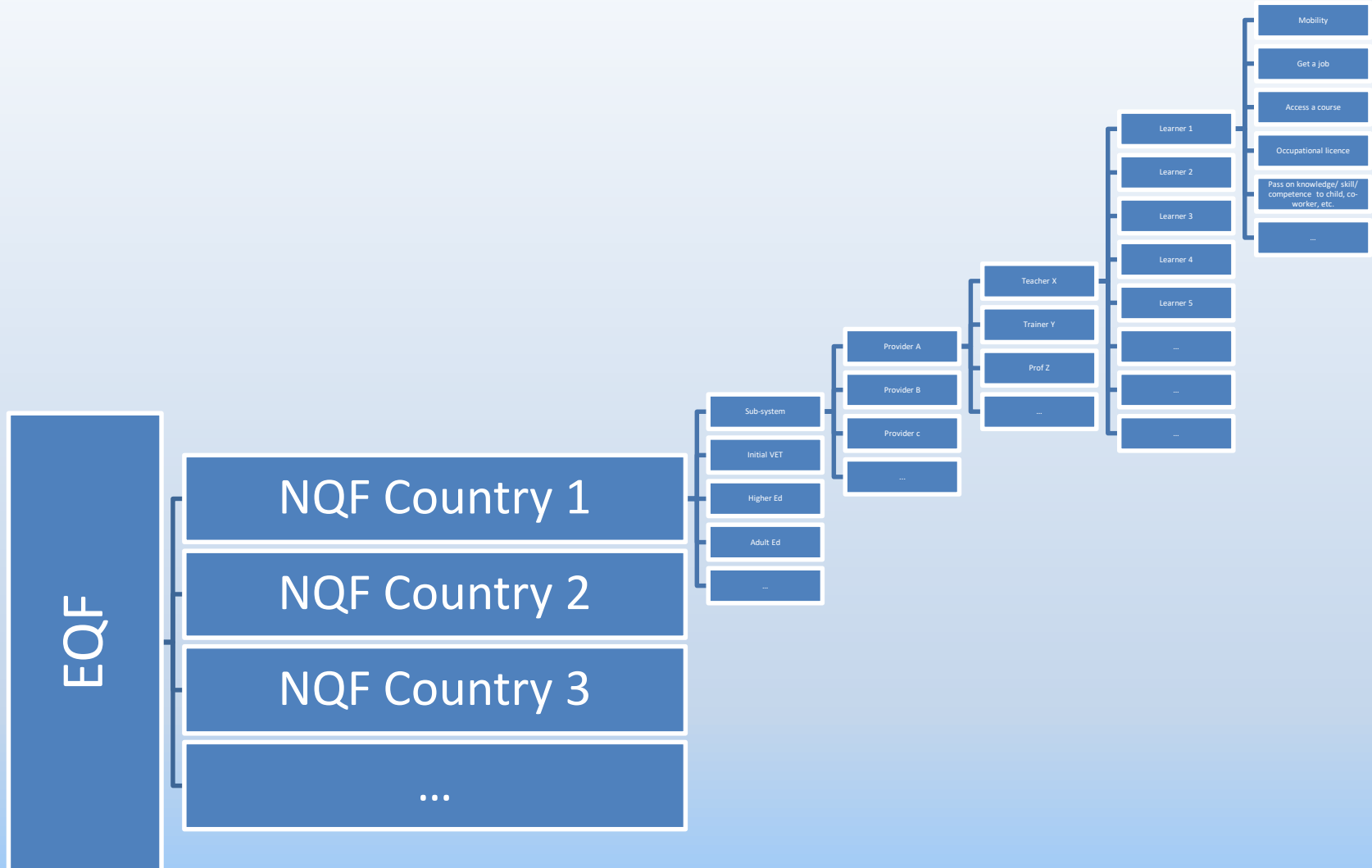


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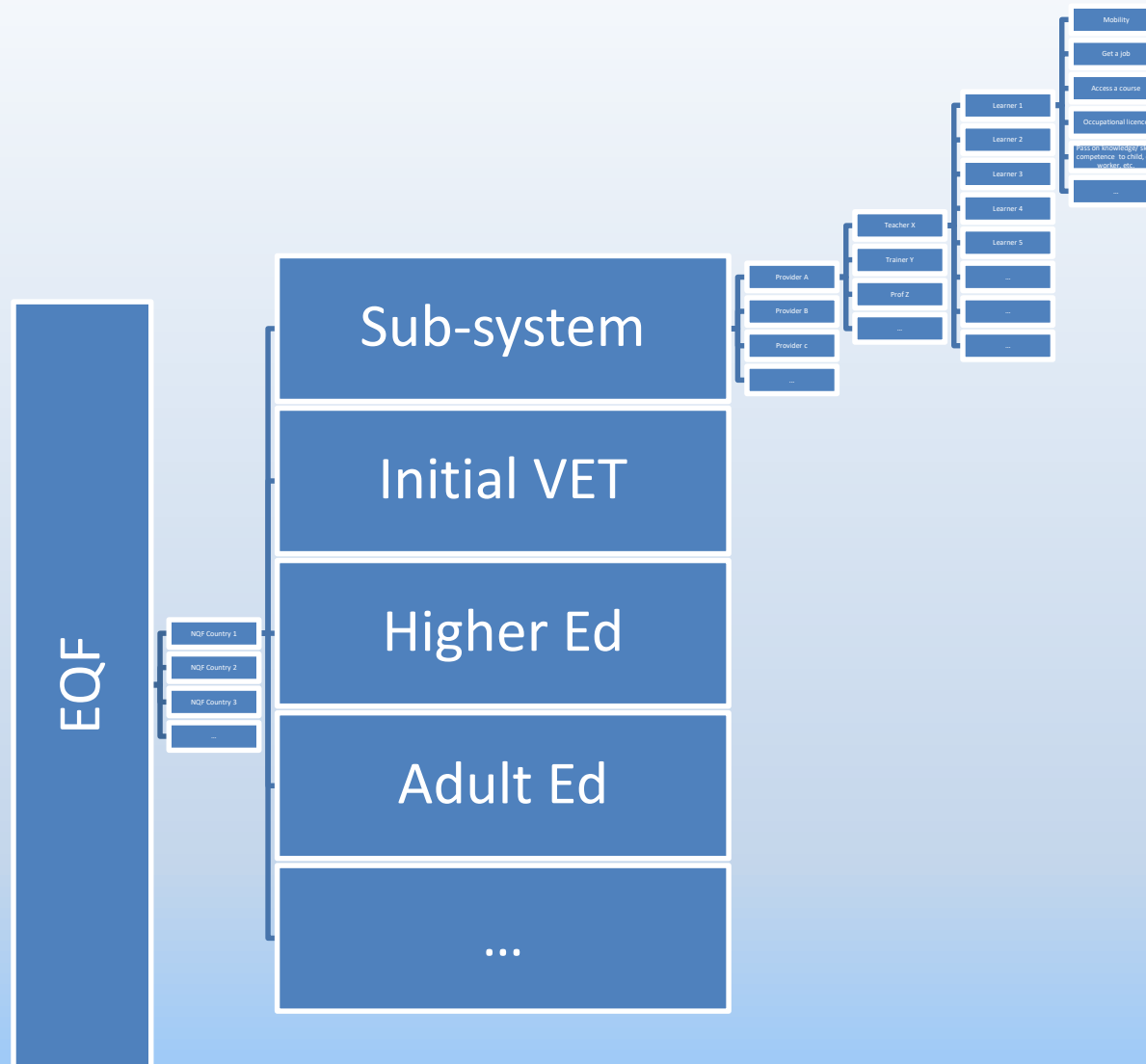


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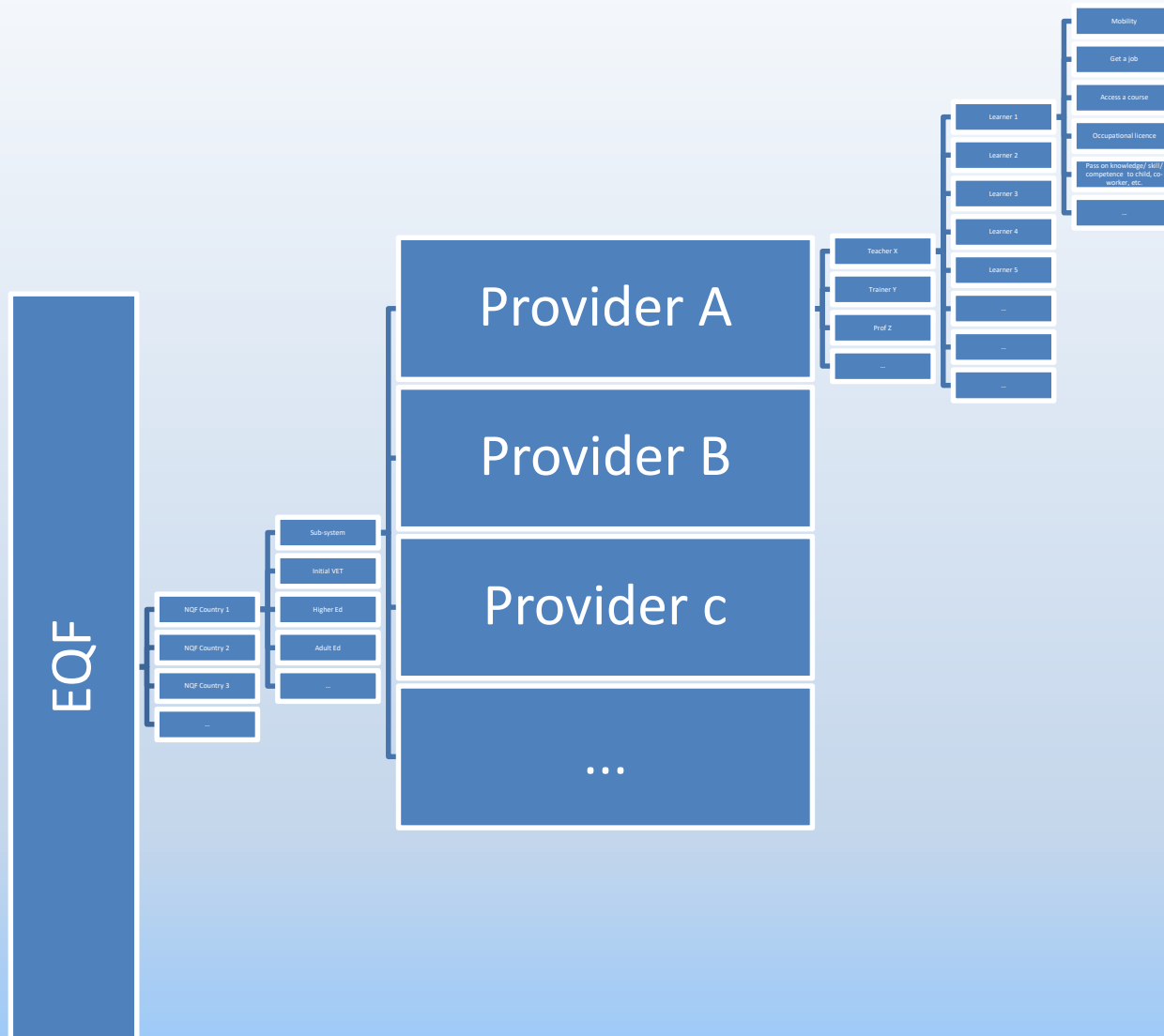


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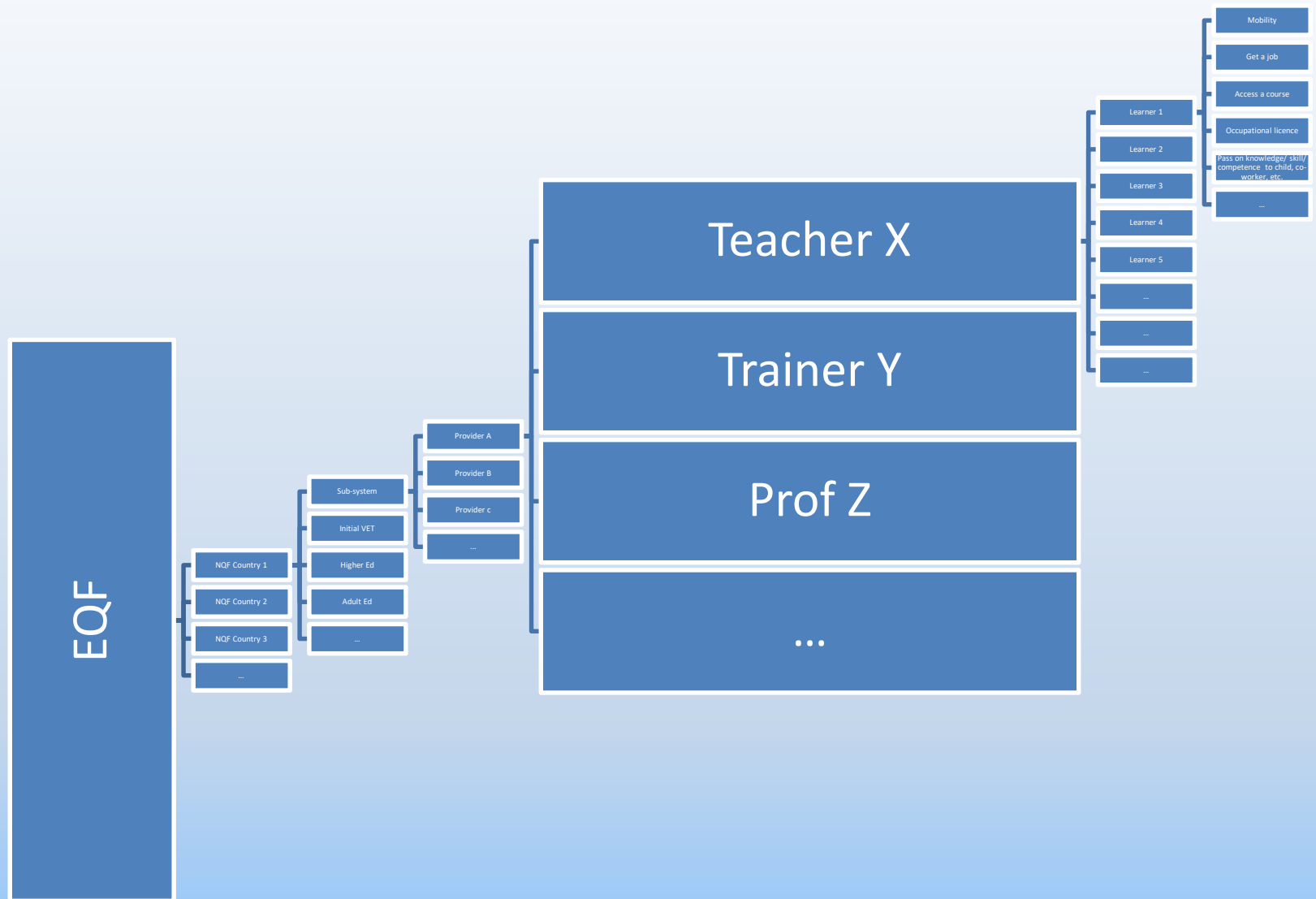


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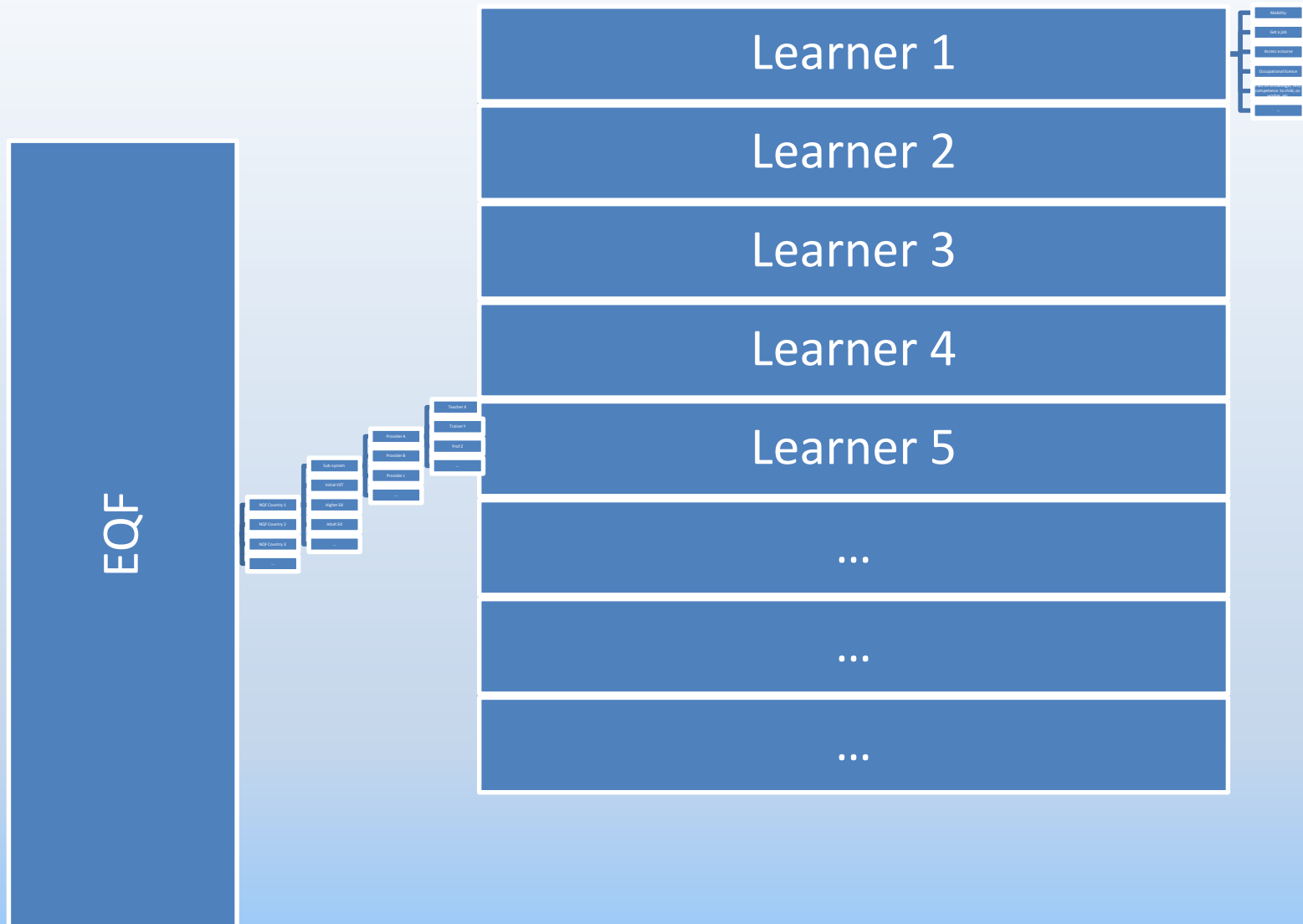
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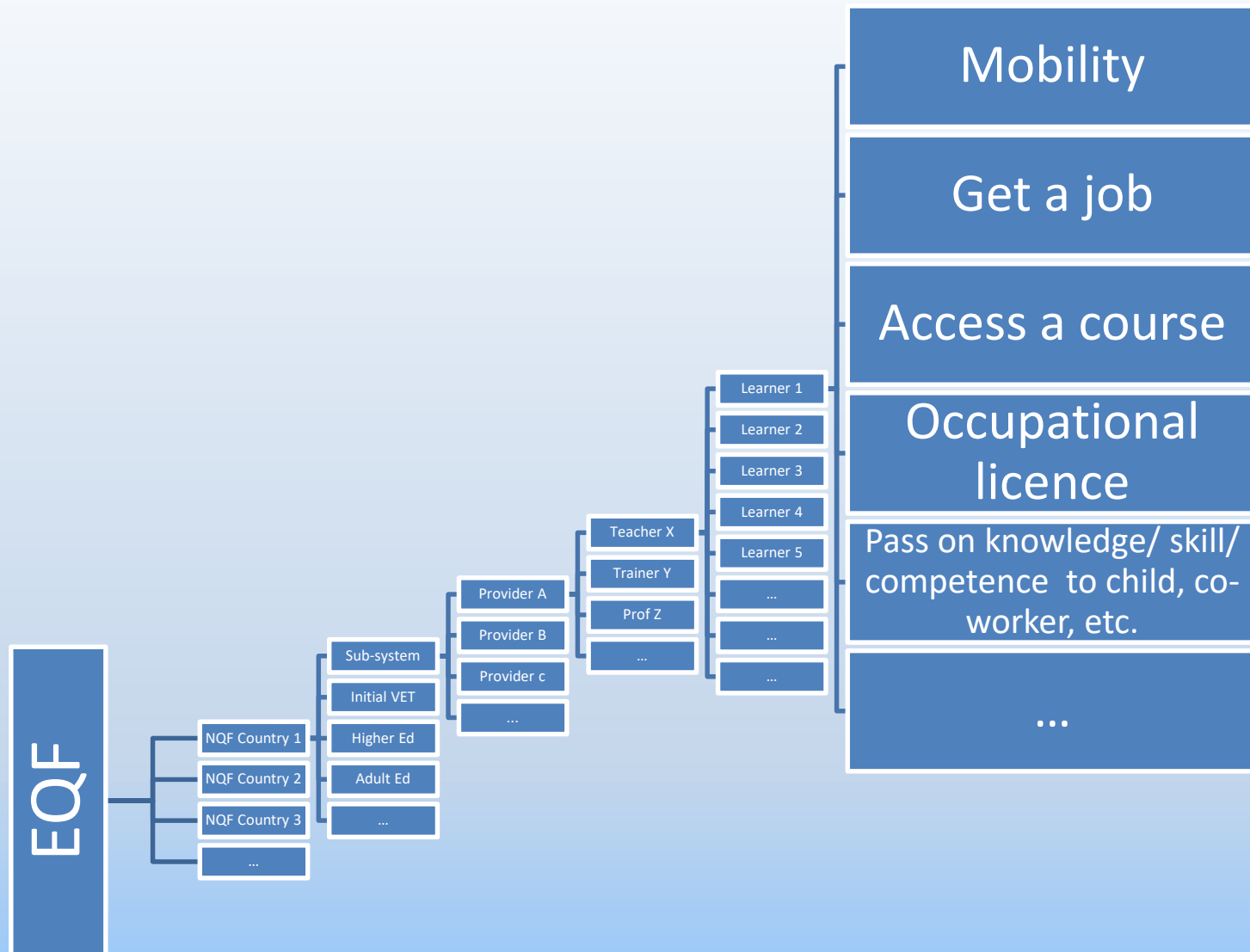


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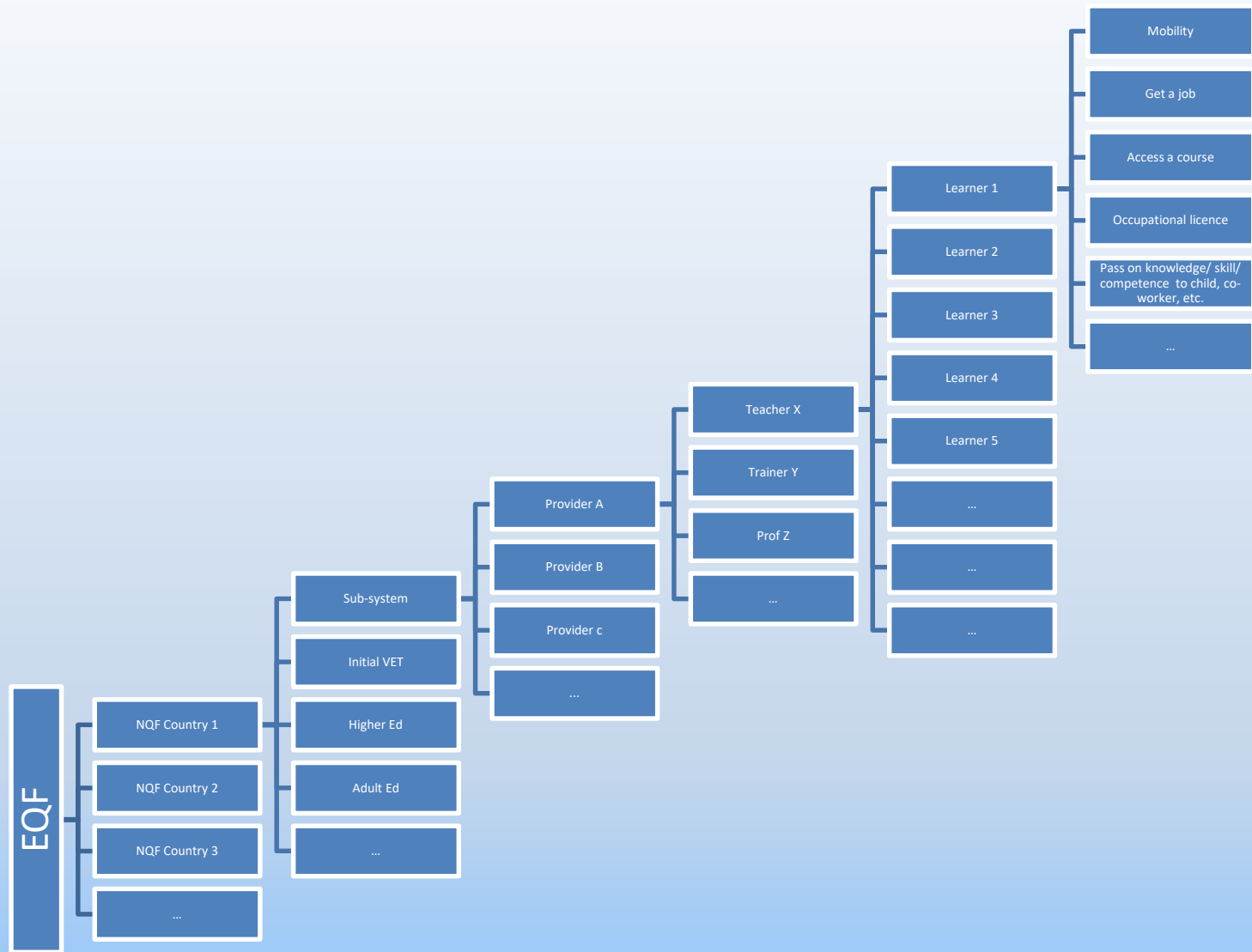


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# CEDEFOP 2017 Briefing

- 
- Promoting a holistic approach to qualifications
  - Integrating non-formal (private sector and international) qualifications
  - Validating non-formal and informal learning
  - Promoting stakeholder cooperation
  - Triggering institutional reforms
  - Making VET visible
  - Supporting cross-border mobility
  - Reaching end-users

**COMPARISON (Up to 5 examples of qualifications are provided for each NQF level. National systems may include many other qualifications at these levels)**

 <b>Denmark</b> NCP: Danish Agency for Universities and Internationalisation Referencing Report (Sep 2011) NQF/NQS <a href="#">SEE MORE</a> <a href="#">SELECT ANOTHER COUNTRY</a>	 <b>EQF Levels</b>	 <b>Lithuania</b> NCP: Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre Referencing Report (Jun 2012) NQF/NQS <a href="#">SEE MORE</a> <a href="#">SELECT ANOTHER COUNTRY</a>
<b>Danish NQF level 8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD degree</li> </ul>	<b>EQF Level 8</b>	<b>LTQF 8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctor of Science degree</li> </ul>
<b>Danish NQF level 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master's degree (Candidatus)</li> <li>Master degree (within adult higher education)</li> </ul>	<b>EQF Level 7</b>	<b>LTQF 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master's degree in civil engineering</li> </ul>
<b>Danish NQF level 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Bachelor Degree in Nursing (nurse)</li> <li>Bachelor degree in fine arts</li> <li>Maritime bachelor: Bachelor in mechanical engineering/operations</li> <li>Diploma Degree in Management</li> <li>Bachelor degree</li> </ul>	<b>EQF Level 6</b>	<b>LTQF 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional bachelor's degree in civil engineering</li> <li>Bachelor's degree in civil engineering</li> </ul>
<b>Danish NQF level 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agricultural economist certificate</li> <li>Academy Profession Degree in Chemical and Biotechnical Science (AP in Chemical and Biotechnical Science)</li> <li>Ship's master</li> <li>Academy Profession Degree in Financial Management – Further Education for Adults (VUU)</li> </ul>	<b>EQF Level 5</b>	<b>LTQF 5</b>
<b>Danish NQF level 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certificate for three-year general</li> </ul>	<b>EQF Level 4</b>	<b>LTQF 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matura attestation (school leaving</li> </ul>



# Comparing Qualifications in Ireland and Hong Kong

Making Connections for You

Introduction

Qualifications Frameworks in Ireland and Hong Kong

Using Qualifications Levels

Comparing Qualifications



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教育局  
Education Bureau



資歷架構  
Qualifications Framework

[www.QQI.ie](http://www.QQI.ie)  
[www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk)

What Does This Mean For You?

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QF Level  
資歷級別

Choice of Award Titles for Different Levels  
各級別可選用的資歷名銜



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## Comparison of Higher Education and Training Qualifications

High Education and Training Qualifications in Ireland	NFQ Level	EQF	HKQF Level	High Education and Training Qualifications in Hong Kong
Higher Doctorate	10	8	7	Doctoral Degree
Doctoral Degree				
Masters Degree	9	7	6	Masters Degree
Postgraduate Diploma				Postgraduate Diploma
Honours Bachelor Degree	8	6	5	Bachelor Degree
Higher Diploma				
Ordinary Bachelor Degree	7			
Higher Certificate	6	5	4	Associate Degree

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01 856 8800

## Comparison of VET Qualifications

VET Qualifications in Ireland	NFQ Level	EQF	HKQF Level	VET Qualifications in Hong Kong
Advanced Certificate	6	5	4	Higher Diploma
Level 5 Certificate	5	4	3	Diploma of Vocational Education
				Diploma of Foundation Studies
				Diploma Yi Jin
Level 4 Certificate	4	3	2	Certificate of Vocational Education
Level 3 Certificate	3	2	1	Foundation Certificate
Level 2 Certificate	2	1	No Match	No Match
Level 1 Certificate	1			



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# Revised EQF Recommendation 2017

- Supports further implementation of the EQF
- Re-affirms governance arrangements
- Extends mandate
  - Non-formal qualifications
  - Non-European frameworks





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# Current developments

- Recognition practice – Lisbon Recognition Convention subsidiary text, June 2013
- “Automatic recognition” – EHEA ministers, European commission proposal
- Global exchange – UNESCO world reference levels