



Level 5 and the role of the EQF and the NQF

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Why this presentation

- ▶ CHAIN5 is an international community for all types of qualifications at level 5 of the EQF
- ▶ But the national situation for level 5 is also depending of the corresponding level of the NQF...

- ▶ The situation in Europe for the whole spectrum for level 5 qualifications is not transparent enough - including types, names, criteria, etc.
- ▶ And yes, that is also mostly the case for the national systems for the national level 5 area
- ▶ But we do care about the 'connections'... the references... between EQF and NQFs

- ▶ It can make collaboration more difficult in the international context (projects, joint programs, students' exchange, and so on)
- ▶ We need a kind of 'harmonization' at the European level, making everyone happy ;-)
- ▶ And then it's up to a national government to use this for the international framework and agreements (like it is happening for the EHEA)

Need for more transparency in the international context

- ▶ We need more attention for the visibility of the European Level 5 Area = the whole spectrum for qualifications at level 5 of the EQF... in the international context...
- ▶ So... the EQF is in the heart of this process
- ▶ And the NQFs are linked to this framework (based on the agreements made at the European level...)

Not...

- ▶ So, we are not using ISCED or other frameworks!
- ▶ A recent report of the OECD shows a blurring situation, in the international setting and context, for 'Higher Professional Education'...

- ▶ And it is also in this context *not* about the role or status of the provider... the institution that is offering a type of qualification at level 5
- ▶ But that is always a national issue! But...
Is a Higher Education Institution automatically offering only qualifications as part of the national higher education area...
If a VET College is offering Short Cycle HE, can it be considered as being a formal HEI?

The proposal - the idea - the suggestion - the possibility...

- ▶ About the system, we are using the EQF as framework for referencing
- ▶ 8 levels
- ▶ Till 4 = qualifications at the SECONDARY levels
- ▶ 5 till 8 = qualifications at the TERTIARY levels
- ▶ Meaning:
 - No POST-SECONDARY anymore (based on ISCED)
 - All after SECONDARY is TERTIARY...
 - Linked to EQF and NQF (perhaps more detailed, in the national context - for some types of qualifications)

And horizontal in tertiary education and training...

- ▶ We can use THREE sectors at the tertiary levels
- ▶ 1 **Higher Education** - the EHEA - Bologna Process - Formal
Take care: Not to be mentioned: Tertiary Education...
- ▶ 2 **Higher VET** - not yet an 'area' - not yet having a process for this sector - Formal (Our name is from now on: **Higher Vocational-Professional Education - Higher VPE**)
- ▶ 3 **Business Education and Training** - certificates - business diplomas - non-degree programs - training courses - micro-credentials - units -... Non-formal, to be linked to the NQF by the National Coordination Point - using the national descriptors for LLL

- ▶ And also we have...
*International Qualifications
Sector Qualifications Frameworks
Qualifications, accredited in another way (professional
bodies and other organisations)*
- ▶ And then RPL procedures can be used for them... like for enrollment in formal and non-formal qualifications and programs (and with help of the NARICs)
- ▶ But we have the focus on level 5...

Some agreements and suggestions

- ▶ Watch out: We are talking about the international setting
- ▶ HE (Academic and Professional) - only if meeting all criteria for the EHEA
- ▶ Level 5 = SCHE (agreed upon in 2018)
- ▶ Other names and abbreviations: not being HE, but still being part of the tertiary system - HVPE, BET or...
- ▶ By the way: we suggest 'Associate' for SCHE in the international context, but...

- ▶ Again: every country can use its own names, system categories and criteria... but please, use in the international setting a common accepted framework
- ▶ And avoid confusing names... look-a-likes... suggestive types, wishful thinking names...
- ▶ Question: What has been the source for the translation Fag(Skole) = Higher Vocational Education (School, College, Institute...)?

- ▶ This is also a start for the process that is needed for the sector Higher VPE... More in the sessions and documents about this... and during conferences... and doing research... in the coming year...