



European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning & qualifications databases

EQF Objectives



Transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications

Employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners

Linking formal, non-formal and informal learning

Supporting the validation of learning outcomes acquired in different settings

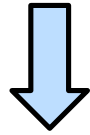
Contributing to modernising education and training systems



EQF: institutional basis

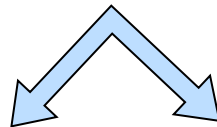


2017 EQF [Recommendation](#): based on articles 165 & 166 TFEU



Voluntary process and tool

Governance

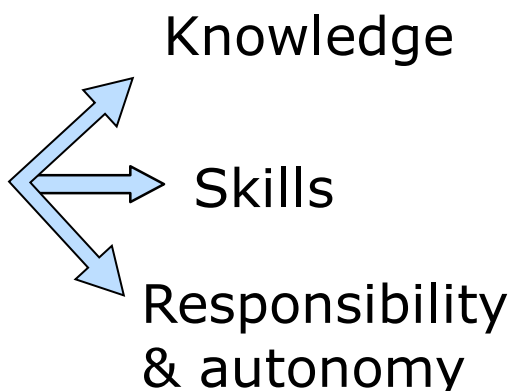


EU level
EQF Advisory Group

National level
EQF National Coordination Points

28 EU MS + 11 additional European countries

What is the EQF?

- 8-Level reference framework, covering all types and all levels of qualifications
- Defined in terms of **learning outcomes** 
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
 - Responsibility & autonomy
- A **translation grid** for qualifications across countries

National Qualifications
Framework

EQF

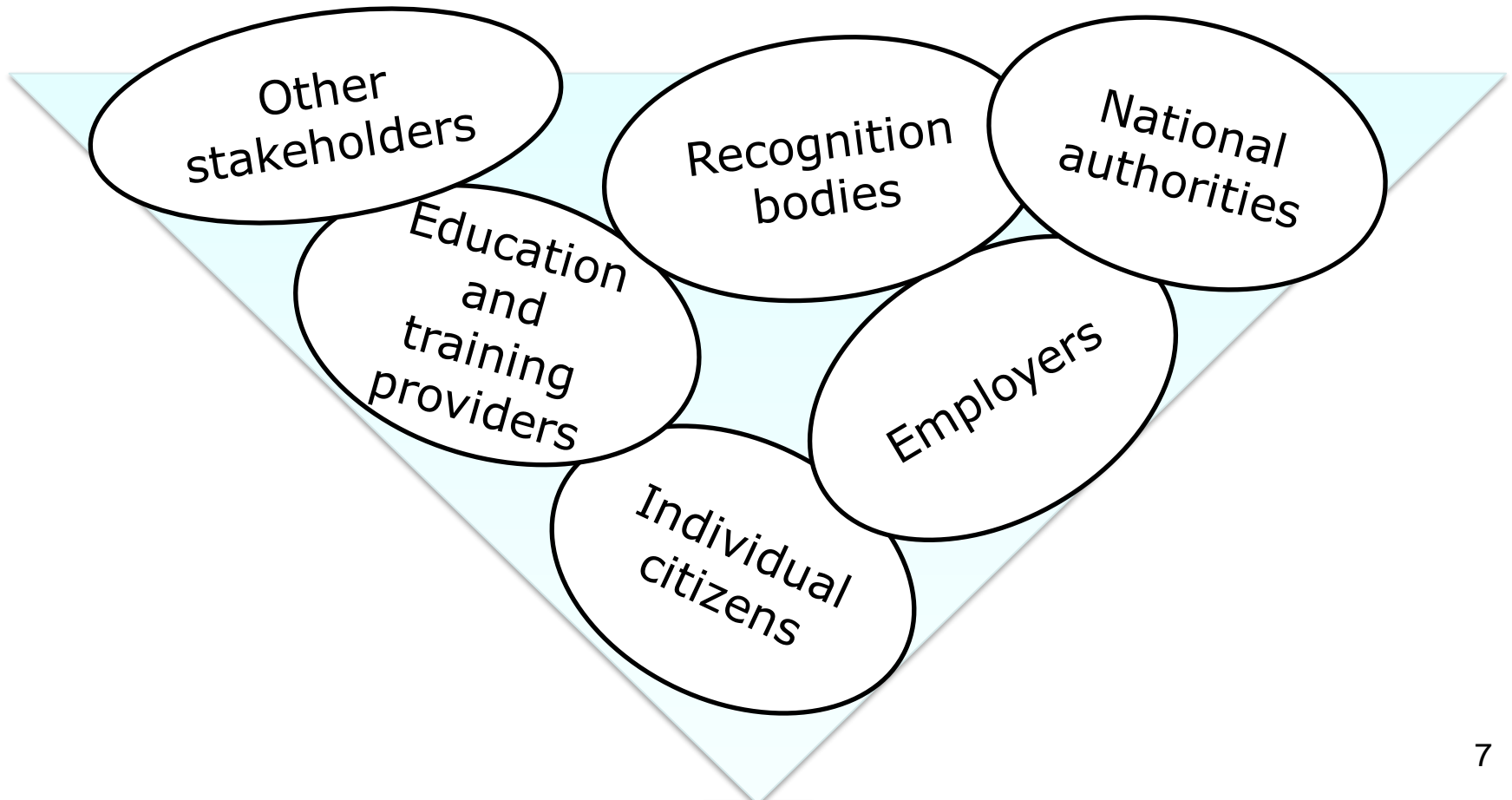
National Qualifications
Framework



What NOT?

- It **does not** provide automatic European wide-recognition
- It is **not** about European standards
- It is **not** about harmonising education and training systems
- It is **not** a competence framework

Who is the tool for?



New elements of the 2017 EQF Recommendation and implementation priorities

- 1) Review and update, when relevant, the referencing
- 2) Inclusion of EQF Referencing criteria in the Recom.
- 3) Annexes on quality assurance and credit systems
- 4) **International qualifications**
- 5) **Consistency of referencing**
- 6) **Communication & databases/registers**
- 7) **Third country dimension**

Current state of EQF implementation

State of play of EQF referencing

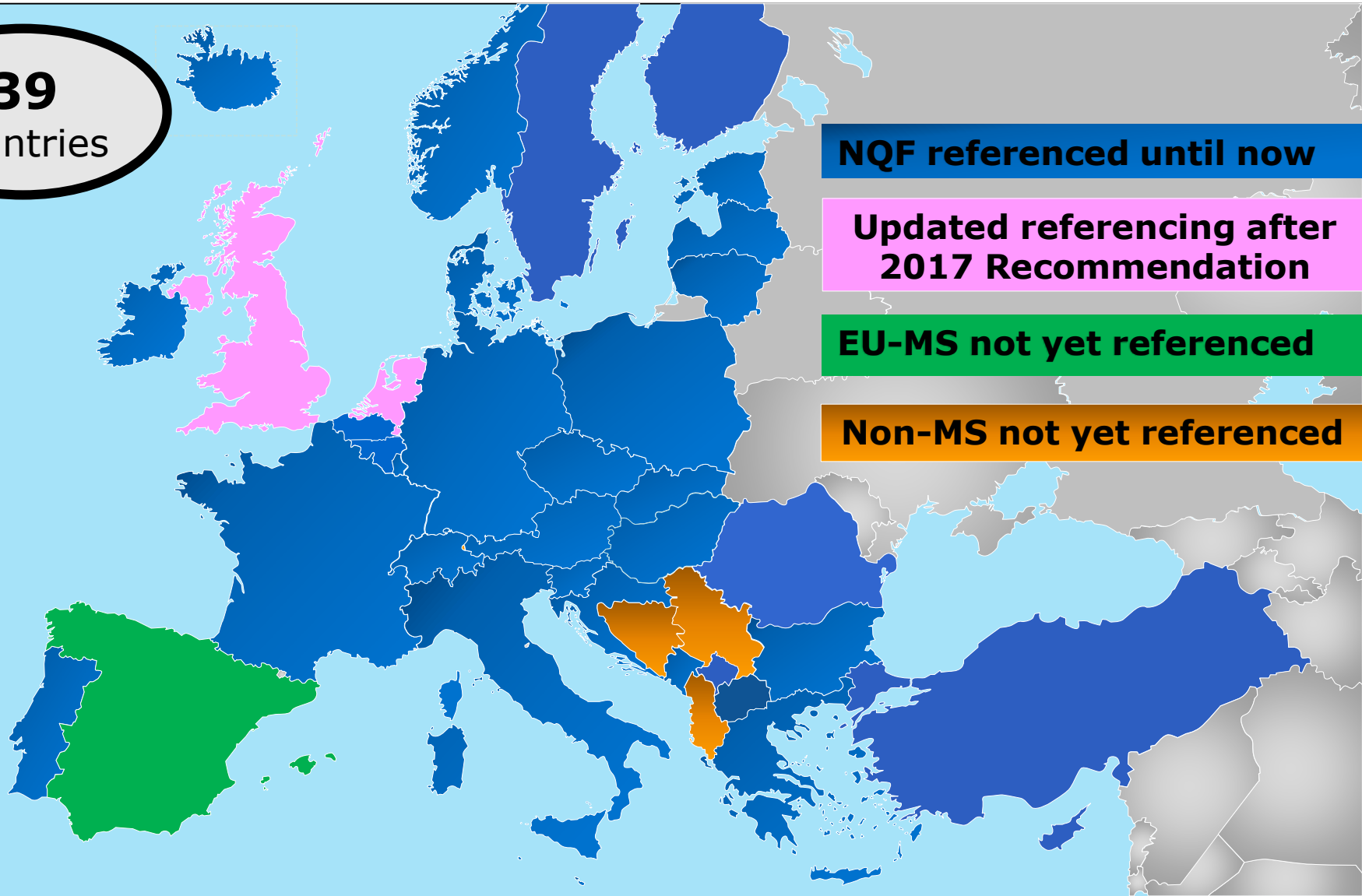
39
countries

NQF referenced until now

**Updated referencing after
2017 Recommendation**

EU-MS not yet referenced

Non-MS not yet referenced



EQF/NQF Levels

**31 on
qualifications/
Europass
supplements**



**24 in
qualifications
databases**

Main impacts of the EQF

Development of NQFs: **3** → **43** (since 2008)

Mutual learning → TRUST

Change in thinking ↔

EQF levels

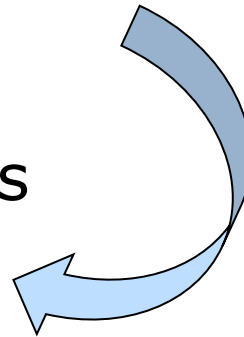


Main impacts of the EQF

Different types of qualifications in the frameworks

Interconnected landscape of NQFs

Map of qualifications
in Europe



Links NQFs - validation NFIL

Qualifications databases/registers

Establishing qualifications databases

- Important progress
- Available in most countries. A mix between
 - Pre-NQF databases, sometimes focussing on programmes rather than qualifications
 - Databases reflecting the NQFs
- A few countries still at planning stage
- The number of qualifications covered is increasing – few empty registers left → from sector to comprehensive

NQF/EQF levels in qualifications databases

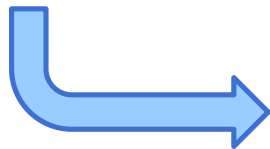
- A growing group of countries **where NQF and EQF levels are included** in the register in a visible way BE (fr), CZ, EE, FR, DE, LV, LT, NL, SI, PT, RO, UK
- A group where **only NQF levels** (or simply 'Levels') are indicated (AT, BE (fl), EL, IE, PL, SK)
- In a few countries, databases **do not contain references** to EQF/NQF levels, qualifications documents themselves however do

Databases – moving from the back office to the front office....

- Focussing on databases means to focus on **the front-office** functions of NQFs/EQF
- The **comprehensive character** of the EQF/NQFs needs to be reflected by the databases
- Databases should provide an **easily accessible map** showing what is the *content/profile and level* of a qualification and how it can be *linked to and combined with* other qualifications.
- Databases have evolved over time and build on different principles; can they move in the **same direction and according to similar objectives** in the years to come?

Learning outcomes in existing databases

- Existing databases increasingly contain information on learning outcomes
- Existing approaches vary in length, focus and structure and make understanding and comparison difficult
- Common presentation format (beyond Annex VI)?



Discussion in the EQF AG:

- No common format
- Yes sharing good practices

Connecting databases to EU portals

Interconnection at EU Level



The screenshot shows the ESCO website interface. At the top left is the European Commission logo. The main heading is "Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe" with the subtitle "Information about courses, work-based learning and qualifications". Below this is a search bar and a filter menu. The filter menu includes "Filter by Subject:", "Filter by EQF Level:", and "Filter by Location:". The "Filter by EQF Level:" section is expanded, showing a list of levels from EQF Level 8 (517) to EQF Level 1 (12). The main content area displays the ESCO logo and the text "European Skills/Competences, qualifications and Occupations". A breadcrumb trail shows "sion > ESCO > Qualifications". A green cloud-shaped callout bubble contains the text "The New Europass".

European Commission

Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe

Information about courses, work-based learning and qualifications

Search

Filter by Subject:

Filter by EQF Level:

- EQF Level 8 (517)
- EQF Level 7 (2476)
- EQF Level 6 (4114)
- EQF Level 5 (972)
- EQF Level 4 (2252)
- EQF Level 3 (457)
- EQF Level 2 (310)
- EQF Level 1 (12)

Filter by Location:

ESCO

European Skills/Competences, qualifications and Occupations

sion > ESCO > Qualifications

The New Europass

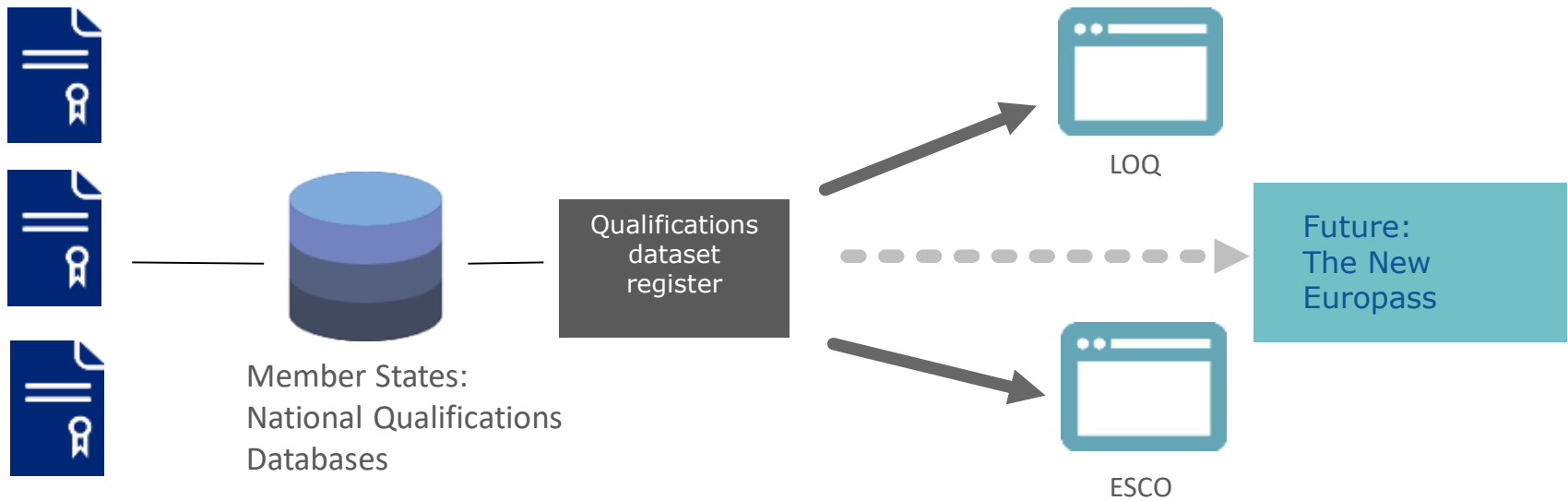
Elements for data fields for the electronic publication of information on qualifications with an EQF level – Annex VI EQF Recommendation

DATA		Required / Optional	
Title of the qualification		Required	
Field*		Required	
Country/Region (code)		Required	
EQF Level		Required	
Description of the qualification ⁹	Either	Knowledge	Required
		Skills	Required
		Responsibility and autonomy	Required
	Or	Open text field describing what the learner is expected to know, understand and able to do	Required
Awarding body or competent authority**		Required	
Credit points/ notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes		<i>Optional</i>	
Internal quality assurance processes		<i>Optional</i>	
External quality assurance/regulatory body		<i>Optional</i>	
Further information on the qualification		<i>Optional</i>	
Source of information		<i>Optional</i>	
Link to relevant supplements		<i>Optional</i>	
URL of the qualification		<i>Optional</i>	
Information language (code)		<i>Optional</i>	
Entry requirements		<i>Optional</i>	
Expiry date (if relevant)		<i>Optional</i>	
Ways to acquire qualification		<i>Optional</i>	
Relationship to occupations or occupational fields		<i>Optional</i>	




* ISCED FoET2013

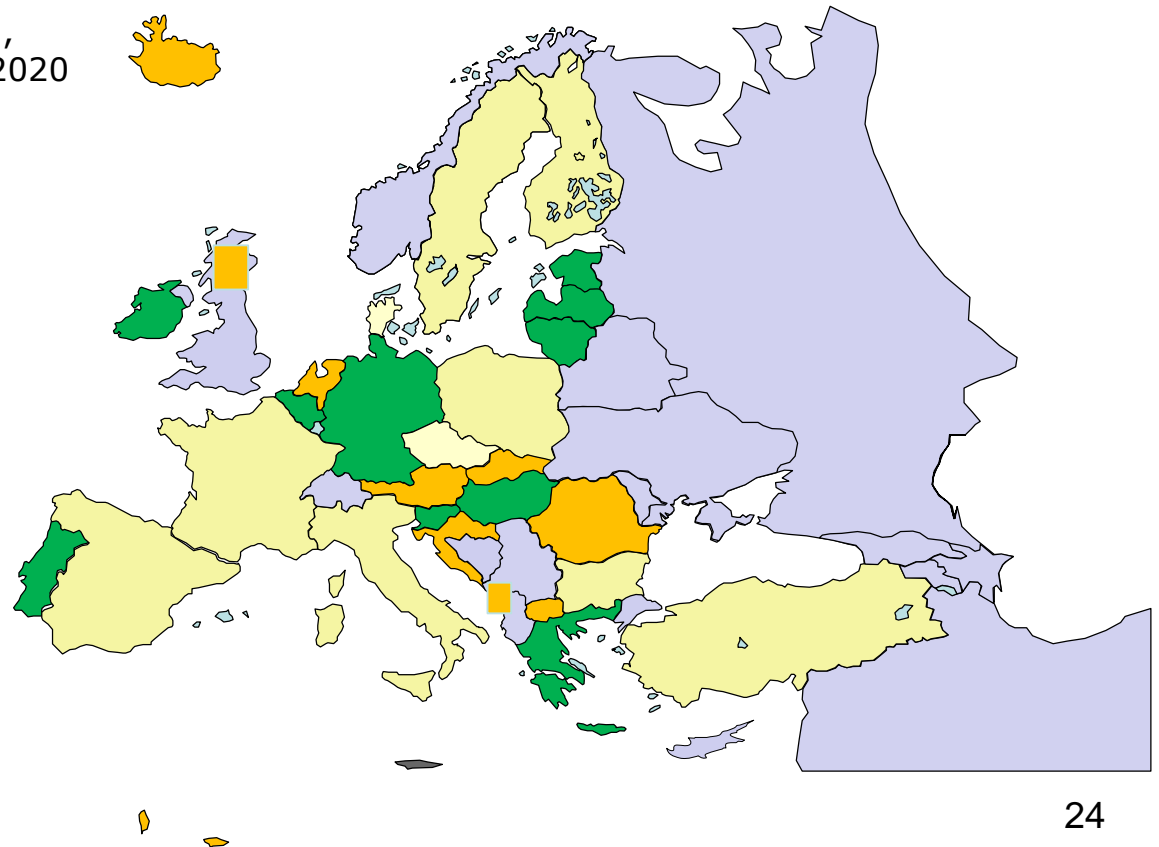
** The minimum required information on the awarding body or the competent authority should facilitate to find information about it, which would include its name, or if applicable the name of the group of awarding bodies or competent authorities, completed with a URL or contact information.

Connecting to EU Portals (LOQ and ESCO)



State of play of interconnection at EU level

-  Databases connected to European Portals (LOQ and/or ESCO)
-  Countries in the process of building, interconnection foreseen by 2019-2020
-  Other countries having qualifications databases



The qualifications dataset register (QDR)

<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/qdr>

- Service to **republish qualifications** in EU portals
- Supports **various ways of publication** (upload, hosted on your server manual/automatic update)
- Supports two schemata of qualification data:
 - QMS (qualification metadata schema) → Linked Open Data
 - EQF schema (legacy format for LOQ)
- Users: Member States and other owners of qualifications

Qualification Dataset Registrar

Welcome to Qualification Dataset Register

The Qualification Dataset Register serves as a central qualifications data portal. It enables different governmental institutions and awarding bodies to publish information on their qualifications.

What do you need to do to submit your data?

1. Create an EU login (ECAS) account
2. Contact Administrators of Qualification Dataset Register to grant you EU login (ECAS) rights
3. Create a profile for your organisation
4. Submit your dataset, selecting the metadata and publishing options which apply for you

More information about this process can be found in documentation mention below.

[Login/Register](#)

Documentation

User manual

The following manual provides you with a detailed documentation on how to operate the platform. You will be able to understand how to publish your data using this platform and how to operate the user interface.

Access guide

This short document will guide you through the process of requesting and activating your account in the Qualification Dataset Register website.

Qualifications Metadata Schema

The Qualifications Metadata Schema (v1.0.0) is an application profile used to describe qualifications across Europe. It corresponds to the schema used for publishing via the Qualifications Dataset Register. It will help you to understand how you should structure your data and prepare them for compliance.



Technical support

Targeted technical support

1. Assessment of national databases from a technical perspective
2. Recommendations to ensure interconnection
3. Support in using the QDR

Contact mail:

Qualifications support EU: qualifications@ext-ec-europa.eu



Table to compare NQFs

- Austria
- Denmark
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- UK - England & Northern Ireland
- UK - Scotland
- UK - Wales

Compare selected countries

Ireland	Country	Malta
Quality and Qualifications Ireland▼ NQF/NQS NCP: Quality and Qualifications Ireland Referencing Report (Monday, 1 June, 2009)	Information	Malta Qualifications Council▼ NQF/ NQS NCP: Malta Qualifications Council URL Referencing Report (Monday, 31 August, 2009)
NFQ level 10 ▼	EQF Level 8	MQF 8 ▼
Doctoral Degree ▼		Doctoral Degree ▼
NFQ level 9 ▼	EQF Level 7	MQF 7 ▼
Masters Degree ▼		Postgraduate Certificate ▼
Post-graduate Diploma ▼		Postgraduate Diploma ▼
		Master ▼



EQF and Europass

Common purposes:



Transparency
Mobility
Employability
Lifelong learning

Common target groups

Information on qualifications (& learning outcomes)



One EU portal on career, skills & qualifications

- Bring together the various European websites related to skills and qualification
- Easy access to everything you need in order to plan your skills development and your career in Europe
- E.g. the LOQ portal will be integrated into the new Europass
- Front-end will change in relation to LOQ
- But content will be the same, including the QDR connection³⁰



EQF and Europass

Common purposes:



Transparency

Mobility

Employability

Lifelong learning

Common target groups

Information on qualifications (& learning outcomes)

Digitally signed credentials framework



감사합니다 Natick
Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu
Grazie Thank You Köszönöm
Tack
Спасибо Dank Gracias
谢谢 Merci Seé
ありがとう

Obbrigado