Regional Quality Assurance Framework
Qualifications Framework

QA-QL-QA-QL-QA-QL

Commonalities and differences
some conclusions
European Standards & Guidelines (ENQA (E4)) / ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAFHE)
ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (QARF) / European Qualifications Framework

- Evolution - glossary - principles - standards and guidelines (process).............
  referencing processes
- QA one element to work in tandem with Qualifications framework (A/E)
- Clarity & Transparency; trust; external stakeholders; national reform;
  Transparency tools
- Flexible enough to accommodate diversity - not prescriptive but indicating a
  real threshold (A/E) – a sound point of reference for all to sign up to.
- Harmonisation and transparency not standardisation (A/E)
- Individual Cultural orientation and values maintained in regional frameworks
  (A&E)
European Standards & Guidelines (ENQA (E4)) / ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAFHE) 
ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (QARF) / European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

• National Regulatory priorities prevail - National Policies impact – protectionism! Implementation is key (E)
• Formal structures are required and need to be adopted
• Initial commitment and buy-in at agency, political, and institutional level to develop
• ongoing commitment to evolve and improve – work is never complete. HE is a complex business expected to satisfy many economic and social needs in a national and transnational context. QA needs to become an efficient tool to facilitating reform and enhancement.
Issues to be considered – further work

• Planning for future institutional operating context – future HEIs??
• Other ‘Non state’ commercial qualifications (ICT)
• Influences on ‘student centred learning’ QA
• National public policy versus regional ambitions, standards/principles
• Quality of National system dictates reference to regional and level of associated trust - National systems should be accessible, understood, and transparent to all. Gaps and shortcuts may undermine all efforts.
• Regional and national QA systems should undertake impact analysis – set clear performance indicators at an early stage of development.
• First stage of framework development is preparatory - stage two requires real visibility at the national level.
Conclusions

National-Regional-National-Regional- National

• Regional quality assurance does not alleviate the pressure on National QA systems and HE institutions to react, resolve, respond, deliver reform and improve. However regional frameworks establish formal parameters - reference points and lead to further convergence.

• Other parallel regional frameworks may not be a threat - are more likely to converge than clash (Bologna/EQF).

• Clarity on common language is a part of the developmental process.

• Capacity building is key to both regions ASEAN/Europe. National bodies need to develop effective practice. Regional frameworks reflect the sum of the parts. (e.g. Dublin descriptors – short cycle quals)

• Smart and efficient QA/qual criteria and tools can deliver if all the parties are committed to ongoing development/ sharing effective practice.

• National/Regional formal endorsement is critical for QA and Qualifications.
Conclusions

**National-Regional-National-Regional- National-Regional**

• QA and qualifications systems are under more pressure with reduced funding and resources – Qualifications are expected to deliver jobs; alleviate social and economic shortcomings and become exportable commodities for ambitious internationalisation policy approaches

• Implementation is key and the experience of reflection and analysis is a valuable source of information.

• collaboration and sharing effective practice is key. (EFFECTIVE IS CONTEXT)

• National Framework (whether QA or qualifications) is the vital link to the Regional Framework – National Framework should in turn be influenced by the Regional Framework parameters (regional is a catalyst for national)

• National Frameworks can influence Regional Frameworks

• National Frameworks can be all embracing facilitating QA systems for all types of provision, qualifications (VET – HET – professional alignment and more)

• Development is on going – continuous improvement
Action?

• DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN EQF AND ASEM

• INTER REGIONAL SHARING OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE  [ IN REAL TIME]

• CONCRETE SOLUTIONS MAY BE MORE ACHIEVABLE BETWEEN REGIONS
  - Case studies on NFQs, Referencing; ENQA reviews against ESG Guidelines; New innovative approaches by ASEAN and new national QA and qualifications frameworks emerging

• INTER REGIONAL SHARING OF EXPERTS – COMMON POOL INVOLVED IN META DEVELOPMENTS IN QA & QUALIFICATIONS

• INTER REGIONAL SHARING OF DEVELOPMENTS MAY ALLEVIATE RESOURCE INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES OF COUNTRY TO COUNTRY OR AGENCY TO AGENCY AND INVOLVE OTHER REGIONAL ACTORS.