The French NQF development and referencing to EQF

ASEM Symposium, Berlin February 27th – 28th 2012
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The « qualification » concept in the French context

According to the glossary of the Recommendation about EQF:

- "qualification" means a formal outcome of an assessment and validation process which is obtained when a competent body determines that an individual has achieved learning outcomes to given standards.

- Translation in French is « certification »
TVET Qualifications specificities

- Since the 70’s Tvet is defined through national programmes and since the 90’s implemented through regional plans
- Qualifications standards have a national value and can be delivered by private as public or sectors authorities for secondary and tertiary levels
- The qualification value deals with the « competences » evaluated (learning outcomes) according to the labour market needs and not the content of training or curriculum developed by colleges, schools, universities and all kinds of training centers.
- Qualifications are registered by a National commission in terms of levels and vocational fields and collected in a National Repertory which is considered as the French NQF
The Authority in charge of the French NQF
The National Committee for VET Qualification (CNCP)

- Representatives of the state (16)
- Social partners (5 employes, 5 employees)
- Chambers of Commerce (3)
- Regions (3)
- Experts (11)
- President and Général secretary

The CNCP was created by a Law in 2002. It is placed under the Prime minister’s responsibility for its policies and Ministry of Labour for logistics aspects.
A common language

- All qualifications must be awarded after initial, continuing as well as work integrated learning or after professional and personal experience through RPL
- They must be described in learning outcomes terms (competence based with a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes)
- They are classified by a 5 levels grid and 96 learning domains
- They must be related to the « ROME » support (skills and employment descriptions national directory)
## French Certifications Typology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Authorities</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Type of awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Qualification</td>
<td>Ministries</td>
<td>Pupils, students, adults LLL and VAE</td>
<td>Diplômas and degrees registered in RNCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Qualification</td>
<td>Ministries Branches</td>
<td>Yong people and adults LLL and VAE</td>
<td>Diplômas, titles CQP registered in RNCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Training Centres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licences for regulates activities</td>
<td>Organismes agréés par un ministère</td>
<td>Skilled workers and salaried</td>
<td>Habilitation, licences, certification Qualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firms awards</td>
<td>Lobbies and Firms organisations</td>
<td>Wide public</td>
<td>Certification given by firms or labels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selected in NQF
NQF Settlement since 2002

- Strong links with Europass tools
- Accompaniment of all the authorities in charge of qualification to fulfil the items in terms of learning outcomes
- Involvement of all stakeholders (ministries (i.e. HE), social partners, statisticians, regions, training institutions...) in the settlement through recurrent workshops to define a clear choice about qualifications which will be in and out of the NQF
The French NQF is used as a communication tool

- to permit exchanges and communication between
  - Enterprises, training centres and applicants
  - Countries in order to know what competencies are assessed through qualifications delivery
About referencing to EQF

- Main debates organised by CNCP are related to the lack of French qualifications for the EQF levels 1 and 2
- A specific group coordinated by CNCP is in charge of a common methodology with recurrent meetings during 2 years. All stakeholders participated in a Leonardo project in 2006–2008 (EQFnet Testing)
- Statistics institutions are integrated in the workshops
# Referencing to EQF

## FRENCH 5 levels grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades de Doctorat - Master</th>
<th>EQF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II + Grade Licence</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sans objet</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sans objet</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Agenda till referencing

- A classification approach since 1969
- A common commitment used since 1972
- A strong involvement of social partners about VET since the 80’s
- An interinstitutional committee (CNCP) structuring the NQF since 2002
- The official referencing to EQF since October 2010
- Actually a strong debate to set up another French levels grid of 1969
The CNCP Website:  www.cncp.gouv.fr