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10 years of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

What is the EQF and how does it work?

2008 **Launched**

The EQF is a common reference framework of eight levels based on **learning outcomes**.

2017 **Reviewed**




Framework of
eight levels

The EQF covers all types and levels of learning, and serves as a translation device between the different **National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs)** of participating countries.

What are the EQF's objectives?

The EQF aims to improve the transparency and comparability of people's qualifications.

It also aims to:

-  modernise education and training systems,
-  increase the employability, mobility and social integration of individuals,
-  link all types of learning and support the validation of learning outcomes.

What are learning outcomes?

- 1 Learning outcomes express what a person is expected to know, understand and is able to do.
- 2 They describe the content of qualifications, clarifying what is expected from a learner.
- 3 They support progression in learning, making it possible to compare and combine learning from different contexts (formal, non-formal or informal).

Which countries participate in the EQF?

39

countries currently participate in the EQF.

34

have already related their own NQFs to the EQF.

How was the EQF developed?



Stakeholders from the world of education/training, employment and civil society are involved in the development and implementation of the EQF and of NQFs.



All qualifications with an EQF level are underpinned by strong quality assurance mechanisms to ensure their content and level can be trusted.



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What are the benefits of the EQF?

Individuals (workers/learners) can...

...better understand their qualifications in terms of what they should know, understand and are able to do.

...understand the level of their qualification in all European countries and how it relates to others.

...more easily find a job or engage in further learning.

Education and training providers can...

...more easily understand the content, the level and therefore the value of qualifications of those who wish to continue their learning.

...more easily compare and assess qualifications from different countries and contexts.

Employers can...

...better understand what potential employees know, understand and are able to do.

...compare the qualifications of foreign applicants with national qualifications, to understand their relevance and how they match company or sector needs.

...more easily compare and interpret the qualifications of applicants from different countries and institutions.

Qualification recognition bodies can...

- ✓ ...access useful information to better assess qualifications from another country, in particular in relation to their level and content.
- ✓ ... more easily recognise foreign qualifications.



Sources

- EQF Recommendation: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017H0615\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017H0615(01)&from=EN)
- Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe: <https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en>
- Learning outcomes: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/learning-outcomes>
- Inventory on National Qualifications Framework: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/national-qualifications-framework-nqf/european-inventory>
- Register of Commission Expert Groups: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/>