

Educational Research Institute

# The sectoral approach to qualifications – qualifications frameworks, occupational standards, sector skills councils

Warsaw University of Technology | 20-21 June 2018

## QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS IN ACTIVE LEISURE

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THE RELEVANCE OF THE ACTIVE LEISURE  
SECTOR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION  
FRAMEWORK TO THE EQF (SIQAF)

# BLUEPRINT

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A quick overview ... active leisure is a term first used in 2008, and then defined through ESCO in 2015

*Active leisure is a combination of **fitness and outdoor-based activities** that are generally unstructured and non-competitive.*

*They promote active, healthy lifestyles through activities, events and exercise. They are commonly provided under the direction of qualified animators or instructors so that the activities are tailored to match the abilities of the participants and meet their needs in an enjoyable and safe way.*



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Active Leisure sector  
represented by EuropeActive  
(EHFA) since 2002



European Confederation of Outdoor  
Employers since 2004

- Occupational standards/European referencing since 2004. Fitness accreditation and EREPS since 2008
- Completed ESCO referencing of the sector in 2015 – including a **sector qualification framework** for active leisure – informally referenced to the EQF
- Active Leisure Alliance in 2012 and SSA in 2016



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Over 10 years of sector research **and** implementation

- 360° view of the sector – customers, employers, workers
- Social dialogue
- Market trends e.g. Deloitte
- Industry events
- Across the Commission & EP
- EU expert groups
- Civil society organisations
- Publications

Tracking trends and supporting growth,  
employment, entrepreneurship,  
skills development = mobility



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## Why?

- High levels of mobility
- High numbers of small and micro businesses
- Increasing numbers of independent professionals
- Identifying skills gaps and shortages
- Forecasting future skills needs for increasingly diverse range of products and services
- Moving closer to the health sector – principle role in promoting the importance of physical activity



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## What?

Our vision is to have quality-assured qualifications to provide our workers and managers with the skills they need In the right numbers, in the right places, and at the right time.

Over 200 experts have contributed to developing our occupational standards, systems and processes which are increasingly being used across Europe – and linking to the global situation. It has been an open, transparent process.



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# The missing link: international and sectoral qualifications

- **Supporting local, national & European industries & sectors**
  - *Matching labour market needs and HR development*
  - *Responsive education in a globalised work environment (iVET & cVET, LLL)*
- **Individual and national growth and prosperity**
- **The reality: 254 international/sectoral qualifications in use with deliberate link to the EQF**
  - *Need for quality assurance system*
  - *Informal links “weaken” the EQF*
  - *Labour market mobility across the EU*



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However, the outcome of the EQF Review didn't support any direct relationship between sectoral/international qualifications and the EQF.

### ***Council Recommendation of the EQF, May 2017***

(11) Support the setting up of voluntary procedures on the levelling of international qualifications through national qualification frameworks or systems and information exchange and consultation between Member States on those procedures to ensure consistency.



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## International qualification - definition

*An international qualification means a qualification awarded by a legally established international body (association, organisation, sector or company) or by a national body acting on behalf of an international body that is used in more than one country and that includes learning outcomes assessed with reference to standards established by an international body;*



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## SIQAF characteristics – recommendations to DG EMPL

- establish the “provenance” of the sector body
- responsibility and validity
- skills and human resources issues
- independence of standards-setting
- convincing and compelling quality assurance
- develop European/international qualification
- partner with NQF/national coordination point
- **respect sovereignty of national education systems**
- recognise individual achievement as the outcome

Concept presented to EQF Advisory Group



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Responsibility and validity

## Sector identification

- Engagement of its stakeholders
- Representativeness
- Research and understanding skills and human resources issues

Sector Qualification Framework

## Sector Skills Alliance

- Sector definition
- Occupational map
- Functional map
- Sector indicators
- Occupational descriptions
- Occupational standards and competence f'work

Sector Qualification Framework

## Certifying organisation (CO)

- Qualification in units of learning outcomes
- Levelling
- Assessment strategy
- Quality assurance
- Informal referencing to EQF/int. qual's.

Professional recognition/card

Student achieves national and international qualification

VET/HEI provider delivers qualification to national and sector CO requirements

NCP/NQF

National partner(s) submits sector qualification with CO



# BLUEPRINT

1. BLUEPRINT for skills cooperation and employment in Active Leisure – the long-term plan
2. Research EU28 on current use of qualifications based in Active leisure
3. Skills foresight surveys
4. Establish the European Certifying Organisation for Active Leisure
5. Review and update European qualifications for Personal Trainers and Outdoor Animators
6. Apply principles of ECVET and ECTS to the new qualifications



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7. Promoting benefits of the learning experience and employability (of young people) in Active Leisure
8. Validation of informal and non-formal learning in Active Leisure
9. Testing, trialling and refining development of new qualifications, awarding organisation and recognition of prior learning
10. Active leisure qualifications incorporated into NQF's
11. Recognition of individual achievement through a professional card system
12. Maintaining the role of the sector skills alliance for active leisure



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# Thank you



**[www.europeactive.eu](http://www.europeactive.eu)**



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