



HUMAN CAPITAL  
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## NQFs on the go: Allocation of qualifications to levels

Peer Learning Activity of the EQF Advisory Group, 16-17 March 2015

**Gábor Bay** – joined the development of the Hungarian Qualifications Framework at the National Labour Office in 2012. He was part of the team responsible for the linking of the qualifications listed in the National Vocational Qualifications Register. After the successful referencing of the HuQF in February 2015, he joined the Ministry of Human Capacities where he keeps on working on the implementation of the learning outcomes approach as well as on other measures addressing transition from vocational education and training to higher education. Between January 2014 and February 2015 he was a delegated member of the ASEM ME working group for innovative competences and entrepreneurship education.

**Jens Bjørnåvold** – has been working with European education and training issues since the mid-90s and has held posts both in the European Center for Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the European Commission. He is currently the Brussels representative of Cedefop, located to the European Commission, DG Employment. Mr. Bjornavold has been involved in developing and implementing the EU lifelong learning strategy, the Copenhagen process in vocational education and training, the Europass and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). In recent years he has also been involved in developing a European terminology on skills, competences and occupations (ESCO). Mr. Bjornavold has also coordinated and carried out numerous research projects, notably on the changing roles of qualifications and the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

**Brigitte Bouquet** – was appointed in November 2009 as “Rapporteur Général” of the French national qualifications authority in charge of registering the certifications in the National Qualification Framework. She is in charge of the registration of qualifications created by the ministries after common work with social partners or accredited Higher education qualifications. She is a member of the EQF Advisory Group, and is one of the representatives of this group in the board of the ESCO project. She is also a member of the EQF subgroup on international sectoral qualifications.

Her professional experience includes a variety of positions in public service. She was in charge of the supervision of public services in charge of employment. Within the ministry in charge of economy and employment, from 2006 to 2009, Brigitte Bouquet was in charge of coordinating all public awarding bodies in order to develop the validation of non-formal and informal experience (validation des acquis de l'expérience). She is graduated in Law (Université Paris II), has

a diploma from the Institute of Political Science in Paris and from ENA (the French national public service school).

**Eduarda Castel-Branco** – With the ETF (EU Agency) since 2003, Eduarda Castel-Branco is involved in country-specific projects and in thematic operations (employment and qualifications). Ms. Castel-Branco managed ETF activities in countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood (notably: Georgia, Morocco), and in candidate countries (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). She was a policy officer at DG EAC (European Commission). Since 2013, she is ETF's representative in the AG EQF. In 2015, her activities include support to the



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institutional setting of the Moroccan NQF and assistance to EQF Referencing of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**Yee Wah CHENG** – completed her undergraduate study in Hong Kong and postgraduate studies in Canada. Upon graduation, she worked in universities in Canada and Hong Kong until 2005. In 2006, she joined the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the development of the Qualifications Framework. She joined the Qualifications Framework Secretariat when the Government announced its set up and operation as an independent unit in the Vocational Training Council since 2009.

**Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak** – Project Leader, National Qualifications Framework project at the Educational Research Institute. On the staff of the Institute of Statistics and Demographics of the Warsaw School of Economics. She completed her studies in quantitative methods and information systems at the Warsaw School of Economics, where in 2003, she was awarded a doctorate. From 1997-1999 she worked in the Government Plenipotentiary's Office for the Reform of Social Security Systems. She worked with the Institute for Market Economics, as well as the World Bank and EOCED. In 2002-2009, she worked as a departmental director at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Social Policy (2004-2005) and in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (from January 2008 to July 2009). She directed projects, such as “Solidarity among the generations – 50+”, the law on bridging pensions, and laws regulating payments of capital pensions. In 2009, she was honoured with the Andrzej Bączkowski Award for “linking high qualifications to great engagement on behalf of the public good”.

**Prof. Ewa Chmielecka** – Bologna Expert. Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics, Director of its Department of Educational Policy. Expert at the Educational Research Institute in Warsaw, leader of the first stage of work on the National Qualifications Framework. Author of 140 articles and books on higher education systems, economics and the philosophy of science. Poland's representative on the EQF Advisory Group of the European Commission. Chaired the Working Group on the NQF for HE in Poland at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education; expert in national and international projects related to qualifications frameworks. Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences Committee "Ethics in Science" for the 2007-2010 term. Since June 2001, member of the Polish Accreditation Commission FPAKE. In 2009, she was awarded the title “Authority of the Year” by the Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland.

**Dr. Mike Coles** – is an international consultant in the field of qualifications systems. He works on NQF design and implementation, regional qualifications framework development and validation arrangements He is involved in supporting the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the ASEAN Qualifications Regional Framework.

**Sandra D'Agostino** – Since March 1996, I have been working as a researcher at ISFOL, the Italian public research institute that assists the Ministry of Labour in designing, monitoring and evaluating policies in the fields of VET, labour market, welfare. From 2012, I have been coordinating the “Methodologies and Tools for Skills and Transitions” Unit (about 60 people), that is in charge of research on different topics: tools for young people's transition to work (apprenticeships and traineeships); the establishment of the Italian certification system with the validation of non-formal and informal learning; quality assurance of the VET system and accreditation of learning providers; European tools for transparency and participation to the European networks. In particular I coordinated the last phase of the realization of the first Italian



referencing process, presenting the Report to the EQF Advisory Group in May 2013. We are now working on the second phase in the Unit, in order to increase the number of Italian qualifications referenced to the EQF.

**Sarah Daepf** – is a Project Manager at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland. She belongs to the team that implements the Swiss National Qualifications Framework for Vocational and Professional Education and Training (NQF VPET) and is closely involved in writing the referencing report to the EQF. She holds an MA in English Literature and Linguistics and a BA in Sports from the University of Berne.

**Horacy Dębowski** – is an expert at the Educational Research Institute (IBE). Member of the National Team of ECVET Experts in Poland. Lecturer at the Polish-Japanese Institute of Technology. Main fields of research: qualifications frameworks, vocational education and training, lifelong learning, and industrial relations. Participated in many research projects implemented by Polish Ministries, author of policy papers and documents prepared for national and regional authorities, and the European Commission. In 2010-2013, Leader of the NQF Team at IBE responsible for the preparation of the Polish Referencing Report submitted to the EQF Advisory Group, development of the methodology of including qualifications into the national qualifications framework and designing credit accumulation and transfer principles for the Polish qualifications system. M.A. in Economics from the Warsaw School of Economics.

**Mirjam de Jong** – is specialist in qualifications systems at the European Training Foundation. She has been involved in VET throughout her working career, starting as practitioner and as a teacher and trainer. She worked for a Dutch sector skills council and executed many international co-operation projects. At ETF, she supports reform of qualifications systems in Albania and Serbia and in a regional project in the Southern Mediterranean.

**András Derényi** – is a research fellow in the field of higher education at the Institute for Educational Research and Development in Budapest. He serves as the national representative responsible for validation in the EQF AG. In the past few years, he has been engaged in running R&D projects for establishing the HuQF and introducing it in HE, as well as for elaborating a model of validation of NFIL for Hungarian HEIs. He was actively involved in the process of referencing the HuQF to the EQF.

**Ewa Dudek** – Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of National Education, responsible for coordinating activities of the next EU financial perspective, international issues and the preparation of a free textbooks for primary school first-graders. A teacher for 16 years, she graduated from the University of Warsaw with a degree in Polish philology after completing teacher's training college.

Since 2007, she worked in the Department of Structural Funds at the Ministry, responsible for supervising ESF financed educational competition projects. Affiliated with the Centre for Education Development since September 2010, she coordinated a project on pedagogical supervision and later became its deputy director for ESF financed systemic projects implemented with the Ministry of National Education on core curriculum implementation, pedagogical supervision, teacher training as well as e-textbooks and Scholaris – a platform for educational resources.



**Michał Federowicz** – An associate professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences, he is the director of the Educational Research Institute and project leader of "Quality and effectiveness of education - strengthening of institutional research capabilities". He graduated in sociology from the Institute of Sociology of the University of Warsaw (1984), after which he joined the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN). After receiving a doctoral degree in 1992, he studied at Cornell and Harvard Universities (the Centre for European Studies, Department of Government). In 2005, he earned a postdoctoral degree in the Humanities, at the same time leading the Unit of the Sociology of Politics and Economics at the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN).

In 1999, he became the coordinator for the Polish research section of PISA (the Programme for International Student Assessment). In 2005, he founded the Research Group on Cross-Disciplinary Education Studies (PAN), within which, in August 2007, he brought together a group of experts who went on to develop provisions for the new core curriculum. In 2008, he took part in the work on the new core curriculum with the Ministry of National Education.

**Susanne Lonscher-Räcke** – Since September 2014, she has been working as Seconded National Expert at the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, in the Unit Skills and Qualifications. She is in charge of the coordination of the EQF Advisory Group. She comes from the Ministry of Education of Hamburg, department for curriculum and standard development, where she was in charge of European Education Policy and Programmes. She was a member of the Commission of the German Länder for European Education Policy, a decision-preparing body for the Ministers, treating all European educational developments, among those the EQF. She planned and managed projects at the national and European level on innovation and quality in education.

**Sandra Müller** – is a Project Manager at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland. She belongs to the team that implements the Swiss National Qualifications Framework for Vocational and Professional Education and Training (NQF VPET). She holds a PhD in History from the University of Zurich.

**Agata Poczmańska** – Specialist for research and analysis at the Educational Research Institute working on qualifications design and development. She worked at Cedefop (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) for 9 months as a trainee in the Area of Enhanced Cooperation in VET and LLL where she identified and analyzed international qualifications and the impact assessments of study visits. Earlier, she worked for the Polish Craft Association (Department for Coordination of European Affairs), representing the interests of Polish craft businesses and SMEs to international organizations and EU institutions, as well as conducting research on Polish and European economy, mainly relating to SMEs. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Journalism and Political Sciences of the University of Warsaw.

**Dr. Thomas Reglin M.A.** – Deputy director of the Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training – Forschungsinstitut Betriebliche Bildung (f-bb) gGmbH, Nuremberg, [www.f-bb.de](http://www.f-bb.de). Areas of research: Initial and advanced vocational training, European transparency instruments, esp. EQF/NQF and ECVET. Provision of services in the context of the development of the German Qualifications Framework – Deutscher Qualifikationsrahmen (DQR) since 2007.



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**Tomasz Saryusz-Wolski** – NQF project expert, Bologna Experts' Team Member, docent at the Technical University of Łódź, director of the Centre for International Education of the Technical University of Łódź providing education in foreign languages (English and French). He works on issues of internationalisation and introducing innovative educational methods in higher education. He is an expert on the ECTS and has coordinated several national and international projects. From 2006 to 2010, he represented Poland in the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG). He is an expert at the Educational Research Institute for the National Qualifications Framework project. Member of Polish ECVET Expert Team and ECVET Users' Group. His work on the qualifications framework in Poland focuses on validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired outside of the university, as well as the design and implementation of degree programmes based on learning outcomes.

**Wojciech Stęchły** – Chief researcher in the national qualifications framework project at Educational Research Institute in Warsaw. Policy analyst specializing in lifelong learning and vocational education and training. Areas of expertise: qualifications standards, credit accumulation and transfer, curriculum design, levelling qualifications, vocational education reforms in Poland.

**Pauline Sutton** – Project Officer, Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. Currently advising and supporting organisations (educational and business) about the process of credit rating and allocation of levels for learning programmes. A qualified teacher/trainer with many years' experience developing and delivering accredited courses and managing quality assurance processes and continuous professional development programmes.

**Erzsébet Szlamka** – worked for the National Institute of Vocational and Adult Education, then for the Ministry of Human Capacities, where she organised an international conference on EQF. She now works for the Educational Authority as a qualifications framework expert. Erzsébet Szlamka is a member of the team developing the Hungarian Qualifications Framework, where she is responsible for international cooperation and the harmonisation of NQF-related projects. She is a member of the EQF Advisory Group and she also participated in the Polish referencing process as an international expert.