

Advance notice of International Qualifications Frameworks Conference

15 April 2010 in Dublin Castle

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) are jointly organising a Bologna Experts conference to be held on 15 April 2010 in Dublin Castle, Dublin. The conference is provisionally entitled: ***‘National Qualifications Frameworks and the European Overarching Frameworks: Supporting Lifelong Learning in European Education and Training’***. The conference is aimed at national education and training institutions and agencies; international education and training agencies responsible for developing national qualifications frameworks and verifying compatibility/referencing against the Bologna Framework and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) respectively; ENIC/NARIC representatives; European representative and policy bodies; quality assurance agencies; professional bodies and student representatives.

The conference will, *inter alia*:

- Take stock of the development of national higher education frameworks and national lifelong learning frameworks in Europe;
- Consider the importance of, and evaluate progress on, establishing links between the national frameworks and the Framework for Qualifications in the European Higher Education Area (the ‘Bologna Framework’) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF);
- Consider issues around the governance of qualifications frameworks;
- Consider how the compatibility of the Bologna Framework and EQF can deliver permeability between vocational education and training (VET) and higher education and training to support a lifelong learning culture across Europe;
- Discuss how sectoral qualifications frameworks can link to, or articulate, national qualifications frameworks and meta-frameworks;
- Evaluate how the Bologna Framework and the EQF relate to EC Directives and their classification of qualifications; and
- Reflect on the development of frameworks in a global context and their use as tools for the recognition of qualifications.

A context paper will be made available to participants in advance of the conference, to inform workshop discussions at the event.

Please note the date in your diaries. Further details, including invitations, will be made available in early 2010.