

“EQF referencing: process and reports – challenges and open questions”

Peer Learning Seminar organised by the EQF-Ref project

30.-31.3.2011 - Sofia, BG

Draft Programme

Wednesday, 30th March 2011

19:00	Get together – dinner
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Thursday, 31st March 2011

09:30	Registration and coffee
10:00	Opening address Representative of the EC, Cedefop (not confirmed) Eduard Staudecker, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (AT) Representative of National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (BG)
10:15	Key note speech “EQF referencing – experiences and activities” Mike Coles
11:00	EQF-Ref project – www.EQF-Ref.eu Short presentation
11:15	Coffee break
11:45	EQF referencing reports - proposal for structure and content developed by the EQF-Ref project Presentation (all partners) and discussion
13:00	Lunch
14:00	EQF referencing – Challenges and open questions 3 workshops – to discuss how to address Criteria 2, 4 and 7 in the Referencing Report as well as related issues
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Panel discussion: “EQF referencing – What happens afterwards?”
17:00	End of the seminar

Workshops

Workshop 1: How to address Criterion 2 in the Referencing Report?

Criterion 2 for referencing national qualifications levels to the EQF states that there must be a clear and demonstrable link between the qualifications levels in the NQF and the level descriptors of the EQF.

This workshop will explore and discuss transparent ways of responding to this criterion and will address the following questions:

- How to best indicate this “clear and demonstrable link” to the international audience?
- How to address the concept of “best fit”?
- How to present the relationship between the NQF and the qualifications framework for Higher Education?
- How to deal with the fact that qualifications that have been considered as "equal" so far (for example, the upper secondary school leaving certificate) will be related to different EQF levels in different countries?

Presentations: (to be confirmed)

Chair:

Carita Blomqvist, FNBE (FI)

Workshop 2: How to address Criterion 4 in the Referencing Report?

Criterion 4 is related to transparent procedures for inclusion of qualifications in the national qualifications framework or for describing the place of qualifications in the national qualification system. A crucial question in this context is related to providing arguments and evidence when allocating qualifications to the NQF. This workshop will address the following questions:

- How and in what detail should evidence be provided in the EQF referencing report?
- How to apply the concept of “best fit” when classifying qualifications in an NQF?
- How to balance technical analysis (comparing descriptors) and social approach (e.g. consulting stakeholders)?
- How to balance learning outcomes and input?
- How to ensure quality in this process?

Presentations:

Sabine Tritscher-Archan, ibw (AT): Criteria and procedures for classifying qualifications in the Austrian NQF and experiences from the EQF project ZOOM

Chair:

Karin Luomi-Messerer, 3s (AT)

Workshop 3: How to Address Criterion 7 in the Referencing Report?

Criterion 7 is related to the involvement of international experts. This workshop will address the following questions:

- What professional profile do they have?
- What systems do they represent?
- What do they need to know?
- What is their role in the process? At which stage of the process are they involved?
- How to combine different assessments from different experts?
- Are there other also ways of international cooperation in the referencing process?

Presentations:

- Ministry of Education
- Social partners

Chair:

Georg Hanf, BIBB (DE)

Panel discussion

Panel discussion: “EQF referencing – What happens afterwards?”

This panel discussion will take into account issues from the workshops and will address the following questions:

- When is an update of the EQF referencing report needed?
- How to consult and interact with stakeholders in the short and long term?
- What to consider post referencing in terms of building trust in the decisions made?

Participants:

- Eduard Staudecker, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (AT)
- Seija Rasku, Ministry of Education (FI)
- Stefan Skimutis, Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (SE)
- (to be confirmed)
- (to be confirmed)

Moderator: (to be confirmed)