

# Aligning national against European Qualification Frameworks: the principles of self certification

Referencing national against European Frameworks:  
The Austrian experience

## Referencing national against European Frameworks: The Austrian experience

1. Austrian education system
2. Austrian National Qualification Framework
3. Challenges

## 1. Austrian Education System

1. Primary school
  - . common elementary education for all pupils
2. Secondary stage I covers years 5 to 8 (pupils aged 10 to 14)
  - . Lower secondary school provides general education in coeducational classes
  - . academic secondary school

## 1. Austrian Education System

3. Secondary stage II covers years 9 to 13 (pupils aged 15 to 18)
  - . School leaving exam
  - . Completion entitles graduates to attend a university, University of Applied Sciences
4. Tertiary education
  - . Basically free Admission to tertiary education
  - . Sometimes an aptitude test is hold in specific study courses

## 2. Austrian National Qualification Framework

### Timetable

1. **2006:**
  - . Austrian national Government decides to implement NQF
2. **2007:**
  - . Fact-finding Phase
  - . Informations- and public relations
  - . Analysis from ordered studies
  - . Draft of **Consultationpaper**
3. **2008:**
  - . public Consultation
  - . Evaluation of commentaries by experts
  - . Report to the national governing board

## 2. Austrian National Qualification Framework

### 4. Until 2010

Fixing basic conditions for NQF

**Assignment of all formal qualifications to the NQF.**

Parallel: first steps to represent non-formal and informal qualifications in the NQF;

Establishing a „**National Agency**“;

## 2. Austrian National Qualification Framework

### Organisation

- “ Project group in Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and Ministry of Science and Research
  - . coordination und strategic planning
  - . Proposals for structure and design of NQR
  - . Stakeholder involved
  
- “ National Governing Board
  - . Representatives from all Ministries and social partners
  - . Strategic decisions
  
- “ 2 Task Forces in Ministry of Science and Research

## 2. Austrian National Qualification Framework

### Composition

- “ 8 Reference levels
- “ Dynamic Framework
  1. EQR Table
  2. Explanation table (additional Austrian specific information to EQF descriptors)
  3. Complementary table (for better characterization of some qualification levels)
- “ Learning outcomes in NQF

## 3. Challenges

- “ Use of definition and terms
- “ Static versus dynamic framework
- “ Mistrust between stakeholders
- “ Added value for stakeholders?

## 3. Challenges

- “ Compatibility Dublin descriptors and NQF
- “ Which qualification in which level ?
- “ Not persons, but qualifications are submitted to NQF
- “ Too little stakeholder involvement in developing NQF?

# Thank you for your attention!

For more information: <http://www.bmwf.gv.at/wissenschaft/national/nqr/>

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