



Ministry of Science
Technology and Innovation

The Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area

Mogens Berg

Chairman of the Bologna Working Group



History

- Copenhagen Bologna seminar, March 2003
- Berlin Bologna Conference 2003
- WG on qualifications framework 2004
- Copenhagen Bologna seminar II, January 2005
- Bergen Bologna Conference, May 2005



Qualifications Framework: Berlin communiqué

- Member States to elaborate a Framework of comparable and compatible qualifications for their higher education systems.....
- Elaborate an overarching framework of qualifications for the EHEA
-Shorter higher education.....
- Perspective of LLL



Basic

- Qualifications are national according to national legislation
- Qualifications are articulated/located in national qualifications frameworks
- The 40 national frameworks are linked together through an alignment to an overarching framework of the EHEA



Ministry of Science
Technology and Innovation

National Qualifications Frameworks

- UK
- Scotland
- Ireland
- Denmark



National Qualifications Frameworks

Definition:

The single description at national level....of an education system, which is internationally understood and through which all qualifications and other learning achievements in HE may be described and related to each other in a coherent way and which defines the relationship between HE qualifications.



National Qualifications Frameworks

- all qualifications
- systematic description
- coherent relationship
- internationally understood



Why National Qualifications Frameworks

- Make explicit the purpose and aim of qualifications
- Delineate point of integration and overlap
- Provide a context for review and development of existing qualifications
- Provide a context for the design of new qualifications



Principle elements

- Learning outcomes
- Competences
- Levels
- Credits
- Workload
- Profile



Advices

- The development and review process for producing good NQFs are most effective when they involve all relevant stakeholders
- A NQF should indentify a clear nationally agreed set of purposes
- NQF should explicitly link to academic standards and to quality assurance systems (institutional/national)



Framework for EHEA

- The EHEA framework is an overarching framework; a meta-framework or a framework for frameworks
- Not all national qualifications will correspond to the completion of the major cycles in the overarching framework



Why overarching framework ?

International transparency

International recognition of qualifications

International mobility of learners and
graduates



Ministry of Science
Technology and Innovation

How overarching frameworks

Cycles

Descriptors of qualifications and learning
outcomes

Credit ranges in ECTS



Cycles

Three principle cycles:

First cycle (bachelor, licencié etc.)

Second cycle (master etc.)

Third cycle (Ph.D. etc.)

Additional

Short cycle (within the first cycle)



Ministry of Science
Technology and Innovation

Descriptors of qualifications and learning outcomes

Dublin descriptors (generic)

- Knowledge and understanding
- applying knowledge and understanding
- making judgements
- communication skills
- learning skills

Not subject specific



Credit ranges in ECTS

Short cycle: approx. 120 ECTS

First cycle: 180-240 ECTS

Second cycle: 90-120 ECTS

Third cycle : looking for Salzburg



Recommendations and proposals

- The EHEA framework should consist of three main cycles, with additional provision for a short cycle within the first cycle
- The Dublin descriptors are adopted as the cycle descriptors
- Guidelines for the range of ECTS associated with the completion of each cycle
- Responsibility for the maintenance and development of the framework rests with BFUG



Alignment of NQF to the EHEA-framework

- No external control but trust building
- Minimum criteria for the verification that a NQF are compatible with the EHEA framework
- Procedures for self-certification of compatibility
- Role of Quality Assurance



Criteria for verification 1

- The NQF and the body/bodies responsible for its development are designated by the national ministry for HE
- The NF and its qualifications are demonstrably based on learning outcomes and the qualifications are linked to ECTS credits
- The procedures for inclusion of qualifications in the NF is transparent



Criteria for verification 2

- DS
- There is a clear and demonstrable link between the qualifications in the NF and the cycle qualification descriptors of the European framework
- The responsibilities of the domestic parties to the NF are clearly determined and published



Procedures for self-certification 1

- The competent national body/bodies shall self-certify the compatibility of the NF with the European framework
- The self-certification and the evidence supporting it shall be published



Procedures for self-certification 2

- ENIC/NARIC shall maintain a public listing of States that have completed the self-certification process
- DS
- All signatories will complete the self-certification process 2010



NQF and transparency instruments

Purposes:

- Improve the national and international recognition of qualifications
- Advance transparency
- Improve the mobility of qualified citizens



Diploma Supplement

- DS will be able to locate qualifications against precise national and European frameworks
- The national framework shall be referenced in all DS
- The completion of the self-certification process shall be noted on DS issued subsequently



Lifelong learning perspective

- Focus on the individual learner
- Challenge the traditional boundaries between different education sectors
- Similar developments in Bologna and Copenhagen Processes
- Lisbon strategy
- European Commission plans for a comprehensive EQF