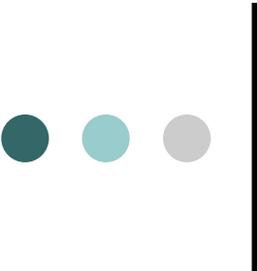# WORKING GROUP 4
Qualification Frameworks in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes
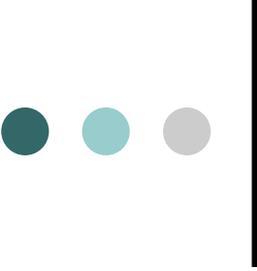
Chair   Séan Ó Foghlú
Rapporteur: Ian McKenna

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes
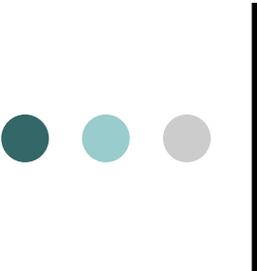
Introduction

- Need to come to an understanding of where each of the European developments are at;
- Different Frameworks at different stages of development – Bologna (Well developed), Copenhagen (some developments) and Lisbon (initial steps)
- Those involved need to work closely with each other;
- EU smaller than Europe – Copenhagen and Bologna processes have members other than EU members

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

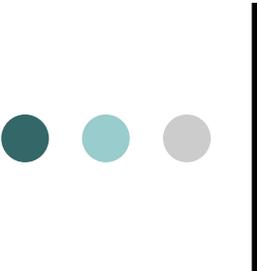*How do we increase understanding?*

- Need to publish all background papers
- Need for opportunity for discussion at national level
- Need for opportunity for discussion at international level;
- Need for common terminology

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

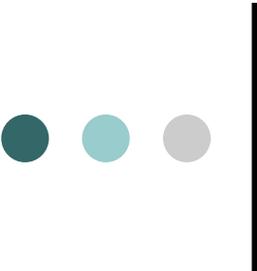*How do we bring Framework Processes to-gether?*

- EU Commission of the Lisbon Framework is key in this task;

- Expert Group is a good initial step;

- Take good practice from both the Copenhagen and Bologna processes to maximise stakeholder involvement;

- Need to ensure that countries in the Bologna Process, but not in EU/ Lisbon process are included;

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

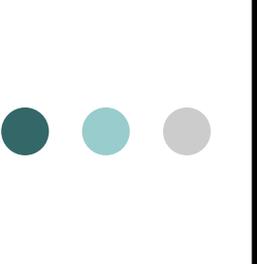*Why bring the Frameworks to-gether?*

- Coherence of a framework for all learning would support Life-Long Learning in a very real sense;
- Single European labour market;
- One State's higher education is another State's VET;
- If too many frameworks, there is a real danger of public mis-understanding and disconnection;

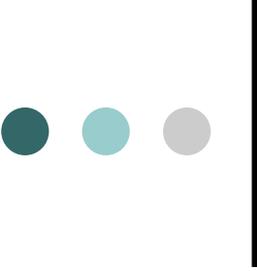# QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

What common features exist?

- This conference is first occasion for this discussion to commence;

- Key elements of the Bologna Framework – 3 cycles – need to accommodated within the Lisbon Framework;

- Levels/ cycles have different meanings, but it is possible to overcome;

- Copenhagen/ Bologna handle the sectoral involvement differently

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

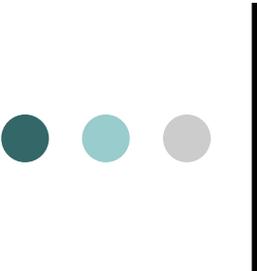*What common features exist? (CONT'D)*

- Credit accumulation and transfer needs to be enabled by these developments;

- Common credit accumulation and transfer system should be in place for Life-Long Learning;

- Common features mean that the proposed EQF should be robust and not just pitched at the lowest common denominator;

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

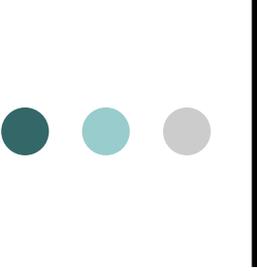*How do we promote co-operation between HE and VET?*

- Irish presidency conference is a good start;
- Lisbon framework is key;
- EUROPASS initiative is critical;
- Single credit accumulation and transfer system is needed;
- Consideration to integrate work of ENICs/NARICs, NRP and National EUROPASS Centres
- Bottom-up co-operation between HE and VET needed;

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

How do we promote co-operation between HE and VET? (CONT'D)

- EUA/ EURASHE can play an key role in encouraging local co-operation;

- Care is needed to ensure that institutions are not over-burdened and for HEIs, the Bologna agenda is priority;

QFs in Bologna, Copenhagen and Lisbon Processes

Conclusion

- Strong support for developments
- Lack of available information at present;
- Time and space need for discussion;
- Group was of the opinion that the overarching framework should facilitate and not dominate national frameworks;
- Important to promote co-operation between HE and VET;