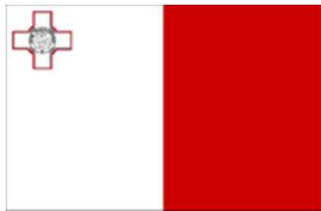


Meeting  
The Latvian Qualifications Framework, Riga 2011



What is the added value of a  
Qualifications Framework?  
The experience of **Malta**.



Dr James Calleja  
Chief Executive  
Malta Qualifications Council  
National Commission for Higher Education



# The Process

- 2005 Publication of Legal Notice establishing eight level descriptors for a national qualifications framework
- 2005 setting up of the Malta Qualifications Council
- 2006 setting up of a National Commission for Higher Education and the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education
- 2007 Launching of the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF)
- 2009 Referencing of MQF to the EQF and the QF-EHEA

# The Process

- June 2011 amendment to the **Education Act** will merge the Malta Qualifications Council and the National Commission for Higher Education.

The amendment is expected to include 3 Legal Notices which will legislate:

# The Process

- (a) the validation of informal and non-formal learning (at all levels of education)
- (b) The Malta Qualifications Framework (descriptors/self-certification)
- (c) Accreditation, Licensing and Quality Assurance of all public and private Further and Higher Education Institutions and Programmes

# New Agency

- To provide strategic policies for further and higher education
- To promote and maintain the MQF
- To accredit, quality assure and license all further and higher education institutions and programmes
- To level-rate qualifications
- To assist training providers in establishing self-certification processes
- To recognise international programmes
- To quality assure 'outreach' and on-line programmes
- To establish, publish and promote the use of Occupational (Competence) Standards
- Review from time-to-time national reform programmes
- To assist training providers: design of qualifications, assessment and certification
- To promote Lifelong Learning

# Malta Qualifications Framework

comprehensive and validating all learning



8	DOCTORAL DEGREE		8
7	MASTER'S DEGREE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE		7
6	BACHELOR'S DEGREE		6
5	UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE	FOUNDATION DEGREE VET HIGHER DIPLOMA	5
4	MATRICULATION LEVEL ADVANCED LEVEL INTERMEDIATE LEVEL	VET DIPLOMA	4(d)
3	GENERAL EDUCATION LEVEL 3 SEC grade 1-5	VET LEVEL 3	3(c)
2	GENERAL EDUCATION LEVEL 2 SEC grade 6-7	VET LEVEL 2	2(b)
1	GENERAL EDUCATION LEVEL 1  SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE	VET LEVEL 1	1(a)



# European Education Reform



## Lisbon Strategy/EU 2020

Bologna  
Process



European  
Qualifications  
Framework

Copenhagen  
Process

HE

NQF x 27

VET

LLL

# 4 Key indicators

## **QUALITY**

home-grown / international programmes

## **TRANSPARENCY**

Re-writing of qualifications

## **TRANSFERABILITY**

Vertical and horizontal

## **PROGRESSION**

No dead-ends



# MQF: an added value

1. Formulation of new policies in the design and application of qualifications in the context of general education, labour market needs and challenges, economic growth and social cohesion.
  - Malta Qualifications Framework (June 2007)
  - Quality Assurance Policy (June 2007)
  - A VET system within NQF (June 2007)
  - Descriptors of Key Competences in the MQF (2007)
  - Validating Informal and Non-formal education (June 2008)
  - Referencing Report (September 2009)
  - **An Awards system for Malta's NQF (October 2010)**

# MQF: an added value

## 2. Adopting/adapting/communicating European tools in and challenges for skills, competences and learning

**EQF**

**EQARF**

**ESG**

**ECTS**

**ECVET**

**COPENHAGEN PROCESS**

**BOLOGNA PROCESS**

**EUROPASS**

**CERTIFICATE SUPPLEMENT**

**DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT**

**REFERENCING REPORT**

# MQF: an added value

3. Assessing vocational education and training qualifications and higher education in the context of holistic education and labour market needs

**Accreditation + Quality Assurance + Licensing  
of all further and higher education programmes and  
institutions**

# MQF: an added value

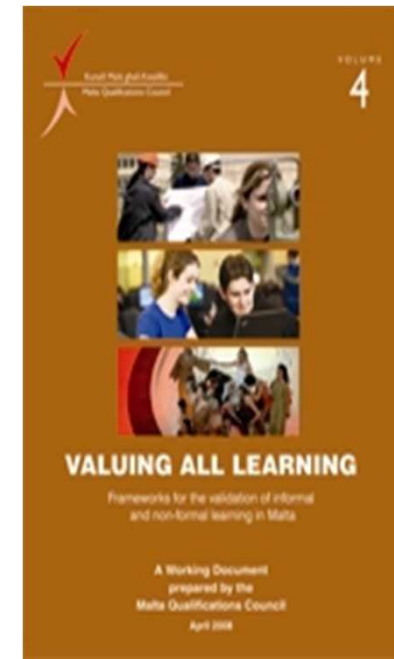
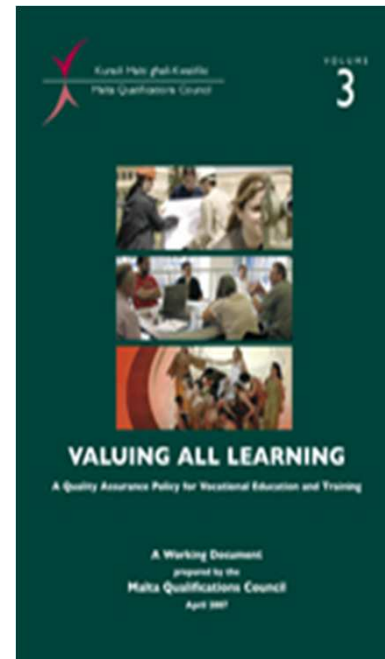
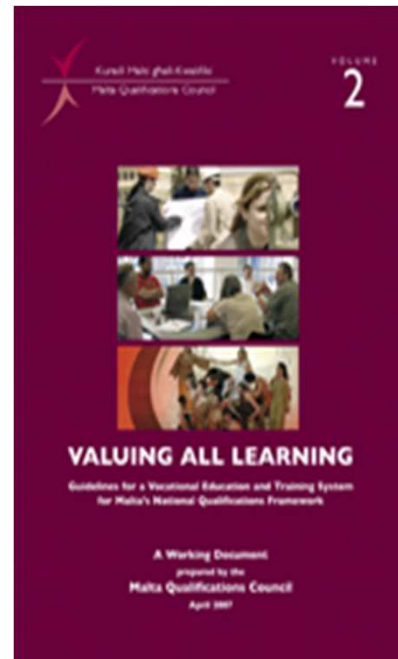
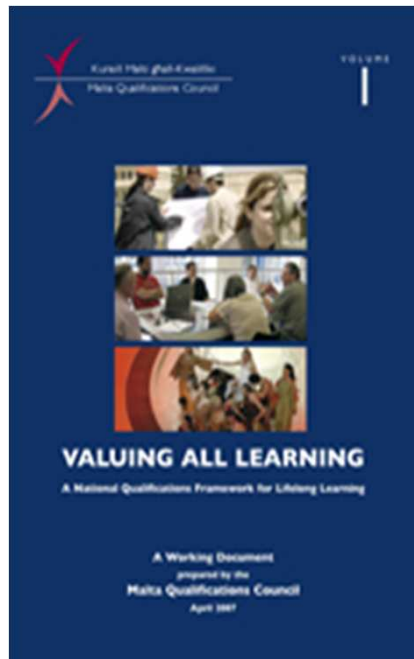
## 4. Raising the profile and visibility of vocational education and training

### HOW?

#### ESF projects 2010-2013

- VQPACK → Making VET visible in Compulsory Education
- SKILLS + → Writing Occupational Standards in 9 sector areas
- SPARQ → Supporting the relevance and quality of education in Malta  
(QA/Guidance/Forecasting Skills Gaps)

# Policy Documents



# Secondary Education School Certificate



The image shows a sample of a Secondary Education School Certificate. It is a white document with a circular pattern in the background. At the top left is the coat of arms of Malta. The text is in both Maltese and English. It includes fields for the college name, student name, student ID, start date, date of birth, and certificate number. Below these fields is a line for a signature and the text 'Dan jiċċertifika li' (This is to certify that). The certificate is awarded to students who have successfully completed secondary education with an overall achievement defined as 'Distinction'. At the bottom, there are three signature lines for the College Principal, Director General, and Head of School.

**Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni, Kultura, Żgħażaġh u Sport**  
*Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport*

**Direttorat għal Kwalità u Standards fl-Edukazzjoni**  
*Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education*

**Kulleġġ (Skola)** *College (School)*

Isem l-Istudent: *Student Name:*  
Karta tal-Identità: *Student I.D.:*  
Data tat-Twelid: *Date of Birth:*

Data tal-Bidu: *Start Date:*  
Ċertifikat: *Certificate:*

Dan jiċċertifika li  
*This is to certify that*

temm b'suċċess l-Edukazzjoni Sekondarja b'kisbiet ġenerali meqjusa bhala  
*has successfully completed Secondary Education with an overall achievement defined as*

**Distinction**

Il-Kunsill Malti għall-Kwalifiki jqis dan iċ-Ċertifikat bhala tal-Ewwel Livell tal-Qafas Malti tal-Kwalifiki u tal-Qafas Ewropew tal-Kwalifiki għat-Tagħlim Tul il-Majja.  
*The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Certificate to be at Level 1 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.*

Principal tal-Kulleġġ *College Principal*      Direttur Ġenerali *Director General*      Kap tal-iskola *Head of School*  
Direttorat għal Kwalità u Standards fl-Edukazzjoni  
*Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education*

## MQC Level 1 Qualification

*A record of the student's performance throughout the five years of secondary education based on:*

- Attendance
- Formal Education
- Personal Qualities
- Non-Formal Education
- Informal Education

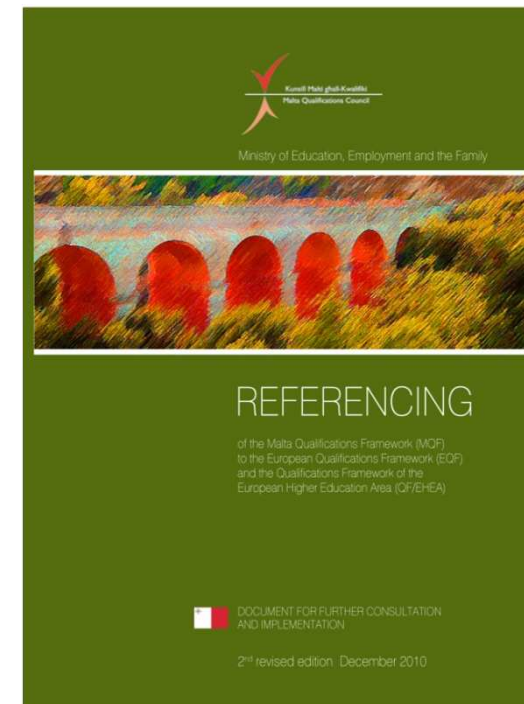
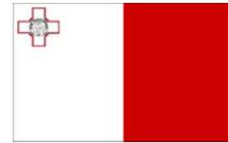
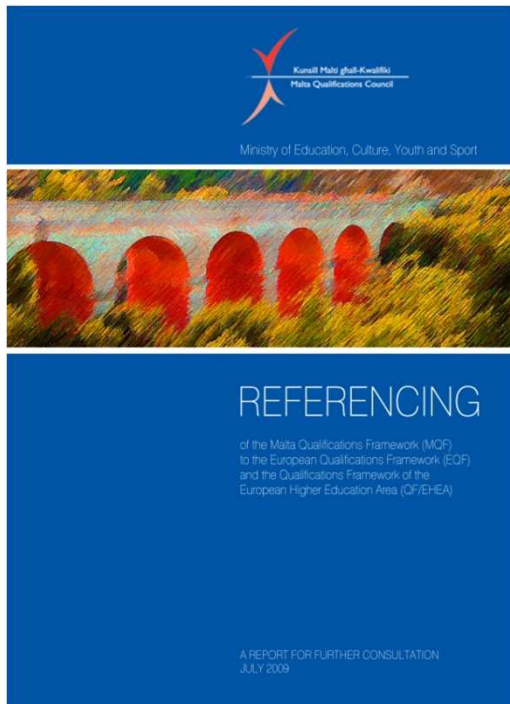
# MQF : added value

## **AWARDS POLICY**

## **MQF Levels**

Academic Higher Education Awards	5 – 8
Higher VET Awards	5 - 8
VET Awards	1 - 4
CPDs	5 – 7
Customized Awards	1 – 6
Work-based Awards	1 – 5
School Awards	1 – 4
Legacy Awards (VET)	1 – 5
Legacy Awards (HE/General Ed)	1 - 8

# Referencing the MQF to the EQF and the QF/EHEA



## Referencing Report Malta 2010 and 2011

### Meeting 2 EU Targets : 2010 and 2012



# The Referencing Report's Structure

<b>Part 1:</b> European Education Reform	<b>Part 2:</b> The Malta Qualifications Framework
<b>Part 3:</b> Referencing the MQF to the EQF and to the QF/EHEA	<b>Part 4:</b> Beyond Referencing

# EQF: the link to other frameworks

EQF Level	MQF Level	QF-EHEA Level	SCQF Level	QCF Level	INFQ Level	TQF Level	NZ NQF Level	SA NQF Level
8	8	3rd cycle	12	8	10	10	10	8
7	7	2nd cycle	11	7	9	9	9	7
						8	8	
6	6	1st cycle	10	6	8	7	7	6
			9		7			
5	5	short cycle	8	5	6	6	6	5
			7	4			5	
4	4		6	3	5	5	4	4
3	3		5	2	4	4	3	3
2	2		4	1	3	3	2	2
						2		
1	1		3	E3	2	1	1	1
					1			
			2					
			1					

# Malta's 10 overarching principles

- 1. 8-levels: parity of esteem between VET and general education**
- 2. Credit system**
- 3. Learning Outcomes**
- 4. Assessment/Self certification**
- 5. Key Competences**
- 6. School Leaving Certificate**

- 7. VINFL in MQF Level 2 and 3**
- 8. Qualifications in MQF Level 4 and 5**
- 9. ONE Higher Education Area**
- 10. Agreement endorsed by the QA Agency**

# MQF Level Descriptors

- **Identify the level of difficulty;**
- **Demonstrate gradual progression;**
- **All forms of learning;**
- **More detailed than the EQF Level Descriptors; and**
- **Clear link with the level descriptors of the EQF and the QF/EHEA**

# Transparent Level Rating Procedures

## Formal Qualifications

<b>Locally-designed</b>	<b>Provided by a foreign awarding body</b>
<p>Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- level of difficulty;</li><li>- workload in credits;</li><li>- learning outcomes;</li><li>- Quality Assurance;</li><li>- method of assessment;</li><li>- comparative assessment;</li><li>- consultation with the Designated Authority/Board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- recognition</li><li>- level of difficulty at the country of origin;</li><li>- the level compared to the EQF</li></ul> <p>-</p>

# The Role of Stakeholders

## **New Responsibilities:**

- Consultation;
- Project participation;
- Validation of Informal and Non-Formal Learning;
- Sector Skills Councils;
- Design of Qualifications; and
- Assessment of Learning Outcomes


# www.mqc.gov.mt

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Malta Qualifications Council Logo




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- Documents & Publications
- Promotional Material
- Diary of Events
- Events Registration
- Glossary of Terms




Malta Qualifications Framework




Standards & Qualifications



Accreditation & Validation



Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC)



Office of the Mutual

### Latest News & Events

**National Colloquium on the Validation of Non-Formal and Informal learning**  
04.05.2009

The Malta Qualifications Council organized a national colloquium on the validation of non-formal and informal learning on ...

[READ MORE](#)

**MQC hosts VQTS II National Workshop**  
03.02.2009

The Malta Qualifications Council hosted the VQTS II (Vocational Qualification Transfer System)

# Challenges (1)

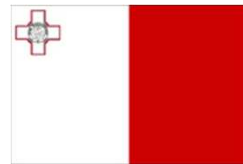
1. **More Consultation** + Information Meetings (NCP for EQF)
2. The writing of **Learning Outcomes** (*Bologna Seminars*)
3. **Level Rating** of Local and Foreign, old and new qualifications on the basis of:
  - Learning Outcomes
  - Credit system/Self Certification
  - Quality Label - Protocol



# Challenges (2)

4. Writing of Occupational Standards and setting up of Sector Skills Units (in progress)
5. Formulation of legal framework for the Validation of Informal and Non-Formal Learning and implementation (legal notice/Secondary School Leaving Certificate)
6. Accreditation of all F&HE Institutes and Programmes (Q2/2011)
7. Malta Register for Regulated Qualifications (in progress)

**Thank you  
for your attention.**



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[info.nche.gov.mt](mailto:info.nche.gov.mt)**