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REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
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Qualifications Frameworks for trust, transparency and diversity (QUATRA – TPG A)

# The recommendation on short-cycle qualifications in HE: Next steps

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Co-funded by  
the European Union

Symposium of QUATRA – TPG A Working Groups  
on 17.09.2024 in Riga

# Methodology for preparing the recommendations

**September 2022**

QUATRA – TPG A Working Group on SC in HE (Bulgaria, Latvia (chair), Azerbaijan, Belgium Flanders)

**December 2022**

Questionnaire (fiche) on SCQ designed by WG

**January 2023**

Survey on SCQ among the TPG A members

**April 2023**

Report on the results of the survey finalised

**August 2023**

Draft recommendations disseminated for discussion, incl. presentation at national correspondents' for QF meeting

**November 2023**

Recommendations finalised

# Major sections of the recommendations

1. Main conclusions from the survey of TPG A member countries
2. General characterisation of SCQ in higher education
3. Recognition of SCQ in higher education
4. Possibilities to refer SCQ in various national HE systems to the principles of Paris Communiqué

# Highlights of the recommendations

## Access to short-cycle studies

- secondary education qualifications (HE access qualifications)

## Duration and/or volume of study programmes

- expressed in ECTS credits, volume of 90-120 ECTS credits

## Access to further studies

- strong pathways to further HE (Bachelor's studies)

## EQF or QF-EHEA level

- EQF level 5 or QF-EHEA short-cycle

## QA according to the principles of ESG

- HE quality assurance procedures and ESG principles

## Differentiation between SCQ and micro-credentials

- clear definition of SCQ by the state

## Recognition of the SCQ

- complying with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## Automatic recognition

- should be further explored

# What next?

- What is added value of SCQ?
- How to ensure flexibility of SCQ to reflect learner's/labour market needs?
- How to highlight differentiation between SCQ and Bachelor in terms of volume?
- How to promote a fair recognition of SCQ?
- How to foster automatic recognition of SCQ?
  - ❑ EQF or QF-EHEA Level
  - ❑ Access to SCQ
  - ❑ Eligibility rights (further studies)