



Self-certification of NQF: Kazakhstan's experience

September, 28, 2023 Tbilisi

Transformation of higher education in Kazakhstan

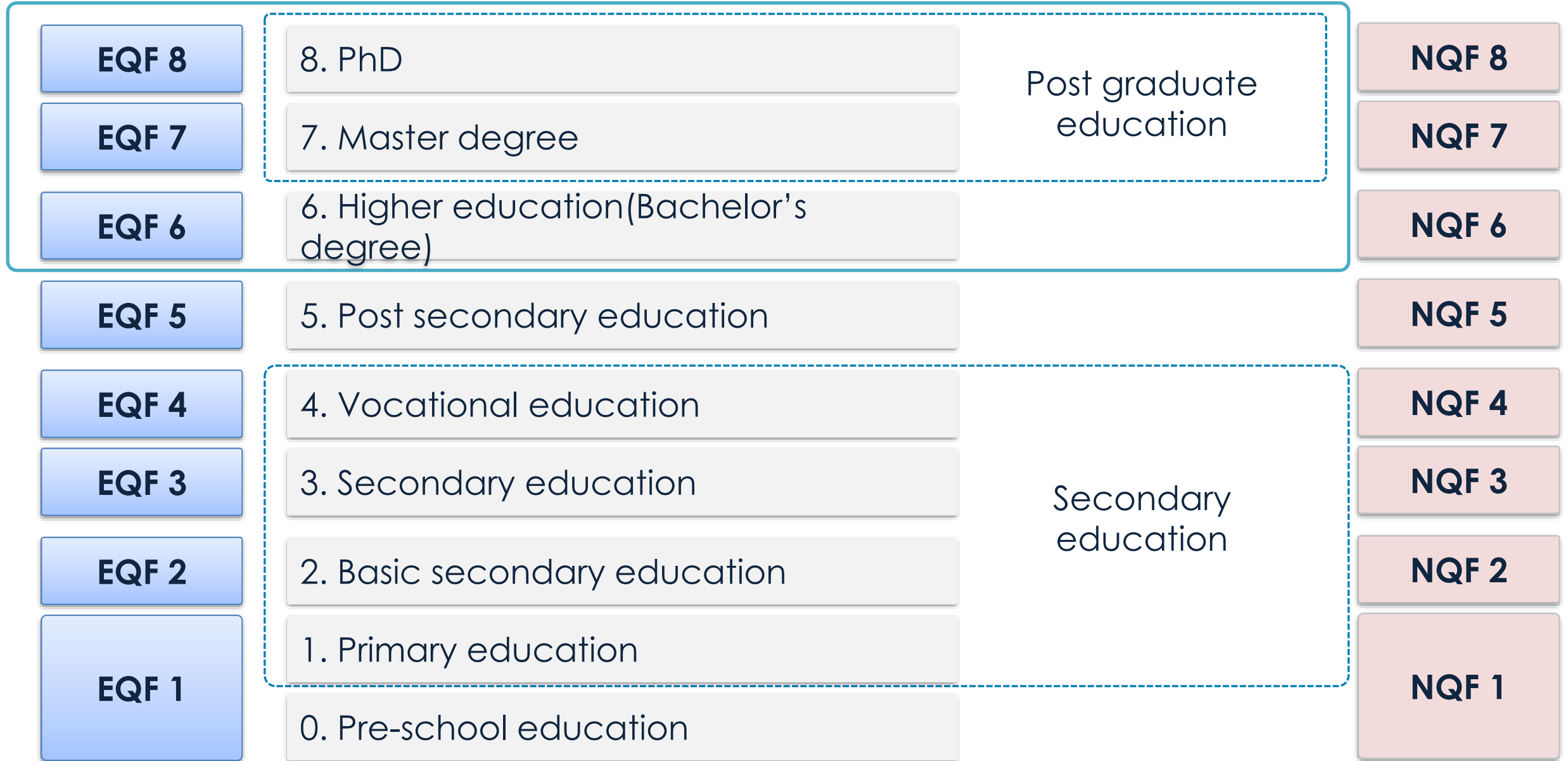
1. Transition to a two-level system of higher education – **1999**
2. Full transition to two-level higher education- **2004**
3. A three-level model of training since **2010**
4. In July 2018, the Law of RK "On Education" was amended and supplemented:
 - on expansion of academic and managerial independence of HEIs;
 - Kazakhstani credit is equated to ECTS credit;
 - the Classifier of training directions (55 training directions and 12 fields of education) was introduced, under which HEIs develop new educational programs in accordance with the requirements of the labor market.

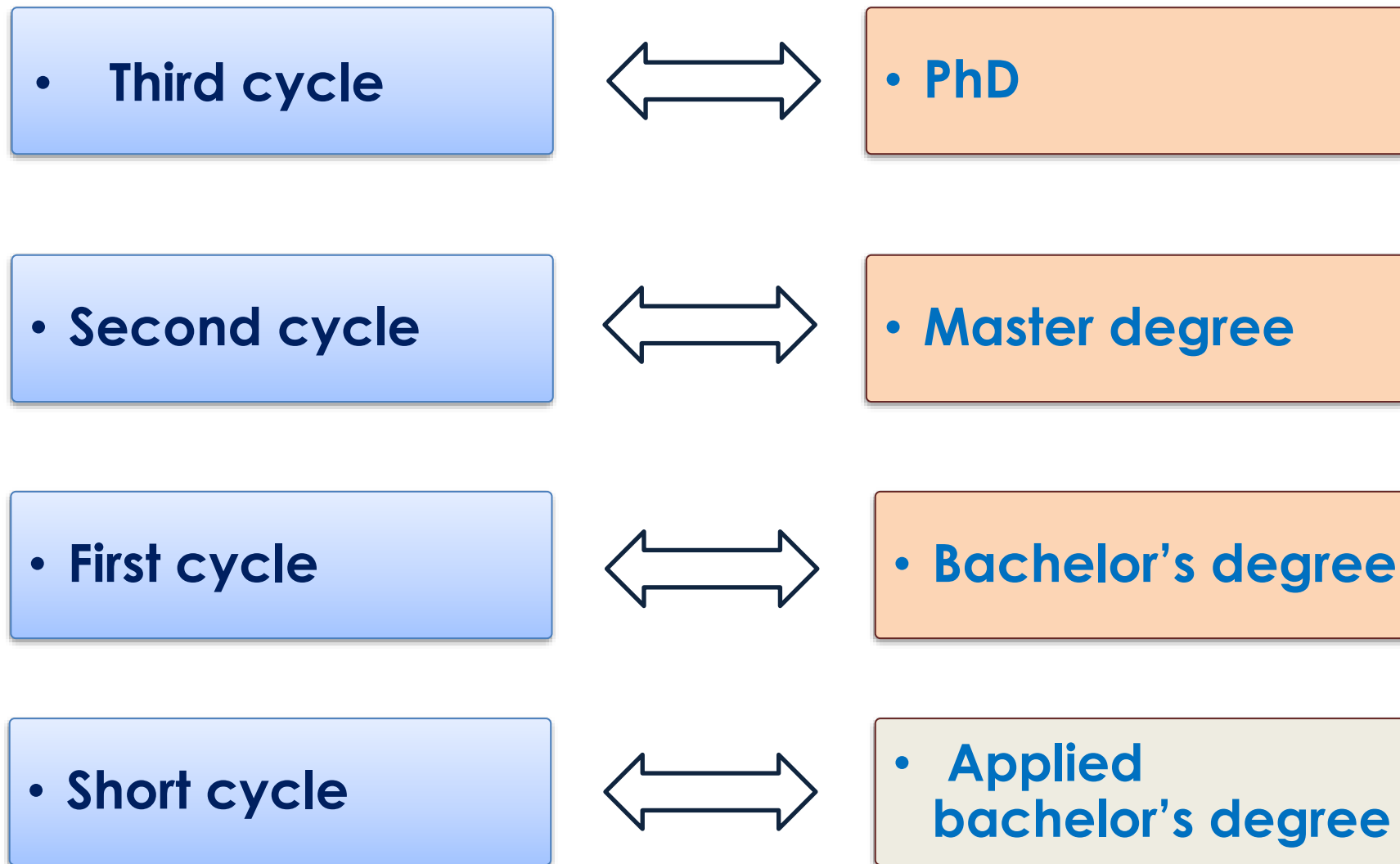
- *The National Qualifications Framework was developed by an interdepartmental group and approved by a joint order of the Minister of Labor and Social Protection and the Minister of Education and Science in 2012*
- *The Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated March, 28 2013 approved the composition of the interdepartmental working group on self-certification of NQF, which was tasked to develop an action plan for self-certification of NQF by May, 25 2013.*
- *For a number of objective reasons, the self-certification report was not prepared at this stage.*

- *In 2016, a new Labor Code came into force, under which the NQF RK was updated.*
- *In 2017, the Department of Higher and Postgraduate Education of the Ministry of education and science of Kazakhstan instructed the Bologna Process and Academic Mobility Center to study the materials of the conducted work and prepare a draft report on self-certification.*
- *As a result, the draft report using NQF Levels 6,7,8 descriptors was prepared and sent for expert review to foreign experts: Eva Chmelecka from Poland and Volkler Gemlich from Germany. Foreign experts made a number of principal remarks and drew attention to the inconsistency of the NQF Levels of 6-8 descriptors with the Dublin descriptors.*

- *At the beginning of 2019, a new interdepartmental working group was established, including representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs "Atameken", industry associations and HEIs.*
- *Taking into account the experts' comments, a separate National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (NQF-HE) has been developed.*
- *The draft NQF-HE was presented at the meeting of Working Group A on self-certification in Prague (3 June 2019).*
- *Draft self-certification report was prepared.*
- *In total, over 70 events were held to discuss the National Qualifications Framework.*

NQF Kazakhstan (2012, 2016)





Criteria for alignment of the NQF- HE with the EHEA and Kazakhstan

Criterion 1. The national higher education qualifications framework and the body/s responsible for its development shall be defined by the national ministry responsible for higher education.

The National Qualifications Framework was developed by an interdepartmental group and approved at a meeting of the Sectoral Commission on Social Partnership and Regulation of Social and Labor Relations in Education and Science of the Ministry of education and science of Kazakhstan.

Recommendations of the Bologna Process Working Group and consultations of foreign experts were used in the development of NQF.

Criterion 2. *There is a clear and obvious link between qualifications in the National Framework and the descriptors of qualifications in the European Qualifications Framework.*

Criterion 3. National framework and qualifications are based on learning outcomes, qualifications are linked to ECTS credits or an ECTS-compatible system

The Rules for the organization of the educational process on credit-based learning technology by April 20, 2011 No. 152 (as amended on October 12, 2018) stipulate that HEIs develop educational programs based on the learning outcomes of all cycles. It is determined that the labor intensity of one Kazakh academic credit (30 academic hours) corresponds to 1 ECTS credit.

As of 2019, all universities use the credit system for all 3 cycles - bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies.

Criterion 4. Procedures for the inclusion of qualifications in the National Framework are transparent.

qualifications of higher and postgraduate education are determined by educational programs included in the Register of Educational Programs (EP).

the procedure of inclusion of the EP in the Register is transparent and is carried out through the educational portal of the Unified Higher Education Management System (UHEMS).

Criterion 5. The National Quality Assurance System for Higher Education is linked to the National Qualifications Framework and is in line with the Berlin Communiqué and all subsequent communiqués adopted by Ministers within the Bologna Process.

Kazakhstan has an integral, multi-level National System of Education Quality Assurance, which includes an external and internal system of education quality assurance.

Since 2011 in Kazakhstan the functions of education quality assessment have been transferred to an independent environment. Currently, the register includes 6 Kazakhstani and 6 foreign accreditation bodies.

The independent accreditation procedure is carried out in accordance with the standards of institutional and specialized accreditation agreed with the European Standards for Quality in Education (ESG).

Criterion 6. The National Qualifications Framework and its linkage to the European Framework shall be noted in all Diploma Supplements.

Since 2019, all Kazakhstani higher education institutions has been issuing a mandatory European Diploma Supplement (Diploma Supplement) to graduates.

Criterion 7. The responsibilities of the parties involved with respect to the national framework are clearly defined and publicized.

The NQF is developed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the RK together with the Ministry of Education and Science of the RK.

The NQF is approved by the Republican Commission on Social Partnership and Regulation of Social and Labor Relations.

The members of the Republican Commission are representatives of

- government (7 persons),*
- republican associations of employees (7 persons),*
- republican associations of employers (7 persons).*

Procedures for checking the consistency of the NQF- HE with Kazakhstan and EHEA

Procedure 1. The competent national authority(s) shall certify the compatibility of the national qualifications framework and the European Qualifications Framework.

On the recommendation of the Working Group on Self-Certification, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kazakhstan recognized the compatibility of the NQF of higher education with the EHEA Qualifications Framework.

This decision is confirmed by the minutes of the meeting of the Industry Commission on social partnership and regulation of social and labor relations in the field of education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (November 27, 2019).

Procedure 2. The self-certification process shall include formal confirmation from quality assurance bodies recognized within the Bologna Process.

Kazakhstan agencies - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) and Independent Kazakhstan Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAQA) participated in the self-certification process (in the discussion and development of the report) and officially confirm compliance with all established requirements

Procedure 3. The self-certification process should involve international experts.

During the preparation of the report and during the self-certification procedure, the following international experts provided assistance at several stages: Baiba Ramina, Director of the Academic Information Centre, Latvia; Volker Gemlich, Christian Tauch - Germany; Eva Khmeletska - Institute for Educational Research, Poland. The HE - NQF was presented at the meetings of Working Group A on Self-Certification and ECTS of the Bologna Process (co-chairs: Carita Blomqvist - Finland; Lucie Trojanová - Czech Republic).

Procedure 4. Data supporting self-certification shall be provided for each of the established criteria and published.

The data for each of the established criteria and the self-certification report are presented and published on the website:

<https://enic-kazakhstan.kz>

Procedure 5. ENIC and NARIC maintain a publicly available list of states that have confirmed completion of the self-certification process (www.enic-naric.net).

- *Report is available at the webpage of the Center (<http://enic-kazakhstan.kz>).*
- *The report submitted by BFUG is published in the public domain and made available on the ENIC- NARIC network.*

Procedure 6. The completion of the self-certification process shall be marked in the Diploma Supplement by indicating the link between the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework.

As the self-certification process is completed, information about this is officially included in the Diploma Supplement.

Basic principles : qualified, independent, objective and transparent decision making

Criteria:

International expert should have broad knowledge in the field of higher education:

- *experience of participation in one of the following groups or;*
- *development and/or implementation of educational programs of relevant levels of education, enlarged groups of professions, specialties and training areas (or scientific editor of the world's leading scientific journals) for at least 5 years;*
- *expert activity in international and national accreditation agencies for at least 5 years or;*
- *membership in working and expert groups of the Bologna Process for at least 3 years or;*
- *work in analytical structures on the development of education and science or;*
- *work in national information centers.*



Thank you!