Qualifications Frameworks for trust, transparency and diversity – TPG A 2
(QUATRA – TPG A 2)
01.09.2025 – 31.08.2028

Who ‘owns’ the EQF -
Existent and proposed structures

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Co-funded by
the European Union

1.Europass:

Cion describes Europass as being:

'*...the official platform for information on the EQF. This platform contains information on qualifications and qualifications frameworks and interconnects information on qualifications from National Qualifications Frameworks registers and databases.*'

'*Europass was found to facilitate mobility for work and study in the EU, by presenting knowledge, skills, and competences in a standardised format. However, the evaluation points out that further efforts are needed in developing qualification and learning opportunity databases and registers that should link to the Europass platform via the Qualification Dataset Register.*'

'This initiative aims to bring simplification for employers and workers by making qualifications instantly verifiable for labour market actors across the Single Market, and by facilitating the comparison of the level and content of qualifications issued in the EU without any cost . It aims to do so by building on existing tools such as the European Qualifications Framework, Europass and the European Digital Identity Wallet, and through setting common standards for digital attestations of qualifications to be comparable, reliable, interoperable and verifiable....

...The availability of the Europass platform centralising reliable and comparable information will reduce the need for multiple efforts at Member State level to make available and keep track of information on each others' NQFs.'

Appendix IV: The Diploma Supplement Template

I. DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

europass

1. INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE HOLDER OF THE QUALIFICATION

1.1	Last name(s)	1.2	First name(s)
1.3	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	1.4	Student identification number or code (if available)

2. INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFICATION

2.1	Name of qualification and (if applicable) title conferred (in original language)	2.2	Main field(s) of study for the qualification
2.3	Name and status of awarding institution (in original language)		
2.4	Name and status of institution (if different from 2.3) administering studies (in original language)	2.5	Language(s) of instruction/examination

3. INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL AND DURATION OF THE QUALIFICATION

3.1	Level of the qualification	3.2	Official duration of programme in credits and/or years
3.3	Access requirements(s)		

DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THOSE PRODUCING SUPPLEMENTS

3 INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL AND DURATION OF THE QUALIFICATION

The purpose of this section is to provide the information required to identify clearly the level of the qualification, and describe its duration in years and/or credits.

3.1 Level of the qualification:

3.1 Give the precise level of the qualification and its place in the specific national educational structure of awards, and/or in the National Qualifications Framework, if available (cross-referenced to the information in point 8). Reference should also be made to the corresponding level in the two main overarching Qualifications Frameworks: QF-EHEA and/or EQF, e.g., Second cycle QF-EHEA/Level 7 EQF. Include any relevant information on "level indicators" that are nationally devised and recognised and which relate to the qualification

2. Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad:



- EU Member States made '*a political commitment to take steps to introduce automatic recognition by 2025*.'

- To be '*accompanied by actions that will build trust in each other's education systems, and support Member States to improve recognition to facilitate learning mobility*.'



Limitations:

- Non-binding legal instrument under EU law. Relies on voluntary cooperation, political commitment, and trust-building among EU Member States
- Range covered: EQF 4 to EQF 8

3. Council of Europe:

ONGOING: Draft - Council of Europe Convention on the Conditions of Transparency and Quality Assurance for Automatic Recognition of Higher Education qualifications in Europe

Limitations:

- AR is a right or a procedure?
- Refers to international legal instruments – any enforceable
- Vague governance structure and enforcement
- No clear added value over current structures

4. Treaty on the Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications of 14th September 2021:

Effective 2024. Establishes mutual, procedure-free academic recognition for HE degrees among the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg) and the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)

Limitations:

- Covers levels EQF 5-8 only
- applies strictly to nationally recognized degrees conforming to the Bologna Process and listed within the official frameworks of the respective countries. Older historical degrees predating these frameworks are generally not automatically covered

5. UNESCO Global Convention:

The ‘Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education’ adopted in November 2019 as the first UN treaty on higher education with a global scope. Global, overarching ‘umbrella’ treaty that establishes standard principles across all continents. Entered into force in March 2023.

Introduces formal obligations regarding the recognition of blended learning, online/distance learning, and cross-border data exchanges



Limitations:

- Similar ‘governance’ structure to LRC
- Lack of clarity if Global or regional or conventions take precedence
- Should LRC be repealed?

6. EU - Joint European Degree Label:

> *A quality label granted to joint programmes delivered through transnational cooperation between higher education institutions from different countries, including at least two EU Member States, to act as a branding tool, promoting compliance with European standards and providing visibility and prestige to the labelled joint programmes.*



The Scope

Joint Bachelor's (EQF 6), joint Master's (EQF 7) and Doctoral (EQF 8) degrees.



The Scale

Joint programme offer by at least 2 higher education institutions from 2 different EU countries (+Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)



The Ambition

Represents the first phase towards a possible real European Degree in the future

Self-assessment template (I)

Joint programme descriptor	Description
Official programme name	
EQF level:	☐ EQF 6 (Bachelor) ☐ EQF 7 (Master) ☐ EQF 8 (Doctorate)
Degree type	*(e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, etc.)*
Programme discipline(s):	
Language(s) of instruction	
Year of establishment:	
Current accreditation status:	
European Approach evaluation:	☐ Yes (attach report) ☐ No ☐ Pending
Lead institution:	
Consortium partners involved:	

JOINT
EUROPEAN DEGREE

This certificate attests that: *Galang Galih Gibran*

Has successfully graduated from: Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability

Born on: 6 July 1996

Jointly offered by the following higher education institutions:

CHARM European University

University of Barcelona

Trinity College Dublin
15 July 2026

Utrecht University

Eötvös Loránd University Budapest

University of Montpellier

This programme has been successfully evaluated and awarded the Joint European Degree Label by: Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya)

This certificate is valid only when presented together with the joint degree and the joint diploma supplement of the program named above.



Limitations:

- EU member States
- Limited to Joint degrees
- EQF 6 Bachelors, EQF 7 Masters, EQF 8 Doctoral degrees

7. EU Cion:

ONGOING: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on portability of qualifications and skills and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 ("Skills Portability Act"):

- Creates common standards for digital credential formats and qualification data.
- Reduces dependence on paper certificates, translations, and manual verification.
- Recognition authority remains national, but the evidence presented becomes more portable and trustworthy.
- Qualifications will increasingly be referenced to EQF levels.
- The EQF moves from being mainly a transparency tool towards becoming a core element of qualification portability.

This Regulation should apply to the use of the European Qualifications Framework in the context of the exercise by workers of their freedom to move. To ensure legal certainty and coherence, the levels of the European Qualifications Framework and some of the terms and definitions laid down in the 2017 Recommendation should be incorporated into this Regulation for the purposes of the free movement of workers. This does not create any obligation as to how Member States design their national qualifications frameworks. As far as the 2017 Recommendation covers the use of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, that Recommendation should continue to provide guidance on matters not governed by this Regulation.

Limitations:

- EU member States only?
- Cumbersome mechanism and costs for awarding bodies
- No direct consultation, over centralisation by Cion of national competences
- Underlying legal issues on governance structure
- Potential marginalisation of non-EU frameworks (Council of Europe, UNESCO, bilateral arrangements) if EU systems become the dominant reference point
- Digital dependency: success relies heavily on robust digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and data governance. How will this restrict movement of qualification holders not under this system?

Thank you