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

Peer Learning Activity

QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS – UNIFORMITY AND DISPARITIES IN PASSPORTING QUALIFICATIONS

Agenda

27 October 2026

AX The Palace, Triq Il – Kbira, Sliema SLM 1542, Malta

Hosted by: Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), Malta

Time	*Topic*
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and Introduction *James Perry Maia, CEO, MFHEA*
09:10 – 09:45	**Keynote Speech – Passporting of the EQF & NQF** • Concept of "passporting" in the context of academic qualifications • EQF vs NQF *Stefan Sant, MFHEA*
09:45 – 10:35	**Recognition of Qualifications Across the EHEA** • Current Recognition Practices across Participating Jurisdictions • Role of ENIC/NARIC networks and national recognition authorities • Differences in national approaches to recognition • Challenges to consistent recognition within the EHEA *Stefan Sant & Jon Vercellono, MFHEA* • "Substantial Difference Principle" *Allan B. Pedersen, President of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee*
10:35 – 10:55	Coffee Break
10:55 – 11:15	**International Institutions: Experience of IMLI and its students with the NQF & EQF regime** *Dr. Murat Sumer, Nippon Foundation Assistant in International Maritime Law and Coordinator of Academic Affairs, International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)*
11:15 – 12:35	**NQF & EQF in Use** • EQF's standing with the Europass Documents *Clifford Debattista, European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA)* • Employers' perspective – is the EQF and NQF working transnationally? *Ilaria Spiteri Axiak, Senior Advisor, MISCO* • Is NQF Sufficient for Local Skills? *Glorianne Cachia, National Skills Council (NSC), Malta*

Co-funded by the European Union

The event is arranged in the terms of the Erasmus+ project No 101228736 "Qualifications Frameworks for Trust, Transparency and Diversity – TPG A 2" (QUATRA – TPG A 2).

12:35 – 13:35	Lunch
13:35 – 14:05	**Legal and Governance Considerations** • Who "owns" the EQF? • European Degree governance structure – a viable option? *Stefan Sant, MFHEA*
14:05 – 14:35	**Breakout Session** • Group 1 – Recognition, Passporting of Qualifications and the EQF *(chaired by Órla Barry, TPG A member of Ireland)* *1) If a qualification is referenced to the EQF or self-certified to the QF-EHEA, should it enjoy stronger recognition rights when assessing qualifications across the EHEA? For example, outcomes of referencing or self-certification are considered during credential evaluation.* *2) Can recognition of qualifications truly remain a national competence while achieving effective cross-border qualification passporting?* *3) What additional mechanisms in recognition would be required for qualifications referenced EQF or self-certified to the QF-EHEA to be accepted in other national systems with fewer individual assessments?* • Group 2 – Governance, Trust and the Future of Recognition *(chaired by Jacek Lewicki TPG A member of Poland)* *1) What should be the role of the BFUG and TPG A in the process of implementing the EQF and QF-EHEA across Europe and within the EHEA?* *2) Is there sufficient trust in national referencing and self-certification processes to support greater automatic recognitions of HE qualifications?* *3) What is the single greatest obstacle preventing qualifications referenced EQF or self-certified to the QF-EHEA from functioning as a true passporting mechanism?*
14:35 – 14:45	Health Break
14:45 – 15:05	**Feedback from Breakout Groups** *Group 1 – Vige Gro Beate, TPG A member of Norway* *Group 2 – Nora Angelova, TPG A member from European Students Union*
15:10 – 15:20	Conclusions, Key Findings and Next Steps • Summary of Key Issues Identified • Areas Requiring Further Investigation • Potential Recommendations

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