

**Armenian National
Qualifications
Framework**

RECOGNITION IN VISION... VS REALITY

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QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS AS A RECOGNITION TOOL : POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

- 2013 Subsidiary text to Lisbon Recognition Convention on QFs
- 2014 Political commitment to the developing and implementing of NQFs was strengthened (EU)
- 2015 Yerevan Communique:
 - ...to review NQFs, with the view to ensuring recognition of prior learning.
 - ...to ensure that qualifications from other EHEA countries are automatically recognized at the same level as relevant domestic qualifications. A Bachelor is a bachelor is a bachelor (if quality assured).
- What is the impact of these on recognition practices of ENIC-NARICs and HEIs?

SUBSIDIARY TEXT TO THE LRC: MAIN PRINCIPLES

Armenian National Qualifications Framework

- NQFs facilitate recognition especially when they have been linked in a transparent and comparative way - through self certification and referencing to the QF-EHEA and EQF-LLL.
- Positioning of qualifications within the NQF of the awarding country and their relation to one or more overarching QFs gives important information to facilitate recognition.
- Nevertheless, the existence of NQF does not lead to automatic recognition.

SUBSIDIARY TEXT TO THE LRC: SCOPE & GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

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- Focuses on the use of QFs as an important information and transparency tool.
- Demonstrates ways in which QFs may be helpful in establishing similarities and whether or not there are substantial differences between qualifications.
- The fact that not all countries have NQFs should not be an obstacle to recognizing qualifications from such countries.
- The competent authorities and ENIC-NARICs should develop common understanding how to use QFs for facilitating fair recognition.
- QFs should be used while considering the 5 key elements in recognition: level, learning outcomes, quality, workload and profile.
- However, qualification frameworks provide limited information to support recognition process when it comes to the profile of qualification.

STATUS QUO

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- Not yet well known and trusted; non-familiar verbiage; general public lack awareness
- Shift to learning outcomes is still contested vs pedagogy and learning context
- Its not inclusive-there are possibly many of qualifications that fall outside.
- Still a challenge for stakeholders: imbalance between the job market, particularly with VET.
- Exists in isolation: not yet self-certified to QF-EHEA.
- Impact of the NQF on quality of education and training remains limited.
- Lack of funding and capacity for implementation.

ARMENIC'S APPROACH

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- Revised issued statements and for the cases where it was possible, we've based our evaluation on the QFs in accordance with the recommendations to the Subsidiary text to the LRC, the EAR Manual, the Yerevan Communique.
- For qualifications of level 6 and 7 where possible we apply recommendations of the Pathfinder Group report on Automatic Recognition.
- Assessment solutions for refugees with insufficient documentation: new subsidiary text to the LRC in discussion, October 2-3, 2017
- Statements for the US Embassy mostly in cases of secondary and VET qualifications.
- Statements for medical doctors that are invited for short-term work .
- Guidelines for universities on fraudulent qualifications and diploma mills: October 9, 2017

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RECOGNITION

- Very positive developments related to revision of other UNESCO recognition regional conventions.
- In November 2015 the decision was taken to start developing a global convention on recognition.
- Potentially great impact:
 - more and more students are studying outside their home country are doing so in a country outside their region of origin
 - taking into account the big Diaspora may contribute to more recognition of the Armenian qualification outside Europe
 - may facilitate brain circulation rather than brain drain.

Thank you for your attention

