

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

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Agency for Higher education, Adult education, Qualifications and Study grants

Ministry of Education and Training

Belgium - Flanders

CONTENT

- 1/ Education and training in Flanders
- 2/ European Qualifications Framework
- 3/ Flemish Qualifications Framework
 - Professional Qualifications
 - Educational Qualifications
- 4/ Lessons and challenges



EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN FLANDERS

EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN FLANDERS

Flemish landscape of education and training

Belgium

- ▶ Constitutional freedom of education for individuals and for educational organisations

Regions in Belgium

- ▶ Responsible for education and training

Flemish parliament and government

- ▶ Definition of educational goals in education and training

Flemish landscape of education and training

- ▶ ± 80% of providers is publicly financed

EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN FLANDERS

Need for reforms

Formal secondary education

- ▶ Need for qualifications described in terms of learning outcomes

Vocational education and training (VET)

- ▶ Need for qualification standards adapted to labour market needs

Life long learning (LLL)

- ▶ Need for alignment between all types of education and training providers (formal education, adult education, higher education, training providers outside formal education)

Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL)

- ▶ Need for uniform qualifications framework

European developments

- ▶ Need for transparency (EU-tools)

AHOVOKS

Agency for Higher Education, Adult Education, Qualifications and study grants

Facts

- Established in 2009
- Recent merger of AKOV and AHOVOS
- Independent agency of the Ministry of Education

Mission

Promoting quality assurance in general education, vocational education and training and the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning

AHOVOKS

Agency for Higher Education, Adult Education, Qualifications and study grants

Link between

- Policy and practice
- Education and labour market
- All levels of stakeholders
- Europe and Flanders

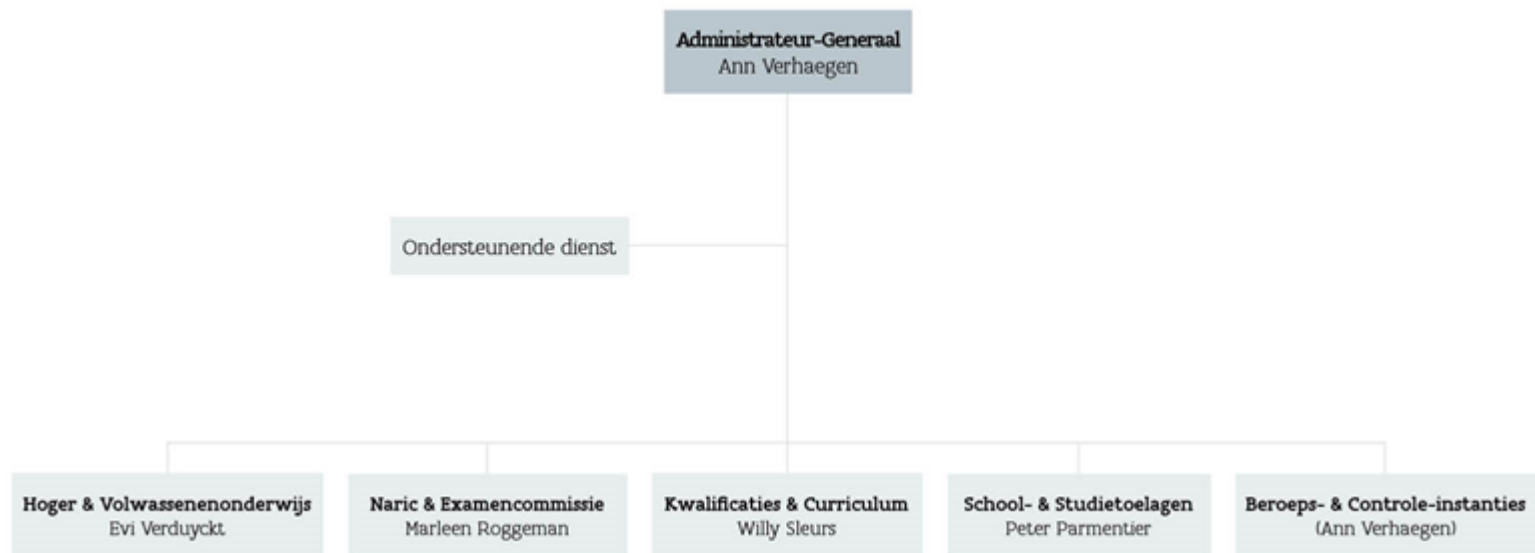
By

- Designing and implementing a communication strategy

AHOVOKS

Agency for Higher Education, Adult Education, Qualifications and study grants

Organisation



EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Objectives

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) follows from a series of international developments, including among others the Bologna Declaration on the creation of a European space for higher education.

The EQF has two important objectives:

- ▶ to promote the international mobility of students and workers
- ▶ to promote lifelong learning

EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Framework



- ▶ A common reference framework, comprising eight levels, which links the qualification frameworks of EU Member States. (*meta-framework: its objective is not to merge the various national frameworks*)
- ▶ A translation tool to make the various qualification frameworks of the Member States comparable.

EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

State of play

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/search/site?f\[0\]=im_field_entity_type%3A97](https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/search/site?f[0]=im_field_entity_type%3A97). The page title is "Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe" and the subtitle is "Information about courses, work-based learning and qualifications". The search bar contains the text "state of play-Qualification Frameworks". Below the search bar, there is a home icon and social media icons for email, Twitter, and Facebook. The main heading is "Find information on the EQF, NQF's". The text below explains that the EQF is a translation tool for communication and comparison between qualifications systems in Europe. It lists four categories of information available:

- Description of the eight EQF levels.
- Compare national qualifications frameworks.
- Process of implementation of the EQF.
- Reports on the referencing of national qualifications frameworks to the EQF.

The bottom of the screenshot shows the Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system tray displaying the date 22/05/2016 and time 8:42.



European Qualifications Framework

2004

Development of the EQF

2005

A consultation among the Member States about the EQF

2008

Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning

Flemish Qualifications Framework

2005

A consultation among the Flemish stakeholders about the EQF and FQF

2009

Flemish Parliament Act on FQF

2011

Amendments Flemish Act
Approved link between FQF and EQF

2013 and 2014

Implementation decisions

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK



FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

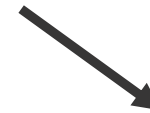
Structure and definitions

FQF		
8		
7		
6		
5		
4		
3		
2		
1		
Level 5	<i>Knowledge / Skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ expanding the information in a specific area with concrete and abstract data, or completing it with missing data; using conceptual frameworks; being aware of the scope of subject-specific knowledge▶ applying integrated cognitive and motorical skills▶ transferring knowledge and applying procedures flexibly and inventively for the performance of tasks for the strategic solution of concrete and abstract problems	<i>Context / Autonomy / Responsibility</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ acting in a range of new, complex contexts▶ functioning autonomously with initiative▶ taking responsibility for the achievement of personal outcomes and the stimulation of collective results

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Shared interest

Transparency
Interchangeability
Mobility



Labour market

- Immediate employability
- Trust in qualifications delivered by all providers
- Reference framework for competency-management

Education and training

- Rationalization
- Reevaluation of labour market oriented education

Individuals

- Logical and flexible learning programs
- Guidance in choosing studies and professions
- Validation of non-formal and informal learning

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

2 types of qualifications

Professional qualifications

- With which a profession can be exercised
- Can be acquired through vocational education and vocational training outside formal education

Educational qualifications

- With which further studies in secondary or higher education can be undertaken or a profession can be exercised
- Can only be acquired through formal education

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

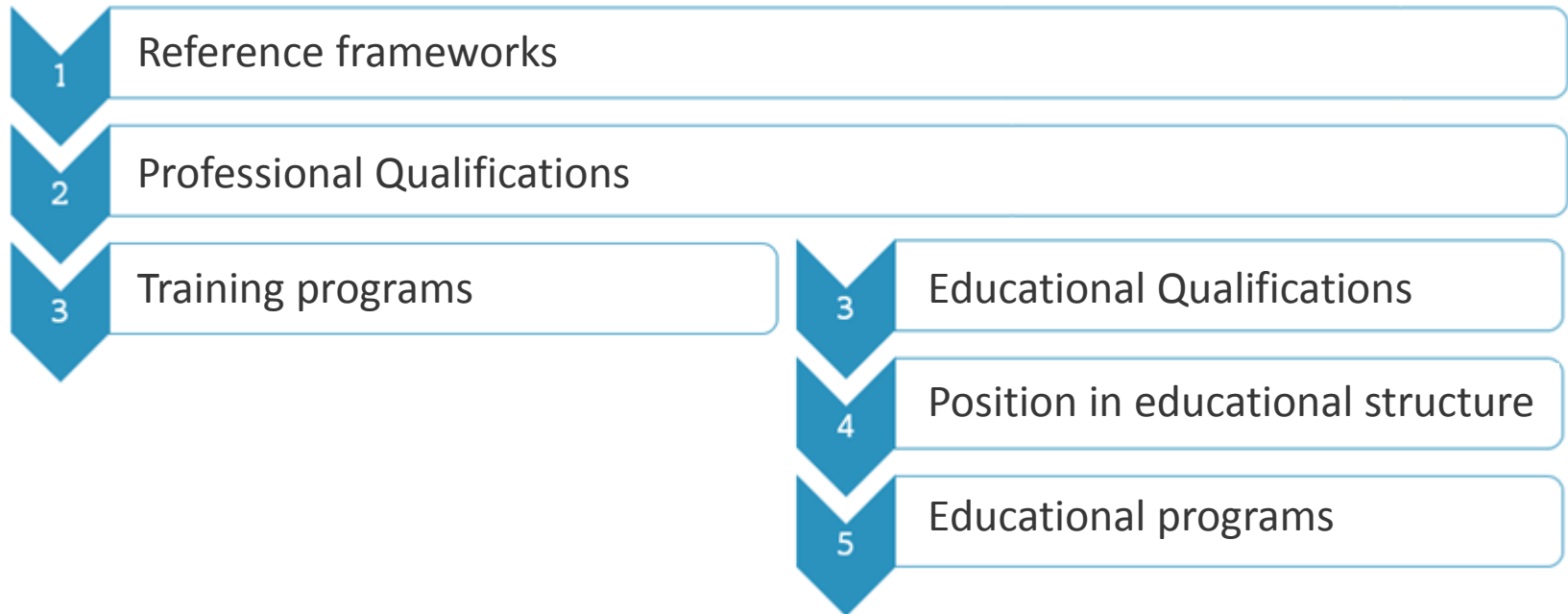
Structure of the framework

Summary of types of qualifications

Qualification level	Professional Qualifications	Educational Qualifications
8	x	Doctor
7	x	Master
6	x	Bachelor
5	x	Associate degree
4	x	x
3	x	x
2	x	x
1	x	x

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Procedure

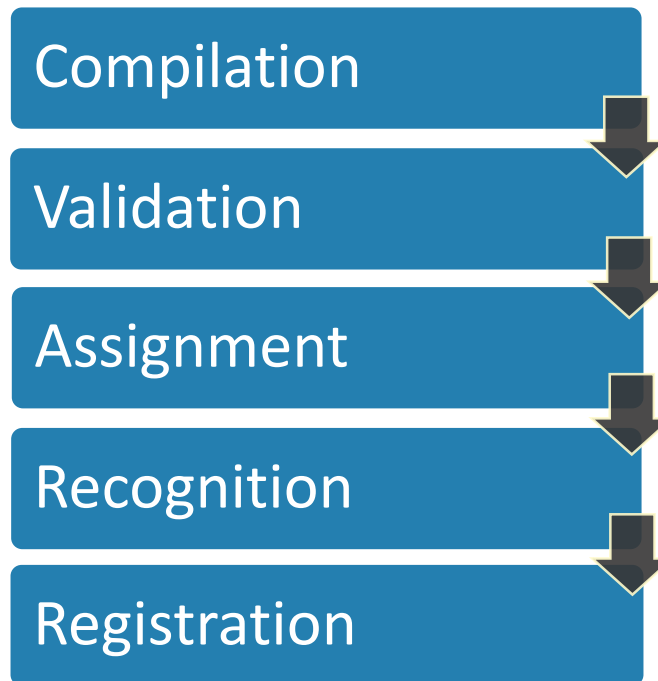




Professional Qualifications

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Procedure professional qualification



FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Procedure professional qualification

▶ Content

- General information (title, definition, sectors and actors involved)
- Description of competences (knowledge, skills, context, autonomy, responsibility)
- Labour market relevance/social relevance based on actual data
- Link with (an)other (potential) professional qualification file(s)
- Updates with indication of sustainability of the professional qualification file

▶ Done by labour market actors (AHOVOKS = process manager)

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Example: Tour manager



- Guides the travellers throughout their journey in an interactive, qualitative manner, aimed specifically at the target group (co 00348)
 - Builds up an experience together with the visitor
 - Provides factual information
 - Enters into discussion with the travellers
 - Makes correct use of didactic material for stimulating interactivity
 - Adjusts the message and use of language to the target audience
 - Gives concrete and relevant answers to questions

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

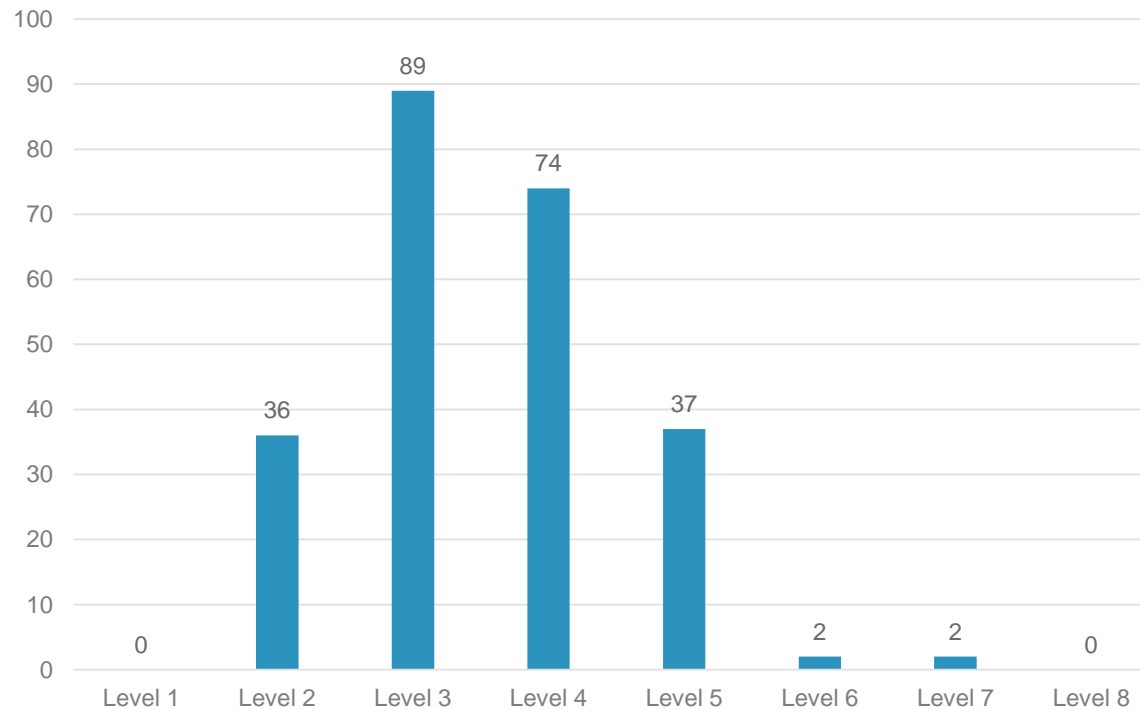
Procedure professional qualification

- ▶ Validation
 - Check of relevance and quality
 - Experts indicated by the social partners
- ▶ Assignment
 - Assign a FQF-level
 - Mix of labour market actors, education and training providers

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Procedure professional qualification

240 professional qualifications





Educational Qualifications

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

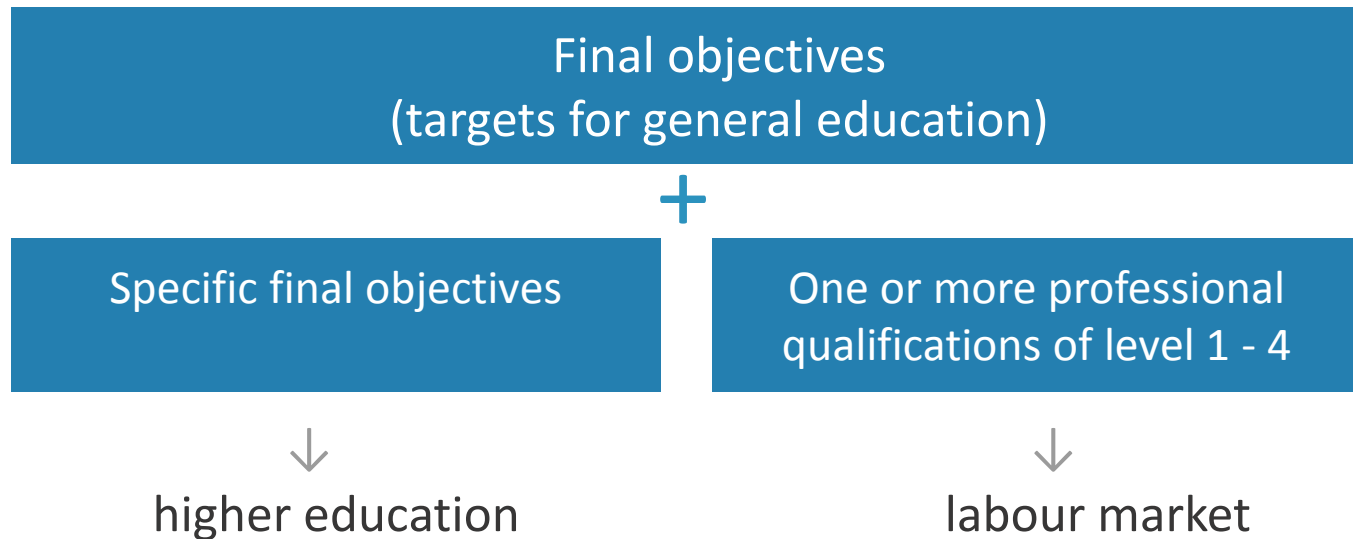
Procedure educational qualification

Educational qualifications level 1-4	Educational qualifications level 5	Educational qualifications level 6-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Primary education- Secondary education- Special education (level primary and secondary education)- Adult education (level secondary education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Associate degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bachelor- Master- Doctor

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 1 - level 4

Building blocks



FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 1 - 4

Procedure

- ▶ Still under discussion (cf. modernisation secondary education)
- ▶ No recognised educational qualifications level 1-4

Composition Educational qualification

- ▶ Global information (title, level FQF/EQF, educational level, type of education, finality and educational field)
- ▶ Learning outcomes (cf. building blocks)

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 5

► Building blocks

One or more professional qualifications of level 5

+

Additional relevant competences*

* Legislation in procedure

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 5

Existing procedure	Procedure to be
Recommandation (AHOVOKS) desirability development EQ & composition	Recommandation (AHOVOKS) desirability development EQ and composition
Recommandation (Commission Higher Education)	
Recognition (Flemish Government) EQ = competences of PQ('s)	Decision (Flemish Government) EQ should be developed or not
	Description of subject-specific learning outcomes (alliances associate degree)
	Validation (NVAO) EQ = subject-specific learning outcomes
Registration (AHOVOKS)	Registration (AHOVOKS)



FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 5

Desirability and composition proposal educational qualification

- ▶ A proposal of educational qualification of level 5 consists of the following information:
 - Global information (title, specializations, level FQF/EQF, educational level, field of study and study load (credits))
 - Relation with other proposals or recognized educational qualifications
 - Learning outcomes
 - Application of criteria (social, economic or cultural need; the educational and pedagogical context; the available financial resources and expertise; ...)
 - Calculation of the study load: achievable in 90 or 120 credits

https://app.akov.be/pls/pakov/f?p=VLAAMSE_KWALIFICATIESTRUCTUUR:ONDER_WIJSKWALIFICATIE:::::P1030_OK_DOSSIER_ID:8

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 5

Description of subject-specific learning outcomes

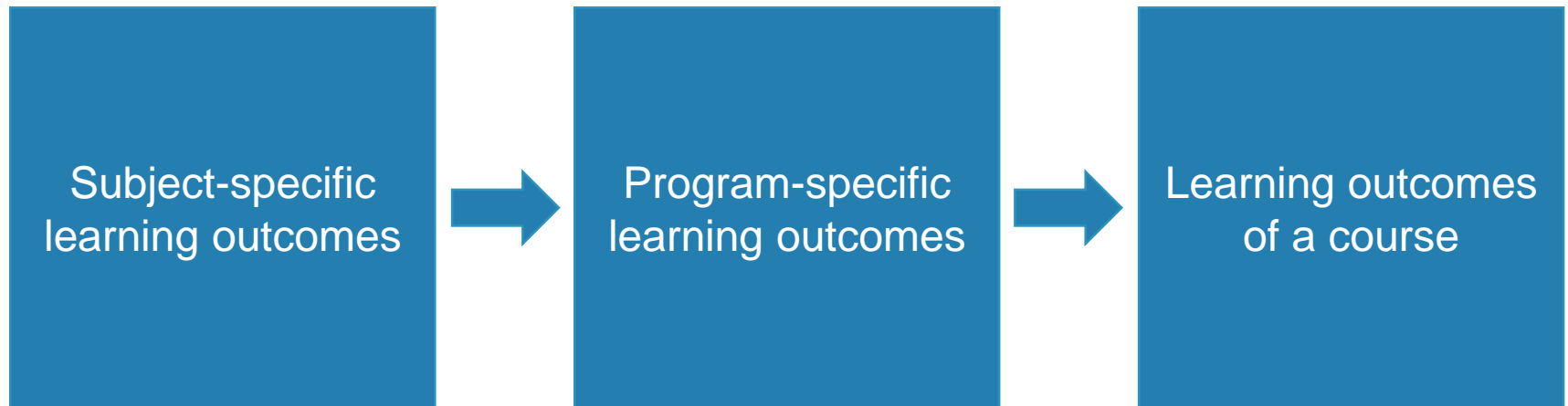
= 'Statements' of what a learner is expected to know, understand and/or able to demonstrate after completion of a proces of learning

- ▶ Coherent and integrated whole (cf. framework) for the entire program
- ▶ International check
- ▶ Approximatly 10 - 15
- ▶ Translation of level descriptors FQF 5
- ▶ More generic than the competences included in the PQ's but
 - all competences of the PQ's are recognisable included (Id-codes)
 - concrete and vocational formulated
 - all legislation on professional practice is respected
- ▶ Addition of extra competences is possible

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 5

Programming on the basis of an educational qualification



- ▶ Described in request for initial accreditation


FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 6 - 8

Building blocks

- ▶ Subject-specific learning outcomes

Procedure

	Describe subject-specific learning outcomes (higher education institutions)
	Classify
	Validate (NVAO)
	Register (AHOVOKS)

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level 6 - 8

Description and validation of subject-specific learning outcomes

- ▶ No requirement to start off PQ's
- ▶ Clusters of related programs
 - Different level or orientation within same domain
 - Alignment: common versus distinctive/specific
- ▶ Developed by higher education institutions, coordinated by VLIR and VLHORA
- ▶ Assessed by all stakeholders
 - Respond to social and academic expectations and international standards
- ▶ Validated by NVAO
 - Prescribed procedure
 - Link with qualification level
 - Not: content
- ▶ Automatically recognised as qualifications of level 6, 7 or 8

FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Qualification database

Search

- ✓ title or synonyms
- ✓ alphabetically
- ✓ level
- ✓ set of related professions

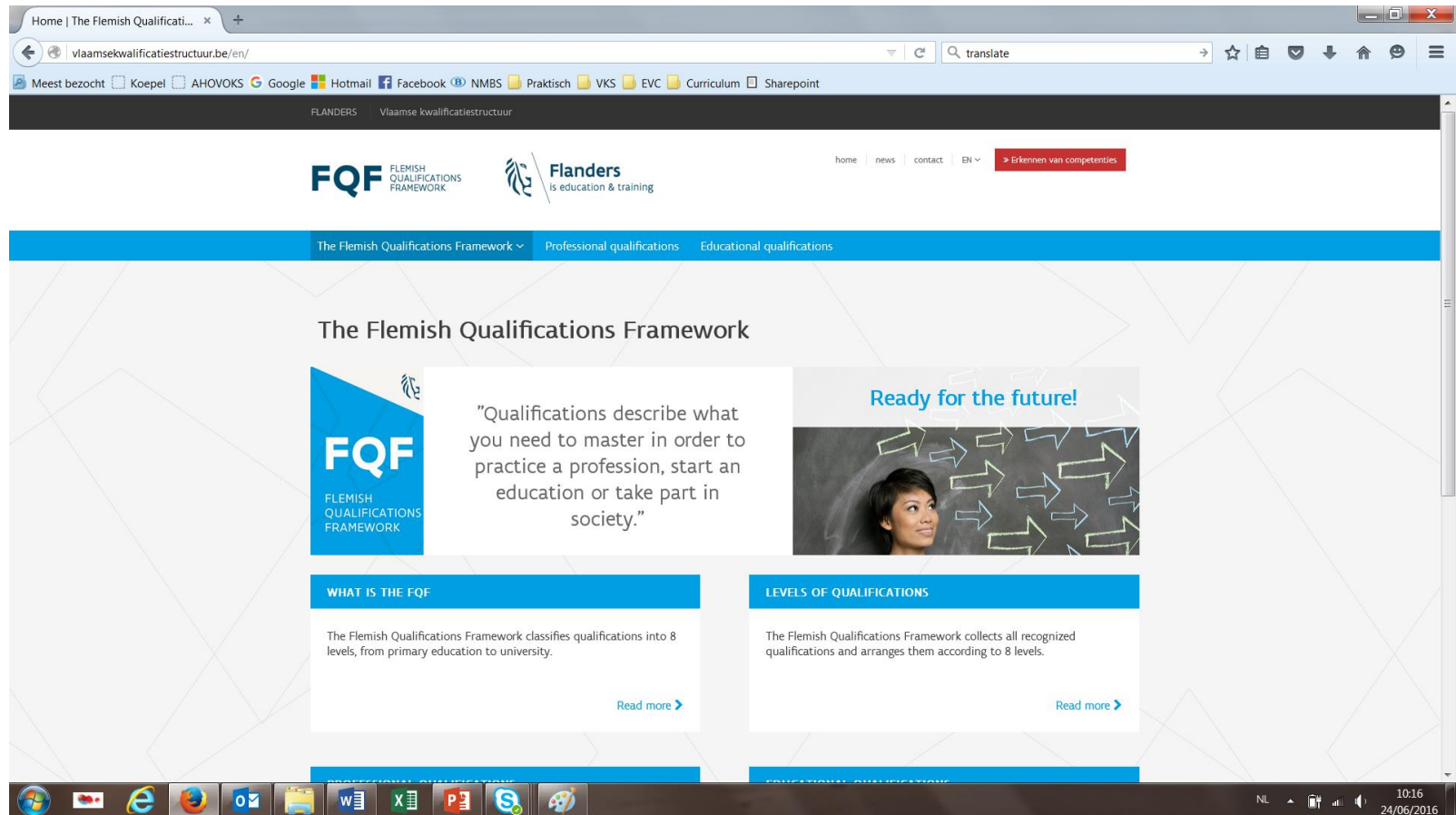
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL https://app.akov.be/pls/pakov/f?p=VLAAMSE_KWALIFICA. The page title is "Beroepskwalificatie zoeken". The navigation menu includes "Vlaamse kwalificatiestructuur", "Studenten en cursisten", "Opleiders en scholen", and "Werkgevers". The main content area features a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a "Zoekfunctie" button. Below the search bar, there is a list of search results, each with a brief description and a status indicator. The results include:

- Aanvuller
- Administratief medewerker onthaal
- Archiefdeskundige
In ontwikkeling
- Archivaris
In ontwikkeling
- Art-Handler
In ontwikkeling
- Asbestverwijderaar
- Asfalt-en betonwegenbouwer
- Assistent - productie podiumkunsten/audiovisueel
Klaar voor inschaling
- Assistent podiumtechnicus
Klaar voor erkenning

On the right side of the page, there are four filter buttons: "Zoekfunctie" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Alfabetische lijst" (with a downward arrow and 'A' over 'Z'), "VKS-niveau" (with a bar chart icon), and "Samenhang" (with a hierarchy icon). The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system tray with the date "24/06/2016" and time "11:50".

MORE INFORMATION

Website



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website vlaamsekwalficatiestructuur.be/en/. The page features the logo for the Flemish Qualifications Framework (FQF) and the Flemish government's slogan "Flanders is education & training". A navigation menu includes "home", "news", "contact", and "EN". A red button labeled "Erkennen van competenties" is visible. The main content area is titled "The Flemish Qualifications Framework" and includes a quote: "Qualifications describe what you need to master in order to practice a profession, start an education or take part in society." Below this, there are two sections: "WHAT IS THE FQF" and "LEVELS OF QUALIFICATIONS", each with a "Read more" link. The bottom of the browser window shows the Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system clock indicating 10:16 on 24/06/2016.

www.vlaamsekwalficatiestructuur.be/en/

CONTACT



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