



Expert seminar FamCompass: Assessing and validating family competences Brussels, Saturday 24 October 2009

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM IN LITHUANIA

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Creation of the National Qualifications System of Lithuania an instrument for trust

- On 7 March 2005, the Lithuanian Labour Market Training Authority commenced the implementation of a national level project "Creation of the National Qualifications System", financed by the European Social Fund of the European Union.
- The aim of this project was
 - to create a uniform and transparent qualifications system covering all levels of qualifications, assuring transition between the levels, the variety of ways of acquiring a qualification, and providing a possibility to respond to the changing environment.

The National Qualifications System has an objective to ensure that both designed and actual qualifications meet the needs of the business and members of society.

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Features

- Based on Lithuanian experience and institutions;
- Orientation to EQF;
- Scientific approach;
- Broad discussions with social partners;
- Law of Vocational Education and Training (2008).

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WHAT IS THE CONTENTS OF THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SYSTEM ?

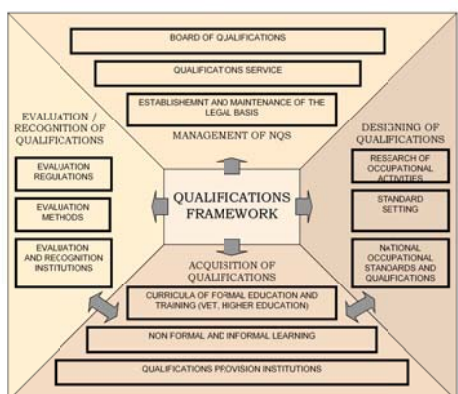
National Qualifications System (NQS) encompasses all **required, acquired and recognized** qualifications.

NQS provides the references for:

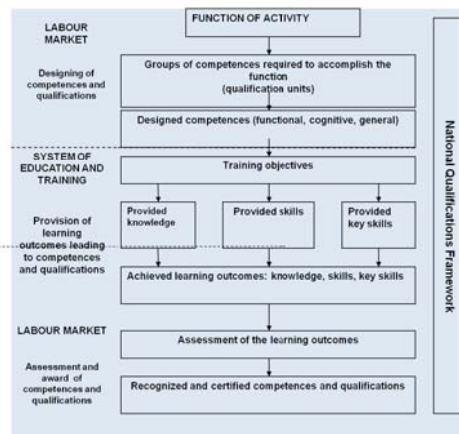
- National Framework of Qualifications
- designing of qualifications (research of activities, creation and development of the occupational standards),
- acquisition of qualifications through the formal and informal learning and training or through the professional experience,
- evaluation and recognition of qualifications, as well as
- management and quality assurance processes and measures applied in the functioning of NQS

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NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SYSTEM



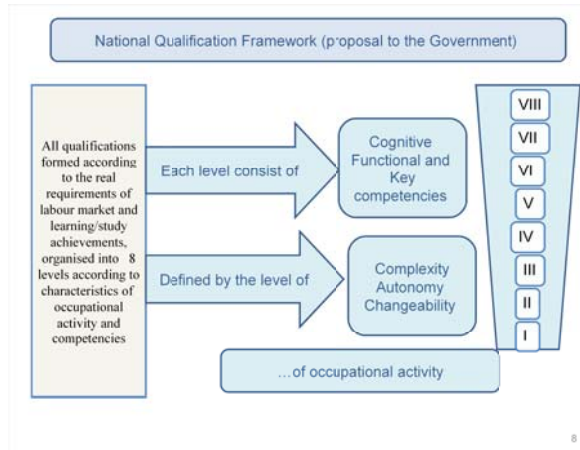
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It is foreseen that the NQF of Lithuania will play the important role in the all processes of the National System of Qualifications :

- NQF shall constitute **a basis of reference** in the designing of the qualifications.
 - It will help to define the level of qualifications in the designing of the occupational standards and in mapping the existing and new designed qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications.
- NQF shall help to foster the equity between the different forms and ways of the provision and acquisition of qualifications by setting the clear basis of information about the levels of qualifications and the ways of progression between these levels.
 - The implementation and development of the NQF shall also help to improve the continuity and the ways of transition between the initial VET and higher education, as well as between the initial VET and continuing VET.
- NQF will serve as the instrument for the evaluation and certification of competences and qualifications by indicating the level of the acquired qualifications and the ways of progression between the levels.
 - It will be importance guidance instrument for the assessment and recognition of the informally and non-formally acquired qualifications.



DESIGNING OF QUALIFICATIONS

Process of the defining the contents of qualifications composed of the competences needed for the execution of the occupational tasks.

Competences are defined by executing of the sector analysis and the researches of activities and creating the national occupational standards.

Standards should contain the qualifications needed in the system of activities and should provide the reference for the vocational training standards and the regulations of study programs.

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ACQUISITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Acquisition of qualifications is composed of the processes of the initial vocational training and higher education in the formal training institutions, as well as the informal training and experience based learning, which provide the learners with the competences and qualifications.

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EVALUATION AND RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS – EVERY LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE IS IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

Evaluation of the competences or the learning achievements (knowledge and skills) acquired through the formal or informal training and learning with the aim to get the formal recognition of the acquired qualifications confirmed by the certificates, diploma or other officially recognized documents. Qualification is awarded when all the competences of this qualification satisfy the criteria of evaluation.

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Recognition of non-formal and informal learning

Principles of recognition of non-formal and informal learning in NQS:

- Accessibility – all workers, learners and job – seekers must have broad access to the recognition of non-formal and informal learning achievements.
- Planned and systematic character – recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning must be organized systematically and cover all the system of professional activities and all qualifications levels, with the distributions of functions among participants.
- Continuity – recognition of competences for life long learning
- Transparency – recognition procedures must be universally accepted, clear and treated on the development of social cohesion.
- Social dialogue basis;
- Matching of the system of professional activities with the labour market needs.

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Groups of stakeholders	Stages of development				
	Designing	Discussion	Piloting	Putting in to law and legal acts	Implementing
Employers		*	*		
Employees associations		*		*	
State Authorities: Ministries, Qualification Authority	*	*		*	*
Representatives of educational institutions		*	*	*	
Scientists, Researchers of VET and qualifications	*	*	*	*	
Learners, parents					
Explanation:	NQF designing group (Definition of NQF and level descriptors) was formed from the scientists, researchers representatives of education establishments and state authorities.	Design of NQF, levels and levels descriptors, main processes and ect. Was broadly discussed among the wide groups of main stakeholders	Occupational standards within the terms of NQF and NQF levels were piloted in two sectors: construction and Hotels and Restaurants involving employers, educational institutions and	Working groups for preparation of Law of Vocational education and training and Law of Qualifications formed from the wide scope of representatives of main actors	It is still too early to say how actors will be involved into implementation of the framework.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Amendments to the Law of Vocational Education and training (2008):

- QUALIFICATION AUTHORITY** – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
- REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS** – REGISTER OF TRAINING AND STUDY PROGRAMMES
- EVALUATION OF COMPETENCIES RECOGNITION OF COMPETENCIES** – AWARDING OF QUALIFICATIONS

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And the future...

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