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## HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM EXPERTS

# European Qualifications Framework and Recognition - ECTS -

By  
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# Agenda

- EQF Process
- EQF Tools
  - European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
  - Diploma Supplement
  - Europass
- Recognition
  - Network of National Academic Recognition Information Centers
- Recommendations

# EQF Process

## ■ Objectives of EQF:

- *An overarching framework that makes transparent the relationship between European national higher education frameworks of qualifications and the qualifications that contain. It is an articulation mechanism between national frameworks. (Dec 3-4, 2004)*
- Make sense of Europe diversity
- Provide tools that make easier for people to earn qualifications in a variety of ways, at different ages, and often in alternation between work and study

# EQF Process

- Objectives of EQF (cont)
  - Different learning paths
  - Bridging the world of higher education and the world of work
  - Promoting social cohesion
  - In few words:
    - International transparency
    - Recognition
    - Mobility
    - Life learning

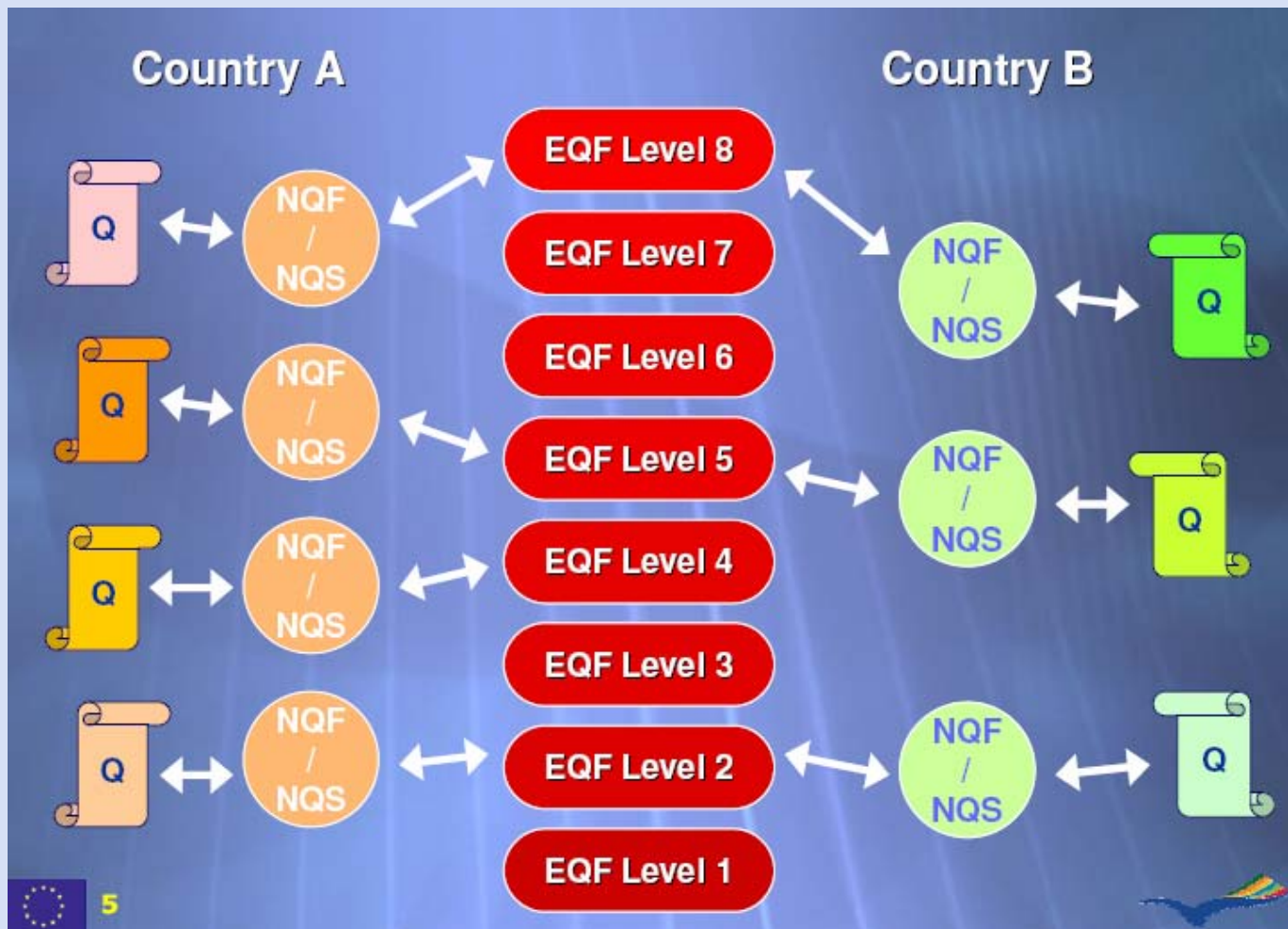
# EQF Process

- 2 Helsinki seminars 2001-2003
- Seminar on recognition Lisboa 2002
- Seminar on ECTS Zurich 2002
- Seminar on recognition and credit systems Praha 2003
- Seminar on integrated programs Mantova 2003
- Kobenhaven Conference 2003
- Seminar on learning outcomes Edinburgh 2004
- Seminar on Public Responsibility for HE Strasbourg 2004
- Bologna Conference of QF 2005
- Consultation during second half of 2005
  - Stakeholders
- Several reports
- Recommendation January 29, 2008
- Target 2010

# EQF Process

- What is EQF?
  - Translation device for comparing qualifications
  - Neutral reference point based on learning outcomes
  - 8 reference levels
    - Knowledge
    - Skills
    - Competences

# EQF Process



# EQF Process



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## EQF reference level descriptors: example

Level	Knowledge	Skills	Competence
1	Basic general knowledge	Basic skills required to carry out simple tasks	Work or study under direct supervision in a structured context
8	Knowledge at the most advanced frontier of a field of work or study and at the interface between fields	The most advanced and specialised skills and techniques, including synthesis and evaluation, required to solve critical problems in research and/or innovation and to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice	Demonstrate substantial authority, innovation, autonomy, scholarly and professional integrity and sustained commitment to the development of new ideas or processes at the forefront of work or study contexts including research.





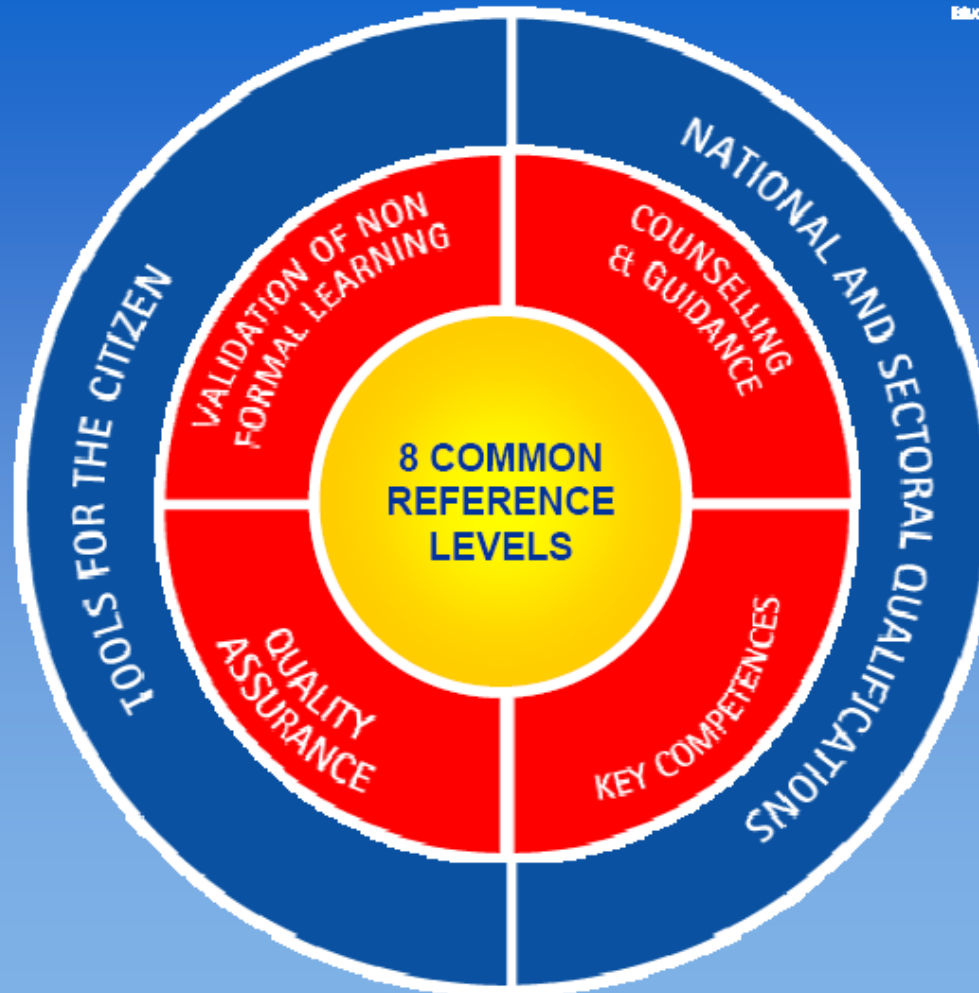
# EQF Process



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The main elements of the EQF



# EQF Process



- Beneficiaries
  - Citizens
  - Sectors, employers and social partners
  - Education and training systems
- Implementation is voluntary
- Commitment from national and sectoral bodies

# ECTS

- Introduced in 1989 (for credit transfer)
- Student-centered system based on the student workload to achieve the objectives of a program (learning outcomes and competences to be acquired)
  - 60 credits ~ full time student during an academic year
  - 1 ECTS = 25 to 30 working hours
- Grading on statistical scale
  - A (best 10%), B (next 25%) , C (next 30%) , D (next 25%) , E (next 10%)

# Diploma Supplement

- Document attached to diploma to facilitate recognition of qualifications
- It is not: a CV, transcript, qualification
- Formed of 8 sections:
  - Information on <sup>1</sup>holder, on <sup>2</sup>qualification, on <sup>3</sup>level of qualification, on <sup>4</sup>contents and results, on <sup>5</sup>function of qualification, <sup>6</sup>additional information, <sup>7</sup>certification, information on <sup>8</sup>national higher education system
- Promotes transparency in higher education
- Accommodates rapid changes in qualifications
- Aids mobility, access and lifelong learning
- Promotes fair and informed judgments about qualifications

# Europass



- Brings together tools for transparency of diplomas, certificates and competences
- Europass CV
- Europass Language Passport
- Europass Mobility
- Europass Certificate Supplement
- Europass Diploma Supplement

# Recognition

- Three main levels of recognition:
  - Recognition of qualifications allowing entry and reentry into higher education
  - Recognition of short study periods (ECTS as instrument attached)
  - Recognition of degrees (Diploma Supplement as instrument attached)
- NARIC: Network of National Academic Recognition Information Centers
- Academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study
- In the case NARIC not decision-making body: provides information about precedures

# Recommendations

- EQF meta-qualifications framework
- Good model based on consultation and counseling
- Life-long learning, mobility and recognition
- May be used as reference for the Lebanese higher education system