



Strasbourg, October 18, 2021

## **National Correspondents for Qualifications Frameworks (QF-EHEA)**

### **UPDATE AND REPROPT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 2021**

Prepared by DGII, Directorate of Democratic Participation, Education Department of the Council of Europe

## **Annual meeting of the EHEA Network of National Correspondent for Qualifications Frameworks of Higher Education**

The EHEA Network of National Correspondents for Qualifications Frameworks met online on September 10, 2021. The meeting was organized by the Council of Europe and chaired by Jean-Philippe Restoueix (CoE).

As indicated in the agenda of the meeting (Appendix), the focus was on:

- Update on the situation as regards self-certification;
- Integration of Competences for Democratic Culture in qualifications frameworks;
- Micro credentials and qualifications frameworks.

The number of attendees was quite significant, as 35 countries were represented.

### ***A. Self-certification***

- a. Attention should be drawn once more to the extremely diverse timing between the different countries. Some countries developed their national higher education QFs more than 15 years ago and are in the process of reviewing it; others just adopted one recently.
- b. The change of perception and space given to non-formal education within QF EHEA.
- c. The role of distance learning and the acknowledgment of the new learning processes through e-learning. This can be also perceived as a consequence of the pandemic for this work area.
- d. The meeting was informed of the work of Thematic Peer Group A on qualifications frameworks and its priorities:
  - i. Micro credentials
  - ii. Use of the QF by stakeholders
  - iii. The relationship between Quality Assurance and Qualifications Frameworks
  - iv. Inclusion of the short cycle within QF EHEA

### ***B. Competences for Democratic Culture (CDC)***

These competences are sometimes already included in national QFs (in Germany, for instance, some formulations in the NQF are linked to the CDC). It is also related to the space given to ethical issues in all disciplines. In Andorra, these competences are included in all qualifications.

### ***C. Micro credentials***

Michal Karpíšek introduced his study clarifying the different definitions, the questions around “does an accumulation of micro credentials makes a full qualification, and on what conditions?”, and certification of providers including the quality assurance element. The debates on micro credentials and their impact on education policy (for good and bad) will be on the agenda for some years to come. In this perspective, the Council of Europe decided to publish a volume in its Higher Education Series on “Qualifications Frameworks in the EHEA: a tool for modernization”

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
  
2. Integration of competences for democratic culture within Qualifications framework Higher Education
  - a. Presentation of the work done on CDC within higher education/ expert input
  - b. Exchange between participants
  
3. Situation of national Qualifications Frameworks for Higher Education:
  - a. State of affairs on national level:
    - i. Impact of the Covid 19 crisis in the qualifications systems for Higher Education
    - ii. Challenges met in case of updates of the framework
  - b. Update on the Self certification process
  
4. Micro-credits and qualifications frameworks: State of affairs and challenge
  - a. Presentation of the report made by Michal Karpíšek
  - b. Comments and reaction from the European Commission and from ESU and EUA
  - c. Exchange between participants
  
5. Any other business

## **APPENDIX 2**

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