EQF Objectives

- Transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications
- Employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners
- Linking formal, non-formal and informal learning
- Supporting the validation of learning outcomes acquired in different settings
- Contributing to modernising education and training systems
What is the EQF?

• 8-Level reference framework for lifelong learning, covering all types and all levels of qualifications
• Defined in terms of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, responsibility & autonomy)
• A translation grid for qualifications across countries
• Fully compatible with the QF of the European Higher Education Area
EQF Recommendation of 2008 replaced by Recommendation of 2017: new elements

- Review and update, when relevant, the referencing
- Inclusion of EQF Referencing criteria in Recommendation
- Annexes on quality assurance and credit systems
- International qualifications
- Third Country Dimension
- Communication & databases/registers
- Consistency of referencing
Current state of EQF implementation (March 2018)

- 39 countries participate in the EQF process
- 35 (27 EU + 8 non EU MS have referenced)
- 43 NQFs, 35 formally adopted
- 21 NQFs in operation
- 25 NQFs with national databases/qualifications registers
- 23 countries indicate EQF levels on certificates, and/or Europass supplements
Main impacts of the EQF

• Development of NQFs in Europe (from 3 to 43 in 10 years time!)
• Interconnected landscape of EQF and (diverse) European NQFs
• Development of a comprehensive "map" of qualifications in Europe
• Mutual learning between European NQFs (building trust)
• Change in thinking about qualifications (outcomes focussed, away from duration or institution)
• Different types of qualifications integrated in in the same framework – dialogue, parity of esteem
• Linkage between QFs and validation of NFIL
EQF and QF EHEA

- Recitals 21 and 25: both frameworks are compatible; correspondence on EQF levels 5-8; coherence/complementarity/synergies between EQF and other transparency tools, including EHEA
- Rec 1: Use the EQF to compare all types and levels of qualifications
- Annex II: correspondance between Dublin and EQF descriptors (5-8)
- Annex III: referencing criterion 8 (single reports)
- Annex IV: fully compatible with ESG (and EQAVET)
- Annex V: fully compatible with ECTS (and ECEVT)
- Lisbon Convention Subsidiary Text and Council Recommendation on Recognition
- Diploma Supplement
Current and future challenges

• Keeping EQF referencing up to date and relevant
• Full implementation of the learning outcomes approach (teaching, assessment)
• Making the EQF better known to learners, workers, employers
• Making the role of EQF/NQFs a reality on the labour market
• Consistency in EQF referencing across countries
• Non-formal qualifications (private sector, international)
• Keep European NQFs connected through the EQF
• International dimension
EQF Implementation priorities (EQF AG)

- Keeping the referencing up to date
- International qualifications
- “Horizontal comparisons” to support consistency of referencing
- Communicating the EQF
- Linking national databases to the European portal
- Third country dimension
Thank You