

San Marino NQF process timeline

1 Start

After the approval of the Implementation of the Road Map for San Marino's accession to the EHEA, a NQF Working Group was established by the San Marino Government in March 2020 (Delibera del Congresso di Stato n. 42 del 2 marzo 2020) to work on the San Marino national Qualification Framework (SMNQF).

2 Setting of the agenda

The Government has decided to set up a comprehensive National Qualification Framework for the entire education system, so the WG will work on both the QF-EHEA and the EQF frameworks. In terms of the QF-EHEA, the University of San Marino, the only Higher Ed institution in the country, is already following the three-cycle system and the ECTS credits system. The purpose of the NQF is then to systematize the framework already in place according to the compatibility with the QF-EHEA and to integrate it to the EQF framework for all levels of education.

3 Organising the process

Main stakeholders: Ministry of Education, University experts, students and staff representatives, employers, trade unions, business organizations, education experts, labor experts.

4 Design

The San Marino WG completed the first draft of the SMNQF for the second meeting of the San Marino's Roadmap WG: profile; level structure (EHEA three cycles and EQF 8 level descriptors); credit ranges.

In the second draft, the WG will expand the 6-7-8 level descriptors of the SMNQF with general competences for each cycle. In this phase, the WG will be aided by foreign experts.

5 Next step: Consultation

The SMNQF proposal is supported by the institutional education providers and will be discussed in a broad consultation with all stakeholders (employers, trade unions, major public).

The San Marino higher education system and qualifications follow the EHEA's three-cycle system:

Since 2005 (Law 28 April 2005 n.63) San Marino has:

A credit based system: 1 CFU= 25 hours of student work. 1 CFU = 1 ECTS

Higher education qualifications in line with the EHEA three-cycle system:

- The San Marino equivalent of Bologna level 1 (first cycle/Bachelor) is *Laurea*. 3 years, 180 CFU
- The San Marino equivalent of Bologna level 2 (second cycle/Master) is *Laurea Magistrale*. 2 years, 120 CFU
- The San Marino equivalent of Bologna level 3 (third cycle/Doctor) is *Dottorato di ricerca*. 3 years.

Those qualifications follow the "Dublin Descriptors", in terms of expectations of achievements and abilities, comprehensive of the following five components: knowledge and understanding, applying knowledge and understanding, making judgements, communication skills, and lifelong learning skills.

The San Marino higher education system also offers professionalizing programs that are not part of the EHEA's three-cycle system.

Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 6 on the SMQF, Level 1 of the QF-EHEA: Laurea

Access requirement: Upper secondary school leaving qualification or other level 4 EQF comparable qualification with at least 12 years of study

Qualification and title conferred: Laurea - Dottore

Access to further study: the qualification obtained allows admission to Master's Degree Programmes and first-level Postgraduate Professionalizing Programmes

Those qualifications are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of the key aspects of their field of study, including the acquisition of coherent, detailed, and in some areas up-to-date knowledge on specific aspects of a discipline.
- the ability to use carefully established analysis and investigation techniques within a discipline.
- conceptual understanding to use academic sources, to manage their own learning, to come through uncertainty and the limits of knowledge.

Qualification holders should be able to:

- apply the methods and techniques learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their skills

- develop analytical and problem solving techniques that can be applied in many types of work
- critically evaluate arguments, hypotheses, concepts and abstract data (which may be incomplete), to formulate well-founded judgments and identify solutions to a problem
- communicate data, ideas, problems and solutions to a specialized and non-specialized public
- transfer skills into occupations that require the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making processes in complex and unpredictable circumstances
- apply knowledge and understanding demonstrating professional approach to professional activities
- carry out appropriate further training in their professional field
- develop judgment skills and learning abilities on the area of study to proceed to further studies with a high degree of autonomy

Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the SMQF, Level 2 of the QF-EHEA: Laurea Magistrale

Access requirement: Laurea or comparable First cycle degree (Level 1 of the QF-EHEA) qualification

Qualification and title conferred: Laurea magistrale - Dottore magistrale

Access to further study: the qualification obtained allows admission to third cycle and second-level Postgraduate Professionalizing Programmes

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic and cutting-edge understanding of knowledge in their academic discipline with original ability to apply it.
- a critical awareness of current problems in the field of study or area of professional practice
- a practical understanding of how established research and inquiry techniques are used to study and interpret knowledge in the discipline.
- evaluate methodologies and techniques applicable to their research, elaborate criticisms and, if necessary, propose new hypotheses.

Typically, qualification holders will be able to:

- address complex issues systematically and creatively and make solid judgments in the absence of complete data
- clearly communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to a specialized and non-specialized public
- demonstrate independence and originality in addressing and solving problems and acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

- transfer skills to occupations that require the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and ability of decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
- enhance their knowledge and understanding by developing new high-level skills with independent learning capabilities
- demonstrate and apply competence, knowledge, understanding and problem-solving abilities to the study field and to interdisciplinary contexts

Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 8 on the SMQF, Level 3 of the QF-EHEA: Dottorato di ricerca

Access requirement: Laurea magistrale or comparable Second cycle degree (Level 1 of the QF-EHEA) qualification

Qualification and title conferred: Dottorato di ricerca - Research Doctorate (PhD)

The Dottorato di ricerca degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- the ability to create and interpret new knowledge, through original and advanced research, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and deserving publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice
- the ability to conceptualize, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, adapting it in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for advanced academic research and inquiry.

Typically, qualification holders will be able to:

- make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data
- communicate ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to a specialized and non-specialized audience, in both academic and professional contexts
- demonstrate complete understanding and critical analysis of a specific complex area of study
- carry out pure and / or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or paths.
- transfer qualities and skills in professional fields that require personal responsibility and initiative as well as wide autonomy in complex and unpredictable situations

San Marino national qualification framework

The San Marino national qualification framework (SMQF) is based on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Like the EQF, the SMQF has eight levels and shares the same descriptors.

Level	Knowledge	Skills	Responsibility and autonomy
Level 1	Basic general knowledge	Basic skills required to carry out simple tasks	Work or study under direct supervision in a structured context
Level 2	Basic factual knowledge of a field of work or study	Basic cognitive and practical skills required to use relevant information in order to carry out tasks and to solve routine problems using simple rules and tools	Work or study under supervision with some autonomy
Level 3	Knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to accomplish tasks and solve problems by selecting and applying basic methods, tools, materials and information	Take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study; adapt own behavior to circumstances in solving problems
Level 4	Factual and theoretical knowledge in broad contexts within a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to generate solutions to specific problems in a field of work or study	Exercise self-management within the guidelines of work or study contexts that are usually predictable, but are subject to change; supervise the routine work of others, taking some responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of work or study activities
Level 5	Comprehensive, specialized, factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of work or study and an awareness of the boundaries of that knowledge	A comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills required to develop creative solutions to abstract problems	Exercise management and supervision in contexts of work or study activities where there is unpredictable change; review and develop performance of self and others
Level 6	Advanced knowledge of a field of work or study, involving a critical	Advanced skills, demonstrating mastery and innovation, required to	Manage complex technical or professional activities or projects, taking

first cycle in the QF-EHEA	understanding of theories and principles	solve complex and unpredictable problems in a specialized field of work or study	responsibility for decision-making in unpredictable work or study contexts; take responsibility for managing professional development of individuals and groups
Level 7 second cycle in the QF-EHEA	Highly specialized knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of work or study, as the basis for original thinking and/or research Critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface between different fields	Specialized problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields	Manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches; take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of teams
Level 8 third cycle in the QF-EHEA	Knowledge at the most advanced frontier of a field of work or study and at the interface between fields	The most advanced and specialized 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

Referencing framework of San Marino qualifications

Type of Qualification	EQF Level	QF-EH EA	Competent authority	Relevant education Training pathway
<i>Dottorato di ricerca</i> Research Doctorate (PhD)	8	3	<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> Ministry of Education and Culture	Three-year program (no credit-rated)
<i>Master universitario di secondo livello</i> <i>Second level Postgraduate Professionalizing diploma</i>	8		<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> Ministry of Education and Culture	Minimum one year program (60 CFU)
<i>Laurea magistrale</i> Master's degree	7	2	<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> Ministry of Education and Culture	Two-year master's degree program (120 CFU)
<i>Master universitario di primo livello</i> <i>First level Postgraduate Professionalizing diploma</i>	7		<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> <i>Ministry of Education and Culture</i>	Minimum one year program (60 CFU)
<i>Laurea</i> Bachelor's degree	6	1	<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> Ministry of Education and Culture	Three-year bachelor's degree program (180 CFU)
No qualifications at SMQF level 5	5			
<i>Diploma di scuola secondaria superiore</i> Upper secondary education diploma	4		<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> Ministry of Education and Culture	Five-year upper secondary schools
<i>Attestato di qualifica di operatore professionale</i> Professional operator certificate	3		<i>Segreteria di Stato Lavoro</i> Ministry of Labour and employment	Three-year VET pathways

<i>Certificato delle competenze all'assolvimento dell'obbligo di istruzione</i> Compulsory education certificate	2		<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura oppure Lavoro</i> Ministry of Education and Culture or Ministry of Labour and employment	End of the first two years: Vocational schools, Technical schools
<i>Diploma di licenza conclusive del primo ciclo di istruzione</i> Lower secondary school leaving diploma	1		<i>Segreteria di Stato Istruzione e Cultura</i> Ministry of Education and Culture	End of Lower secondary school

