

Recommendations from the Bologna seminar on Qualifications Frameworks, København, January 13 – 14, 2005

The participants in the conference on Qualification Frameworks, organized by the Danish authorities in København on January 13 – 14, 2005, recommend:

that the Ministers meeting in Bergen on May 19 – 20, 2005

- adopt the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area as proposed by the BFUG Working Group;
- mandate the BFUG to elaborate criteria and procedures for a self-certification system for national framework of qualifications where quality assurance is included and to submit it for final adoption to the Ministerial meeting in 2007;
- delegate responsibility for the maintenance and development of the overarching framework to the Bologna Follow Up Group and any successor executive structure;
- commit to elaborating national framework of qualifications compatible with the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area by 2010;
- commit to taking adequate account of the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, as well as to consulting all parties to the Bologna Process, in any future development of frameworks for other parts of the education system

that public authorities responsible for national education systems

- in elaborating and maintaining their respective national qualifications be guided by and ensure compatibility with the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area;
- involve all relevant stakeholders both within and outside of higher education;
- identify a clear and nationally agreed set of purposes for their national qualification framework;
- ensure that their national framework of qualifications explicitly link academic standards, national and institutional quality assurance systems and public understanding of the place and level of nationally recognized qualifications;
- ensure that the description of each qualification within their national framework of qualifications explicitly state:
 - to which further qualification(s) that particular qualification gives access;
 - the relationship of the qualification in question to the three generic cycles of the overarching framework;

- ensure that their national framework of qualifications associate the relevant transparency instruments, such as the Diploma Supplement, ECTS and Europass.
- ensure that their national framework facilitate learning paths that integrate non-formal and informal learning as well as various entry and exit points.

that higher education institutions as well as students and their organizations

- continue to contribute, as active stakeholders, to the development and maintenance of national framework of qualifications as well as the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area;
- ensure that the national framework of qualifications, and any alignment with the overarching framework for the EHEA, be referenced in all Diploma Supplements;
- make use of learning outcomes at the level of modules or units as well as at the level of qualifications.

that the ENIC and NARIC Networks and individual recognition centers

- provide clear and adequate information on the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area as well as on national frameworks to recognition networks and centers as well as higher education institutions in other parts of the world;
- consider a pilot project on using qualifications frameworks, in particular the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, to facilitate the recognition of qualifications from other regions.

that the appropriate international institutions, organizations and bodies

- offer assistance to countries that may require advice or the participation of foreign experts in the elaboration and/or implementation of their national framework of qualifications, and that request such assistance;
- review current transparency instruments, such as the ECTS, the Diploma Supplement as well as other elements of Europass, in the light of the development of qualifications frameworks.