THE PRESENT STATE OF

THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

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Objectives of the Qualification Framework for Higher Education

The rationale for the QFHE is to provide a mechanism to relate national framework to each other as to enable:

- **1. International transparency**;
  - In relations between universities across;
  - In relation with the employers and other stakeholders;
  - **Instrument**: Diploma Supplement;

- **2. International recognition of qualification**;

- **3. International mobility of learners and graduates**
  - Learners can ultimately have greater confidence that the outcomes of study abroad will contribute to a qualification sought in their country.
  - A framework will also be of particular help in supporting the development and recognition of joint degrees from more than one country.
Missions:

- to elaborate, implement, and update the national framework for higher education qualifications concerning the development, recognition and certification of qualifications based on the knowledge, abilities, and competences acquired by beneficiaries of the higher education system;

- to analyse **compatibility** of the specialisations curricula in the fundamental areas of higher education with national qualifications framework standards;
✓ to involve Romanian higher education institutions in the development of a European society based on knowledge and productivity, with a competitive and dynamic economy;

✓ to promote the opening of higher education institutions towards the socio-economic environment through cooperation actions among higher education institutions, economic operators and other organisations, aimed at developing specific partnerships, labour market research, an entrepreneurial dimension to Romanian universities, as well as knowledge transfer.
The ACPART Strategy for 2007-2010

Main directions of the strategy:

• National Level
  • Development of the Methodology for the National Qualifications framework;
  • Description of pilot qualifications;
  • National compatibilities;
  • National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education

• International Level
  • Exchanges of good practices;
  • Involvement in European actions for qualifications framework;
  • Harmonization of the Romanian NQF with EQF and with the NQFs of other countries.
Partners, Actors and Beneficiaries - in the same time

Policy Makers

Ministry of Education and Research
National Qualifications Authority for Higher Education

Ministry of Labour

Stakeholders

Companies
Universities
Sectoral Committees
Professional Associations
Trade Unions

Students
Employers
Teachers

Employees
Graduates

Other beneficiaries

Companies
High Schools
The elaboration of the methodology for the development of the National Qualifications Framework in Higher Education - Phare Project RO 2004/016 – 772.05.01

The methodology is under a public debate involving the Romanian higher education institutions which are invited to participate by theirs representatives to 8 regional workshops during April and May 2007. The consultation period will end with a National Conference where the final, revised form of the methodology will be presented and validated.
The **methodology** comprises:

- **structure** of the NQFHE including the definition of the key concepts;
- **grids** for defining the higher education professional qualifications;
- **set of indications** for filling in the grids;
- **procedures** an institution has to respect in order to be given the right of certifying a qualification (the dossier for the validation of a qualification);
- the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education.
Actors’ Roles in Defining Qualifications

UNIVERSITY

Domain A

SP₁ ... SPₙ

Processing competences, strategies, policies

Domain N

modication of curricula

Structures of management

Demands of the labour market

Partnership

Training offer, Qualifications

NQA for HE

Defining qualification

- Descriptors
- Mechanisms
- Principles

EMployers

• Specific Conditions
  - Development
  - Innovation
  - Human Resources
• Competition
  - Supported by highly qualified HR

Assuring:
- compatibility
- transparency
- harmonization

Legend:
SP₁ - study programme 1
SPₙ - study programme n

Civil Society
Sectoral committees
Professional Associations
Trade Unions
Students, graduates
The description process of the university professional qualification

- University Professional Qualification
  - Professional Roles
    - Occupations
  - Competences
    - Units of competence
      - Disciplines of studies
Between the ACPART Agency and ARACIS there is a *synergetic relationship*.

The ACPART Agency manages the description of the higher education professional *qualifications* for each programme of studies and validates the new qualifications, while ARACIS evaluates the content and the quality of the process which ends by certifying a specific higher education program.
Procedures an institution has to respect in order to be given the right of certifying a qualification

Labour market requests → ACPART → MERY* → ARACIS* → Higher education institution

- Evaluation;
- Included in NQF.

Dossier with the notification for qualification approval

* MERY – The Ministry of Education, Research and Youth
* ARACIS – The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
• The development of the National Qualifications Register for Higher Education (NQRHE)
• The NRQHE is a tool for identification, registration, permanent consultation and updating of qualifications, namely degrees and awards issued by higher education institutions.
• The NRQHE should be seen as a multi-actor and multi-national tool of interest.
  - As a multi-actor tool, NRQHE represents the result of the collaboration among different stakeholders;
  - As a multi-national tool, NRQHE will be available on-line both in Romanian and in English, in order to ensure the national and international access to information.
NRQHE has been started in his first experimental form, bringing together all the titles/qualifications given by the Romanian universities. This is in public use starting with 1st of May 2007 on the ACPART website.

The future development of the Register will be supported by projects with Governmental and Structural Funds.
Development of 22 qualifications from different higher education domains:

- Computers and information technology;
- Electronics and telecommunication engineering;
- Electric engineering – electrotechnic;
- Systems engineering – automatics and applied informatics;
- Mathematics;
- Informatics;
- Machine engineering;
- Industrial engineering – technology of machine manufacturing;
- Mechanical engineering;
- Chemistry;
- Chemic engineering;
- Environment engineering;
- Civil engineering;
- Building Service/Installation Engineering;
- Finance – finance and banks;
- Administration Sciences;
- Communication Sciences;
- Business Administration – commerce, tourism, services economy;
- Transportation engineering;
- Naval and navigation engineering - maritime and fluvial navigation and transport;
- Department of teacher training;
- History.
• **Harmonization of the qualifications**

• The harmonization of the qualifications correlated to 10 study programmes from different domains of studies in Higher Education with the correspondent VET qualifications by November 2007.

• Phare Project for Technical Assistance „*Training and counseling for continuing the TVET development in Romania*” RO2006/018-147.04.01, in partnership with the National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development (NCTVETD).

The general objective of the project is to exchange experiences and to develop and test modular grids of competences and key methodological units comprising principles, mechanisms and guidance tools for the elaboration of EQF and specific NQFs.
The *project partners* are: University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France), Higher Education and Training Awards Council (Ireland), CROSS (Netherlands), The Ministry of Education and Research (Romania), The Association for Information Technology and Communication (Romania), University of Zaragoza (Spain), The National Recognition Information Centre (United Kingdom).

Project is financed by the European Commission through DGEAC.
- The Leonardo da Vinci Pilot Project FR/04/B/P/PP-151128 „European mechanism for distance information, orientation and validation of the jobs and qualifications in informatics and multimedia, from lifelong learning point of view” – EURO PORTIC promoted by the University of Versailles. Partner countries: France, Spain, Great Britain, Romania, Estonia.

- The transnational cooperation project Socrates-Minerva 116530-CP-1-2004-1-FR-MINERVA-MPP „European programme of e-trainings and validation through competences in data-processing and multimedia” – e-FORMINFO promoted by the University of Versailles. Partner countries: France, Spain, Poland, Romania, Great Britain.
The Leonardo da Vinci Project RO/05/B/F/PP175012 “Virtual training for young entrepreneurs of innovating business” - eNOV, promoted by ACPART. Partner countries: Romania, France, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Poland and UK.

- **Publishing of support materials for information dissemination regarding the system of qualifications at European and national level**

- **Glossary** of key concepts, comparison of the two main European documents: EQF and EHEA, studies on competences, challenges of higher education today, etc.

- „**Conceptual bases for the development of NQFHE in Romania**” (May, 2007)

- Volume of **UNISO 2006** (May, 2007).
- **Summer University „UNIversity in SOciety – UNISO”** with the theme „Lifelong learning and qualifications in higher education”

- Period and location: **9-12 July 2007**, Versailles (France)

- It is organised by ACPART in collaboration with the University of Versailles with the support of DG EAC of EC, University of Rouen, University Paris 6 Pierre et Marie Curie, University of Picardy "Jules Verne“, Regional Council of Ile de France, General Council of Yvelines, and Romanian Association for Knowledge Transfer.
Thank you!

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