

### ***HERE Seminar***

## **Qualifications Frameworks: What are they, how do they work, what is their impact?**

19-20 September 2016

hosted by the Warsaw University of Technology -  
*Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer Management*  
4th Floor  
ul. Rektorska 4, 00-614 Warsaw

Qualifications frameworks (QF) are developed at both national and regional level across the globe, including in Europe and many of its partner countries. QF can be driven by different motivations: They can help to render an education system more transparent, by classifying qualifications and showing how one can progress from and between different levels and sectors of education, provide an indication of the learning outcomes that learners would achieve at each level of education, assist with recognition of qualifications within and between countries and regions, and contribute to quality assurance systems.

As most QFs are relatively recent developments, they still have to prove their benefits, and to gain the ownership and understanding of the wider public.

The HERE Needs Assessment and the request for Technical Assistance Missions confirm that QF are a key area of interest for national reform development. This seminar will provide insight on both national and regional QFs, and assess their potential and real impacts.

#### **Learning outcomes**

Participants are expected to:

- Understand the different reasons why qualifications frameworks (QF) are developed for the education sector, and specifically for higher education
- Understand current European trends regarding regional frameworks and national frameworks, as well as obstacles
- Be able to assess the implications of qualifications frameworks for recognition and mobility, transparency of systems, quality assurance and lifelong learning/flexible study paths
- Understand effective ways in which qualifications frameworks can be developed the processes needed to build buy-in from key stakeholders
- Understand some of the concrete impacts of qualifications frameworks on institutions



**CZiTT**

## Programme

### Monday 19, September

10:00-11:00 Registration and coffee

10.15 - 10.45: Campus tour. Meeting place at the registration area (Optional)

11:00-11:20 **Opening session (4t Floor, room 4.05):**

#### **Welcome**

*Kamila Partyka*, DG EAC, European Commission

*Banaszak Bartłomiej /Andrzej Kurkiewicz*, Department of Innovation and Development, Polish Ministry for Higher Education Department of Innovation and Development, Polish Ministry for Higher Education

*Prof. Krzysztof Lewenstein*, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, Warsaw University of Technology

#### **Introduction, seminar logic and presentation of pre-survey results**

*Michael Gaebel*, EUA/SPHERE Team

11:20 -13:00 **Session 1: Why Qualifications Frameworks?**

Chair: *Michael Gaebel*, EUA/SPHERE Team

#### **Introductory presentation – Part 1: Emergence of QF – and what they are for?**

*Barbara Kelly*, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

- Overview on an international development trend: National and regional QF
- What is a QF? What is it for?

Followed by 15 min for Q&A and discussion

- Differences in qualifications system and tools to create understanding
- Systematic approach to learning and qualifications, and its ability and limits in pushing education reforms;
- Briefly touch upon the real and perceive relation to quality assurance
- Address whether QF are about “outcomes” and/or standards?
- Reference the situation in Europe: Why are there two regional QFs? What is the impact of this?

**Introductory presentation – Part 2: Lifelong learning, skills and qualifications**

*Arjen Deij*, Senior Specialist, European Training Foundation (ETF)

The speaker will address QFs from the perspective of

- The EQF: its focus on skills and learning outcomes
- VET, and how QFs for lifelong learning address this
- Transitions within and between levels and sectors
- Current European discussions and advances regarding the EQF in practice
- European/EU policy dialogue with partner countries regarding QFs

Followed by 15 min for Q&A and discussion

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 **Session 2: Panel: Examples of NQF development: State of play, purposes, challenges**

Chair: *Nicolas Patrici*, UB/SPHERE Team

- Presentations from 2 HERE countries:
  - *Nazokat Kasymova*, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan
  - *Johanssen Eid*, National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education, Egypt
- Presentations from 2 European countries:
  - *Volker Gehmlich*, HS Osnabruek, Germany
  - *Andrzej Krasniewski*, Polish Rectors' Conference (KRASP) and Warsaw University of Technology (WUT), Poland

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-18:00 **Session 3: Break-out groups: Why QFs? What do we want to achieve?**

- Participants are to discuss their own “QF” purposes – and learn about purposes they have not thought about
- Participants will be divided in 4 groups, 2 rounds of parallel discussion groups – chaired by Volker Ghemlich, Zbigniew Marciniak, Arjen Deji, Michael Gaebel

	Topic 1 : Lifelong learning, employability, recognition of prior	Topic 2 : Recognition, mobility, internationalization
--	--	---

	learning, binary systems			
Chairs	Zbigniew Marciniak	Arjen Deij	Volker Gehmlich	Michael Gaebel
16.00-17.00	G1	G2	G3	G4
17.00-18.00	G3	G4	G1	G2

**18:00-18.30 Feedback session – closing first day**

*Chairs of break-out groups make brief interventions*

Chair: Michael Gaebel, EUA/SPHERE Team

**18.40 - 19.00 (19.20):** WUT campus tour with possible extension to WUT surroundings.  
Meeting place: Conference room. (Optional)

**19:30 Dinner**

**20 September**

**9:00-10:00 Session 4: Plenary: How to develop qualification frameworks**

Chair: Andrzej Krasniewski, Polish Rectors' Conference (KRASP) and Warsaw University of Technology (WUT), Poland

3 short HERE presentations:

- Abdallah al Zoubi, PSUT, Jordan
- Kristina Tsaturyan, Armenian State Pedagogical University, Armenia
- Aleksander Xhuvani, Albania

EU respondents:

- Barbara Kelly, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
- Zbigniew Marciniak, University of Warsaw, Vice-President of the Council for Science and Higher Education.

**10:00-11:00 Session 5: Breakouts: How to build and maintain qualification frameworks**

Three-break out groups, chaired by Michael Gaebel (SPHERE), Barbara Kelly (QQI), Nicolas Patrici (SPHERE)

The discussion should be an opportunity for the participants to on good practice in developing QF, based on the presentations during the seminar, and of course on their own experience with national policies and practices.

11:00 -11:30 Coffee break

11:30 -13:00 **Session 6: Plenary: QFs and quality assurance**

The session will discuss the multiple ways in which QF and quality assurance can be related.

- Chair: Michael Gaebel, EUA/SPHERE Team
- Input presentation - Steffen Westergaard Andersen, The Danish Accreditation Institution, Denmark
- This will be followed by a discussion with the HERE in plenary.

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 **Session 7: Towards a learning outcome based approach**

QFs are to classify qualifications. However, many QFs including the EQF and national European QF, are emphasizing learning outcomes. The session is to discuss advantages and challenges of this approach, and also provide some insights on how to do it.

- Two input presentations from EU speakers:
  - Volker Gehmlich, HS Osnabrueck, Germany
  - Zbigniew Marciniak, University of Warsaw, Vice-President of the Council for Science and Higher Education
- Followed by 3 parallel discussion groups, chaired by Volker Gehmlich, Michael Gaebel and Arjen Deij

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00- 17:00 **Final session: Implications for HERE - Lessons learned**

Brief update on HERE Virtual Community: Nicolas Patrici, SPHERE Team

Conclusions and Group discussion chaired by Michael Gaebel, EUA / SPHERE Team

Closing words : Anne Spangemacher, EACEA