

Cooperation among Stakeholders - Assurance of Wide Acceptance

(Experience from the Czech Referencing Process)

The Czech Republic referenced its education and qualifications systems to the EQF. The existing classification system for qualifications awarded in initial education, the K KOV (Classification of Educational Qualification Types) and the levels in the NSK (National Register of Vocational Qualifications) permit a referencing to the EQF. This is possible because the curricula and legal framework for initial education, like the level descriptors and qualifications standards of the NSK, are based on the principle of learning outcomes.

The referencing procedure chosen simplified the initial phase of the process and permitted a transparent description and referencing of Czech qualifications. The results of the referencing process are considered by all participants as a starting point for further discussion on the need for a comprehensive national qualifications framework which would use common descriptors to describe the levels of all qualifications awarded.

The EQF Recommendation allows the referencing of national qualifications systems to the EQF. The Czech Republic thus referenced its qualifications in a manner which guarantees the referencing is based on a working, well tested system, which is understood by all stakeholders. The current referencing forms a national qualifications framework of a bridging type¹. A comprehensive framework is a subject for further discussion.

A qualifications framework for tertiary² education is currently being developed in the context of the project Q-Ram. Self-certification in the context of the Bologna Process, a prerequisite for which is a tertiary qualifications framework, is expected following the completion of the project in 2012.

The ***National Referencing Report of the Czech Republic*** was prepared by the Czech NCP together with experts in various educational sectors and discussed with other stakeholders. **Chapter 1** of this report describes the reasons for the writing of this report and its goals. **Chapter 2** describes the Czech education and qualifications systems. **Chapter 3** describes the fulfilment of the ten criteria and procedures set out by the EQF Advisory Group. **Chapter 4** describes possible future developments in the coordination of existing and future qualification frameworks in different educational sectors: for primary and secondary education, for tertiary education (currently being developed in the project Q-RAM) and for continuing education (the framework contained in the National Register of Vocational Qualifications NSK). The report is followed by a number of appendices, which quote from supporting materials, demonstrating the correctness of the results of the referencing process.

The following Czech qualifications are referenced to the EQF:

- qualifications awarded in secondary education,
- qualifications awarded in tertiary education,
- qualifications awarded under the act 179/2006 Sb., on the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results (qualifications in the NSK).

¹ See the EQF Note 2: *Added Value of National Qualifications Frameworks in Implementing the EQF* http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/eqf/note2_en.pdf

² The words higher and tertiary are used interchangeably in the report to refer to all formal post-secondary education.

This includes all qualifications awarded in the Czech Republic which fit the definition in the glossary of the EQF Recommendation.

The report was approved by the Czech government in July 2011 and is available at http://www.nuov.cz/uploads/ECVET_a_EQF_4_6/National_Referencing_Report_Czech_Republic_en_fin_1.pdf.

Further information can be found and inquiries may be made at <http://www.nuov.cz/eqf> or contact Milada Stalker (milada.stalker@nuv.cz).