

# HRK

## **National higher education frameworks: design, implementation and self-certification**

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# Structure

- **10 steps to establish a National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education**  
... and what to bear in mind
- **Self-certification of the NQF**  
... and what to bear in mind

# 10 steps to establish an NQF in the EHEA

(as agreed by BFUG working group in 2005)

1. Decision to start work
2. Defining the purpose of the NQF
3. Organising the process: working group, stakeholders
4. Agreeing on design and content (levels, descriptors, etc.)
5. Consulting stakeholders: nation-wide discussion
6. Formal approval by competent authority
7. Agreeing on division of tasks in implementing the NQF
8. Implementing the NQF at institutional/programme level
9. Including qualifications in NQF (accreditation etc.)
10. Self-certification of NQF's compatibility with EHEA QF

## Steps 2 – 5: what to bear mind

- Set up a national working group with ALL relevant players: higher education institutions, education ministries, students, experts on quality assurance, curriculum design etc., possibly social partners (employers and trade unions)
- Define the main purposes of the NQF and then analyse existing QFs from other countries: for inspiration, but also to discern more clearly your national needs
- If you have already other NQFs, e.g. for VET, ensure coordination and compatibility
- Once you have a draft, consult all stakeholders not involved so far (in particular HE teachers!)

## Step 10: Self-certification against 7 criteria

- The NQF for HE and the body/ies responsible for its development are designated by the national HE Ministry
- There is a clear and demonstrable link between the qualif. in the NQF and the cycle descriptors in the EHEA QF
- The NQF is based on LO and the qual. are linked to ECTS
- The procedures for inclusion of qual. in the NQF are clear
- The national QA systems for HE refer to the NQF and are consistent with all ministerial communiqués
- The NQF and the alignments with the EHEA QF are referenced in the Diploma Supplements
- Responsibilities of domestic parties to the NQF are clearly determined and published

# Self-certification: What to bear in mind

- Comply with the 6 standards that operationalise the 7 criteria
- Very important: standard 3 – „The self-certification process shall involve international experts“.
- An experts group has to assess fulfillment of the criteria and standards and write a report, to be presented to the BFUG
- The real long-term work starts **AFTER** self-certification: making sure the NQF forms really the basis for national HE degrees and for quality assurance, that curricula are (re-) formulated to include learning outcomes, that all DS refer to the NQF, etc.

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**Thank you!**

**Questions?**