

Current and Future Trends - Linking Qualifications Frameworks with Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance of Qualifications Framework Armenia Case

17, February 2020

Prague, Czech Republic

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National Qualifications Framework of Armenia

The story behind...

1st version of the ANQF was adopted by the Government of Armenia in 2011 (31.03.2011)

- The ANQF was developed by the task-force established by the Ministry of Education and Science
- In 2012 two reports were produced by experts Adam Smith and Eva Gonczi

“ Fails to focus on Armenian needs as a NQF - its needs, priorities and problems. The functions of the NQF are too generic and broad; the placing of existing qualifications on any qualifications frameworks needs to be done transparently (as recognised in the document) using appropriate tools and processes which need to be identified”

2nd version of the ANQF was adopted by the Government of Armenia in 2016 (7.07.2016)

- Another task-force represented by the main stakeholders: the Ministry of Education and Science, Universities, Armenian ENIC, Student representatives, labor market representatives and the National Center for Quality Assurance.

How QA can be linked to ANQF?

- Participatory development of the ANQF
- Wider communication and engagement of Higher Education community to gain common understanding
- Raising awareness on the ANQF, its objectives and functionality for the Higher Education system in Armenia
- Capacity building of different stakeholders: Ministry of Education and Science, Universities, students, labor market, recognition bodies and QA agency
- Provide tools and mechanisms to ensure the QA of the ANQF by providing clear references between the study programs and ANQF

Linking quality assurance to ANQF (key players)

- National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance
- National Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility
- Universities (Internal QA units, professors, faculties, chairs, students)

TEMPUS ARMENQA Project

- ANQF and Sectorial Qualifications Frameworks in 5 sectors
- Implementation Strategy of the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education of Armenia for 2016-2020
- Glossary for ANQF
- Teacher's guidebook on the development of learning outcome based courses and education programs
- Brief guides for students, employers and Universities on what is ANQF

ANQF

- Developed based on Dublin Descriptors and EQF for Lifelong learning
- Has 8 levels with 3 levels of Higher Education (6,7 & 8)
- Describes the qualifications in terms of level descriptors that are easy to be referenced against
- Have clear progression from one level to the other
- Higher Education levels are expressed in ECTS credits
- Interpretable at national and international levels
- Serve as reference points for
 - design of the curriculum
 - Recognition of Qualifications and,
 - Quality Assurance of the study programs

Quality Assurance Agency and QA Criteria

- National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance established in 2008 (27.11.2008)
- Listed in the EQAR as of 01.02.2017
- Criteria for the accreditation of higher education adopted by the GoA in 2011 (30.06.2011)
 - Criteria are based on European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA
 - Criteria clearly define that the learning outcomes of study programs should have clear references to the ANQF
 - Assessment system should ensure the achievement of LOs within the study program

Internal Quality Assurance

- ANQA has produced a Guideline on the implementation of internal quality assurance procedures in higher education institutions, that provides hints on the curriculum development in line with the ANQF
- Internal QA bodies of the Universities periodically assess the quality of study programs with the reference of LOs to the ANQF
- Second Education Quality and Relevance Project, APL 2 (EQRP 2) focused on supporting tertiary education reforms in the context of the Bologna Agenda, particularly, establishment of QA mechanisms in Universities and building the capacities of ANQA

TEMPUS ALIGN

Guidelines for aligning academic programs to the Armenian National Qualifications Framework

- ❑ Methodology for the alignment
- ❑ Learning outcomes and assessment methods
- ❑ Academic program benchmarking methodology

State of the art and challenges ahead

- QA tools and transparent procedures should be provided for the placement of qualifications in the ANQF
- ANQF is not used for the assessment and validation of non-formal and informal learning
- New Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research has revisited the approach to the implementation of study programs with better emphasis on the operationalization of the ANQF
- Accreditation criteria will be revised in line with ESG 2015, as well as provide better links of QA to ANQF
- Assessment of LOs is crucial for the operationalization of ANQF, therefore QA criteria to ensure the validity of assessment should be brought forward
- Still there are some imitative processes to show the links between the study programs outcomes and ANQF
- Further support to AM Universities is required for the operationalization of the ANQF and deployment of better QA mechanisms for the alignment of study programs

Thank you!
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