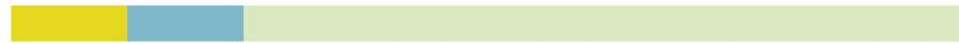


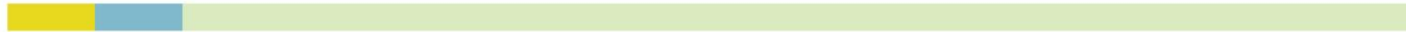
NQF-in



Developing organisational and financial models for including non-formal sector qualifications in National Qualifications Frameworks

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Czech Republic



Czech National Qualifications Framework with a single set of descriptors describing levels of all qualifications does not exist.

The Czech Republic referenced to EQF its formal qualifications, higher education qualifications and the NSK qualifications in 2011.

NSK

National Register of Qualifications (Národní soustava kvalifikací)

- public register of vocational and complete vocational qualifications and their qualification standards and assessment standards (not educational programmes!!!)
- tight link with National Occupations System
- system for the validation and recognition of learning outcomes outside of formal education system
- 8 qualification levels descriptors
- qualifications ranging between EQF levels 2 to 7
- significant support of lifelong learning and adult education in the Czech Republic

Concept

Validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning processes.

Responsibility

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the National Institute for Education.

Legislation

The process and responsibilities of different institutions are defined in the Act No. 179/2006 Coll. On the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results (so called Validation Act).

Types of qualifications that may be included in an NQF-based qualifications system

Type B, Variant 6

State regulated qualifications awarded outside the education system.

Only qualifications in the system of the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning might be included.

Ownership of a qualification in an NQF-based qualifications system

A qualification included in an NQF-based qualifications system becomes a public good

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is the main body responsible for NSK and its processes.

The process is defined in the Act No. 179/2006 Coll. On the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results (so called Validation Act).

Allowable level of similarity of the qualifications included in an NQF-based qualifications system

Similarity does not preclude the ability to include the new qualifications.

Character of the legal regulations on including qualifications in an NQF-based qualifications system

Specific regulations on inclusion have the character of required legal norms.

The process is defined in the **Act No. 179/2006 Coll. On the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results.**

Scope of the regulations on including qualifications in an NQF-based qualifications system

Specific regulations govern all significant elements in the process of including qualifications (rather tight).

Qualification standard and **assessment standard** for each qualification.

Authorising bodies are the ministries under which the given vocational qualification falls (the Ministries of Regional Development, Agriculture, Health, Industry and Trade, Home Affairs, Education, Labour and Transport). They give authorisation to

Authorised person/institution - awarding body - can be schools, private institutions, companies as well as individuals (for example a craftsman can become an authorised person).

NSK methodology (describing qualification, assigning levels to qualifications, includes **NSK descriptors** for levels 1-8 corresponding with EQF).

Degree of centralization of the decisions taken on including qualifications in an NQF-based qualifications system - 1

One institution decides on including qualifications (as well as determines their level) but with some involvement of different bodies.

- New vocational qualifications in NSK are proposed by employers' representatives/sector councils or can be proposed by anyone - the form of the proposal can be via on-line form or sector council meetings.
- Design of proposal (birth certificate)
- Evaluation of the proposal - sector council, authorizing body, Ministry of Education
- Inclusion in the annual production plan (and/or revision plan)

Degree of centralization of the decisions taken on including qualifications in an NQF-based qualifications system – 2

- Establishing specific working group - possibility of representation of the submitter
- Drafting a qualification and assessment standards
- Evaluation of the proposed standards by independent experts
- Evaluation by sector council
- Approval process - authorising body, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

- Publication in the NSK Information System
- Authorization and testing

Role of different stakeholder groups in activities relating to the inclusion of qualifications in an NQF-based qualifications system

The roles of public authorities and social partners are balanced in the process of including non-formal qualifications in NQF-based qualifications systems. Social partners have a strong role.

Sector councils (29 sector councils) „deliver qualification“ (later approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports).

- Responsible for developing occupational and qualification standards.
- The sector councils are expected to be proactive in suggesting what new standards are needed and where standards should be updated.
- Sector councils bring together employers' and employees' representatives as well as the National Institute for Education (NUV), the National Council for Qualifications, relevant ministries.

Fees for including qualifications in an NQF-based qualifications system

No fees are incurred when including a qualification in the system.

The formal, legal and financial benefits of having a qualification included in an NQF-based qualifications system

Including qualifications in the system provides various types of formal and financial benefits to learners, training institutions and awarding bodies (scholarships, discounts, the right to seek financing or refunds) – formal benefits mostly.

Legislation - Act No. 179/2006 Coll. On the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results

Quality assurance - Act No. 179/2006 Coll. On the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results

Qualification standards can be used as a source of information for updating formal curricula or developing educational programme.

Model 1. Model for the coherence of an NQF-based national qualifications system

Except of:

1.1 All types of qualification may be included in the qualifications system

3.1 Similarity to qualifications included earlier in the qualifications system precludes the ability to include the submitted qualification in the system

8.1 Fees are incurred when including a qualification in the system

9.2 Including qualifications in the system provides no practical formal or financial benefits for various stakeholder groups



Thank you for your attention !

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