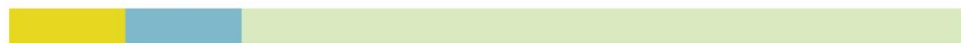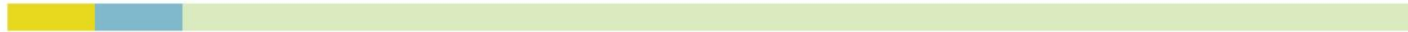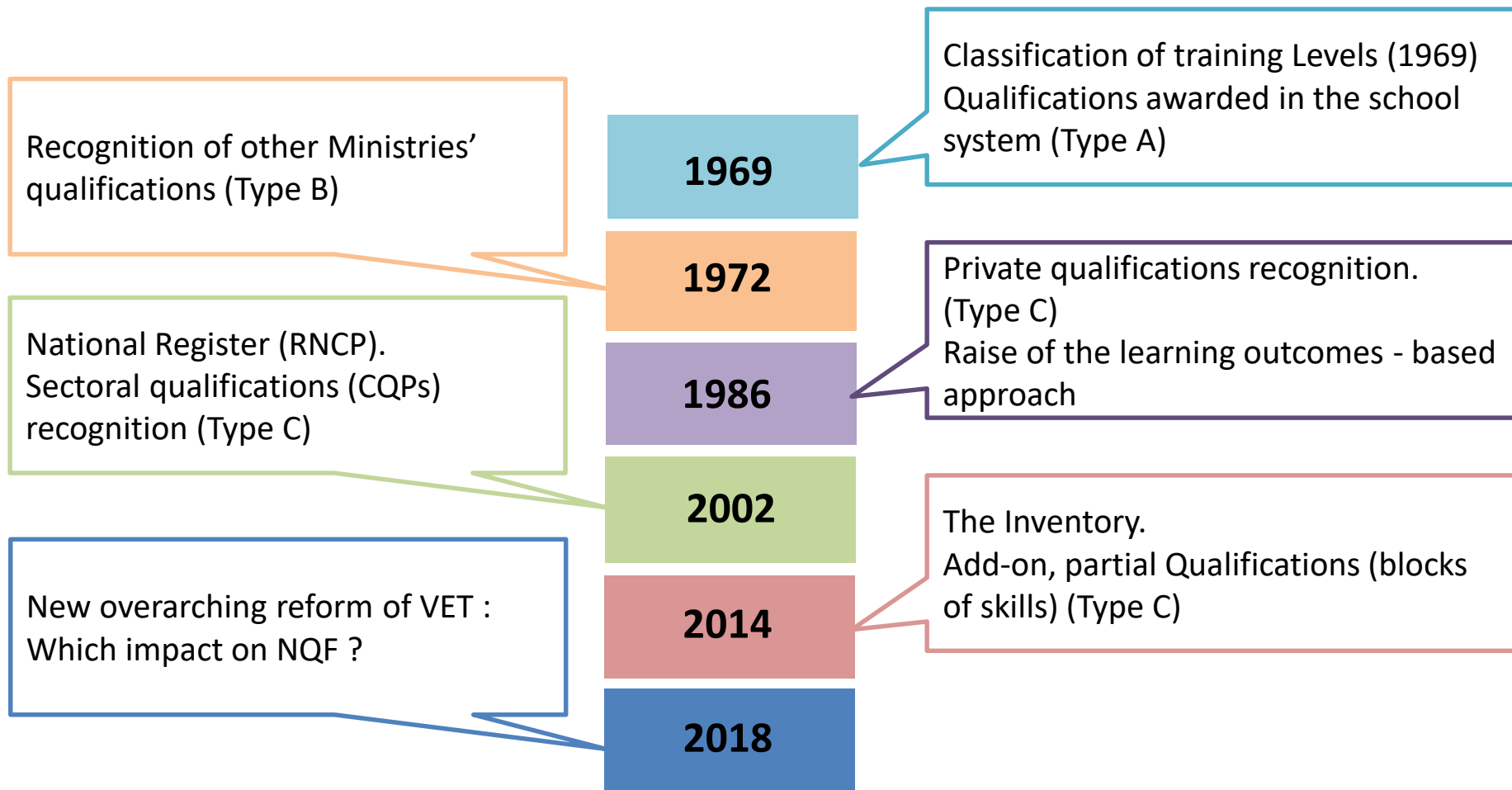# NQF-in

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

# Models of inclusion in NQFs:
# The French Case

Josiane Paddeu

Céreq, France

# Genesis and Development of the French NQF

**1969**

Classification of training Levels (1969)
Qualifications awarded in the school system (Type A)

Recognition of other Ministries' qualifications (Type B)

**1972**

Private qualifications recognition. (Type C)
Raise of the learning outcomes - based approach

**1986**

National Register (RNCP).
Sectoral qualifications (CQPs) recognition (Type C)

**2002**

The Inventory.
Add-on, partial Qualifications (blocks of skills) (Type C)

**2014**

New overarching reform of VET : Which impact on NQF ?

**2018**

# Types of Qualifications

- All types may be included …

- but a narrow conception of "qualification" that excludes some qualifications (*qualifications* in the French meaning):
  - ✓ **general primary and secondary education qualifications** (only vocational qualifications are included)
  - ✓ **"partial" or "add-on", international qualifications, companies' certificates (CISCO, Microsoft…)**

# Types of Qualifications

**…and different modes of registration:**

- *by entitlement :* For qualifications issued on behalf of the State on the recommendation of advisory bodies: (Vocational secondary qualifications, national higher education diplomas, State approved diplomas, engineering diplomas..)

- *on request :* For qualifications issued on behalf of the State without the recommendation of any advisory body; private qualifications and sectoral qualifications

# Types of Qualifications (since 2002)

| QUALIFICATIONS THAT MAY BE REGISTERED IN THE RNCP | QUALIFICATIONS EXCLUDED FROM THE RNCP |
|---|---|

**TYPE A**

**Registrable by entitlement in the RNCP :**
Qualifications issued on behalf of the state on the recommendation of tripartite advisory bodies :
- National higher education diplomas
- State approved diplomas and degree
- Engineering diplomas
- Ministry of Education and Agriculture qualifications
- Other ministries' qualifications (Labour, Youth, … )

**TYPE B**

**TYPE C**

**Registrable by request in the RNCP / Not registered (if request refused) :**
- Qualifications issued on behalf of the state without the recommendation of tripartite advisory bodies
- CQPs (sectoral qualifications)
- Private qualifications

**TYPE A**

**General primary and secondary education qualifications**

**TYPE C**

**Registrable qualifications in the Inventory (2014) :**
- Partial qualifications
- Add-on qualifications
- International qualifications
- Company qualifications (Microsoft, Cisco…)

# Ownership of qualifications included

- **They belong to the bodies that created them**

- **...who are responsible for quality assurance**

# Similarity of registered qualifications

- **Registered qualifications can be similar**

- **Risk of qualification overlapping**

# A centralised decision for inclusion

- **The *National Register of vocational Qualifications (RNCP)* is managed by a single institution:**

- **the CNCP (*National Committee for Professional Certification*)** *created by Social Modernisation Act of 17 January 2002*

Co-funded by the
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of the European Union

# A centralised decision for inclusion

- **Which involves all relevant stakeholders**

  ✓ represented in the French CNCP

  ✓ And in other joint-committees for recognition of qualifications issued on behalf of the State

# A wide set of regulations

## *Registration Criteria*

✓ Relevance in terms of occupation

✓ "Education-to-work transition" indicators

✓ Precise description of the learning outcomes to be assessed

✓ Availability through Accreditation of Prior and Informal Learning procedures (*APIL =* VAE)

## *A procedure that takes into account all aspects of registration*

- *Process*

# Social partners' involvement in the decisions

- **Social partners are full members of consulting committees for State qualifications' design and recognition :**

  - CNCP

  - CPCs and other similar bodies

- **Is their role effective or symbolic?**

# Costs of inclusion

- **Registration is free of charge in France**

- ***...but not costless for the applicants and the national budget***

# Benefits of inclusion

## *In the French Register (2002)*

✓ Qualifications can be awarded through apprenticeship schemes

✓ Eligibility to funding for continuing training

✓ Eligibility to funding to cover APIL leave

✓ Eligibility to work in regulated professions

## *Or the Inventory* (2014)

Eligibility to funding through CPF (Personal Training Account)

# Which model of inclusion does the French system refer to ?

**Variant 1.1** All types of qualifications may be included

**Variant 2.1** Qualifications remain the property of the submitting institution

**Variant 3.2** Similarity of qualifications does not preclude inclusion

**Variant 4.1** Regulations have the character of legal norms

**Variant 5.1** All significant elements are governed by these regulations

Models 3 and 4

# Which model of inclusion does the French system refer to ?

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Models 3 and 4

**Variant 6.1** A single institution decides on inclusion

**Variant 7.1** Social partners are involved in the decision

Model 1

# Which model of inclusion does the French system refer to ?

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Models 3 and 4

**Variant 6.1** A single institution decides on inclusion

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Model 1

**Variant 8.2** No fees are incurred

**Variant 9.1** Provision of benefits

Model 2

# Which model of inclusion does the French system refer to ?

- **A system in-between model 3 or 4**

- **...probably due to a permanent tension between the will to open State recognition and fear of losing control over private qualifications**

- **...Shown by history and recent developments**

# Paying attention to other factors

- **General aim pursued by the NQF implementation**

- **National governance**
  - political centralisation/decentralisation
  - shared/not shared governance with social partners
  - Types of rules and coordination (market valued, industrial, civic)
  - …
-