

Summary

on the preparation for the introduction of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) into vocational and adult education and training

In April 2008 the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted a recommendation (hereinafter referred to as Recommendation) on the *European Qualifications Framework* (EQF), so that from 2012 onwards the EQF should be used by the Member States as a reference tool to compare the qualification levels of the different qualifications systems.

The long-term purpose of the elaborated system is to facilitate the transnational mobility of young people on the European labour market, while providing transparency for qualifications for citizens, which makes possible their access to the education systems of other member states.

In order to achieve this goal, the European Union would like to create a “common reference framework” covering different education subsectors so as to allow the linkage of national and sector level qualifications frameworks of general education, higher education, vocational and adult training within the country and in the European Union. Accordingly, the *Recommendation encourages the Member States to take measures so that* by 2012 all new qualification certificates, diplomas and ‘Europass’ documents issued by the competent authorities contain a clear reference, by way of national qualifications systems, to the appropriate level of the European Qualifications Framework.

In 2008, the Hungarian government made a decision on the accession to the European Qualifications Framework and on the creation of a National Qualifications Framework compatible with EQF principles and structure, as well as the introduction of an NQF by 2013. This decision was confirmed in a resolution made by the new government established in 2010, through creating a working committee in January 2011 for the purpose of the preparation of a detailed proposal on the introduction of a National Qualifications Framework.

The base model of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) was elaborated between 2009 and 2010 in the framework of a so-called central program (TÁMOP 4.1.3) supported by the EU, under the professional direction of the Institution for Education Research and Development (OFI – www.ofi.hu Developments of EU / National Qualifications Framework).

Within the framework of this program, the adaptation criteria of the vocational and adult training subsystem were worked out and on commission, lead experts of the National Institute for Vocational and Adult Education (NIVE) also participated in this process.

In the course of this process six studies (attached) were elaborated and presented during professional conferences by Ildikó GÖRGÉNYI MODLA, the then deputy director-general (at present: the director-general) and by László ZACHÁR, the present deputy director-general of the Institute. These studies gave an overview of the main characteristics and requirements of vocational and adult training in the context of the elaboration of an NQF, the criteria of the NQF adaptation of the two subsystems, and they determined the conditions for the introduction of an NQF in the field of vocational and adult training.

Regarding the fact that the working group set up by the new government proposed, among others that the development of an NQF in VET and adult education should initially include qualifications acknowledged by the state (included in the NQR) only, the number of which is over 1200, therefore *NIVE experts believe it is more advisable to fit such a huge number of qualifications on different levels into a qualification model* within the framework of a new development programme.

László ZACHÁR

Deputy Director-General