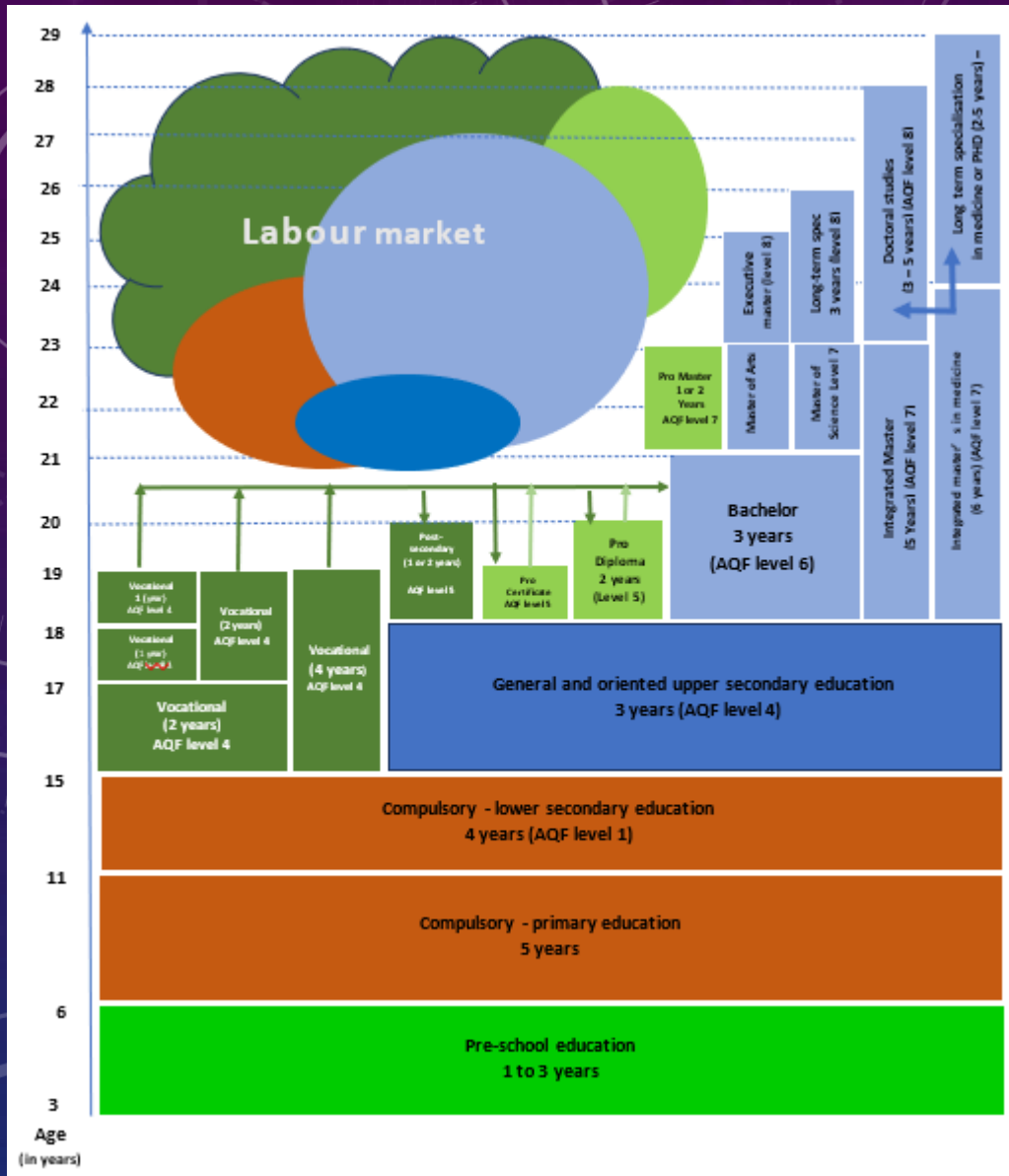


Bologna Thematic Peer Group A  
on Qualifications Framework

***ALBANIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK  
REFERENCING TO THE EUROPEAN  
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK AND SELF-  
CERTIFICATION OF COMPATIBILITY WITH  
SELF-REFERENCING TO THE  
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK OF THE  
EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA***

**BY PROF. ALEKSANDER XHUVANI**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

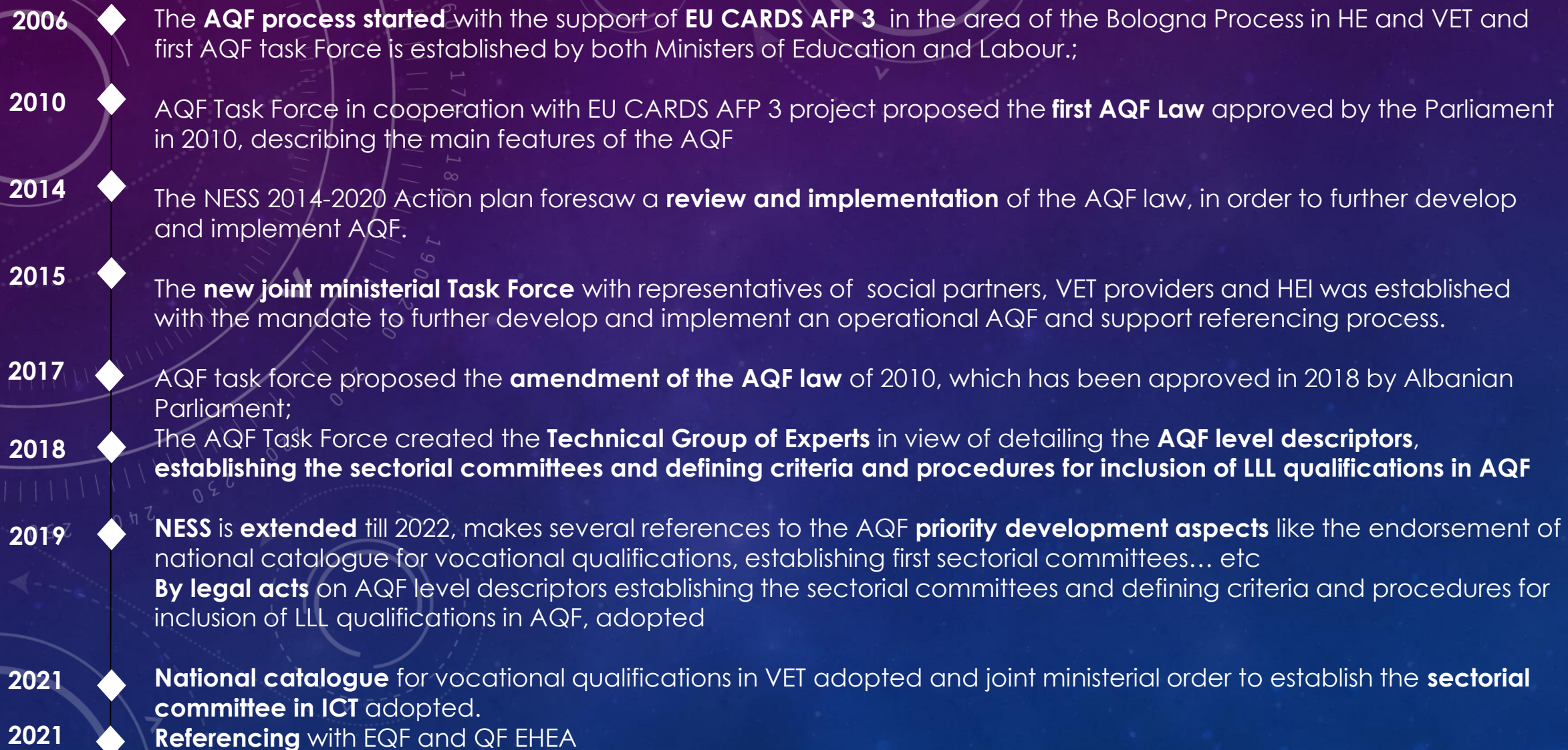


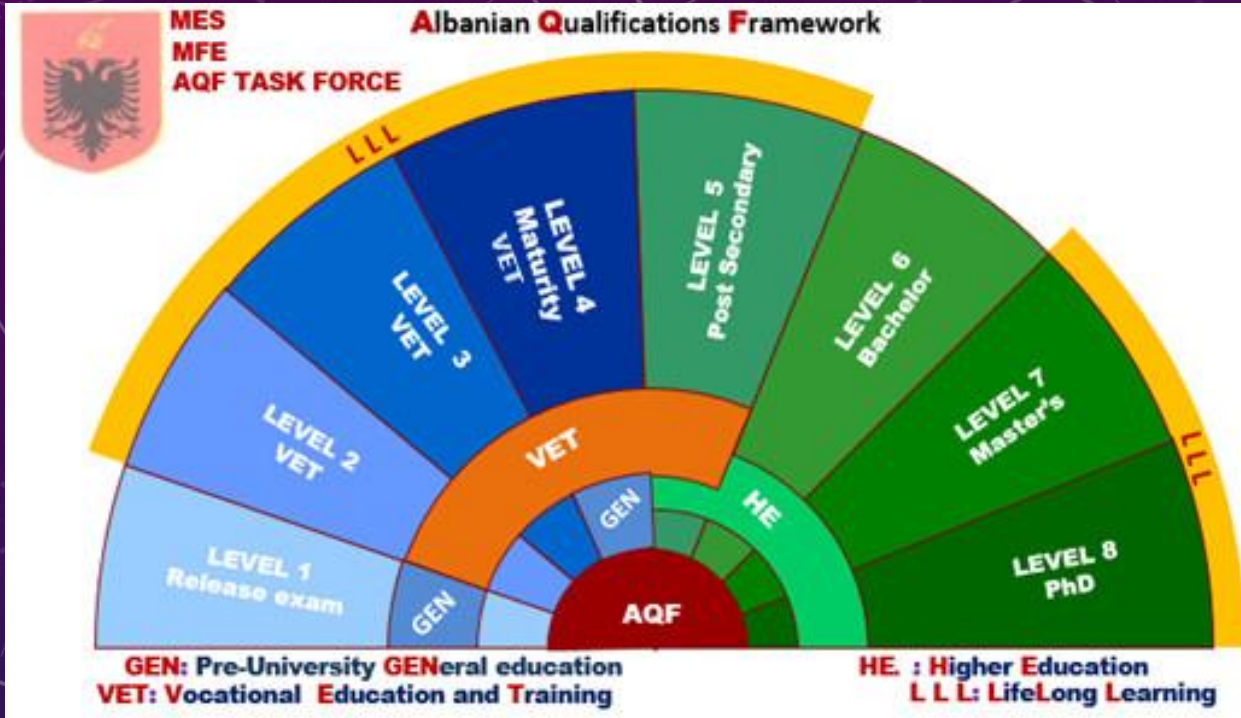
### EDUCATIONAL MAP LEGEND:

**Pro Certificate** - Professional post-secondary Certificate

**Pro Diploma** - Professional post-secondary Diploma

- **Pre-primary educational system:** 2121 institutions, 11.4 % are private , 88.6 % are public;
- **Primary education:** 463 institutions, 100% public
- **Lower secondary** 1228 institutions, 10% are private, 90% are public;
- **General and oriented secondary education,** 453 institutions, 24 % are private, 76% are public;
- **Vocational Education,** 45 institutions, 35 public providers and 10 private ones
- **Higher education:** 41 Institutions, 26 are private, are 15 public

- 
- A vertical timeline on the left side of the slide, marked with diamond symbols, lists the years from 2006 to 2021. To the right of each year is a text block describing a key phase or event in the development of the Albanian Qualifications Framework (AQF).
- 2006** ◆ The **AQF process started** with the support of **EU CARDS AFP 3** in the area of the Bologna Process in HE and VET and first AQF task Force is established by both Ministers of Education and Labour.;
  - 2010** ◆ AQF Task Force in cooperation with EU CARDS AFP 3 project proposed the **first AQF Law** approved by the Parliament in 2010, describing the main features of the AQF
  - 2014** ◆ The NESS 2014-2020 Action plan foresaw a **review and implementation** of the AQF law, in order to further develop and implement AQF.
  - 2015** ◆ The **new joint ministerial Task Force** with representatives of social partners, VET providers and HEI was established with the mandate to further develop and implement an operational AQF and support referencing process.
  - 2017** ◆ AQF task force proposed the **amendment of the AQF law** of 2010, which has been approved in 2018 by Albanian Parliament;
  - 2018** ◆ The AQF Task Force created the **Technical Group of Experts** in view of detailing the **AQF level descriptors, establishing the sectorial committees and defining criteria and procedures for inclusion of LLL qualifications in AQF**
  - 2019** ◆ **NESS is extended** till 2022, makes several references to the AQF **priority development aspects** like the endorsement of national catalogue for vocational qualifications, establishing first sectorial committees... etc  
**By legal acts** on AQF level descriptors establishing the sectorial committees and defining criteria and procedures for inclusion of LLL qualifications in AQF, adopted
  - 2021** ◆ **National catalogue** for vocational qualifications in VET adopted and joint ministerial order to establish the **sectorial committee in ICT** adopted.
  - 2021** ◆ **Referencing** with EQF and QF EHEA



**LEVEL 1**

First level Pre-university (general): compulsory education

**LEVEL 2**

Second VET level: Professional Certificate issued at the conclusion of the two-year program for semi-skilled workers;

**LEVEL 3**

Third VET level:

-Professional certificate issued at the end of a one-year program for skilled workers;

-Professional certificate issued at the end of a three-years program for skilled workers;

-Professional Certificate issued upon completion of an apprenticeship programme;

**LEVEL 4**

Fourth VET level:

-State Professional Matura Diploma issued upon completion of the vocational high school programme;

-Professional Certificate issued at the conclusion of the four-year study program for middle technicians / managers;

-Professional certificate issued at the conclusion of the one-year program for middle technicians /managers;

-Professional Certificate issued at the conclusion of the two-year program for middle technicians' / managers;

-Professional Certificate issued at the end of an apprenticeship programme.

Fourth Pre-university general level:

-State Matura Diploma issued upon completion of the high school programme;

At the time being:

**GENERAL PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION , HIGHER EDUCATION AND LLL**  
under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education end Sports (MES)

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING and LLL**  
under the responsibility of Ministry of Finance and Economy (MFE)

MES and MFE → AQF Task Force



**LEVEL 5**

**Fifth level post-secondary in VET:**  
Professional certificate non-university study program after secondary education

**Short Cycle in HE:**

Professional Certificate (1 year - 60 ECTS)  
Professional Diploma (2 years – 120 ECTS)

**LEVEL 6**

**First HE level:** Bachelor Diploma (at least 3 years – at least 180 ECTS)

**LEVEL 7**

**Second HE level**

Professional Master - (1 year - 60 ECTS)  
Professional Master (2 years -120 ECTS)  
Master of Sciences or Master of Arts (2 years – 120 ECTS)

Integrated Master (5-6 years – 300-360ECTS)

**LEVEL 8**

**Third HE level**

Executive Master (1 year - 60 ECTS)  
Executive Master (2 years - 120 ECTS)  
2 years (Long-term specializations (at least 2 years – at least 120 ECTS)  
(Doctoral Degree – (3 years up to 5 years)

**LEVELS 2-5, 7-8** Lifelong learning qualifications

**AQF legal framework :**

- the law no. 23/2018 after the first law of 2010;
- DCM no. 426, of 26.6.2019 “Organization, functioning and criteria selection for the members of sectoral committees and their reward”;
- DCM no. 427, of 26.6.2019 “The approval of criteria and inclusion procedures for long-life learning qualifications, according to the Albanian qualifications framework levels for education and professional training”
- DCM no. 428, of 26.6.2019 “The approval of table detailed descriptions of the Albanian qualifications framework levels”

# Governance structure

## Governing institutions

**Ministry of  
Education and  
Sports  
(MES)**

**Ministry of  
Finance and  
Economy  
(MFE)**

## Advisory bodies

**Council for Higher  
Education and Science  
(CHES)**

**Albanian Qualifications  
Framework Task Force**

**National VET Council**

**Up to 10 Sectorial  
Committees**

## Implementation institutions

**Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher  
Education (AQAHE)**

**Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-  
university Education (AQAPE), General  
Directorate for Pre-university Education,  
RED**

**Centre of Education Services (CES)**

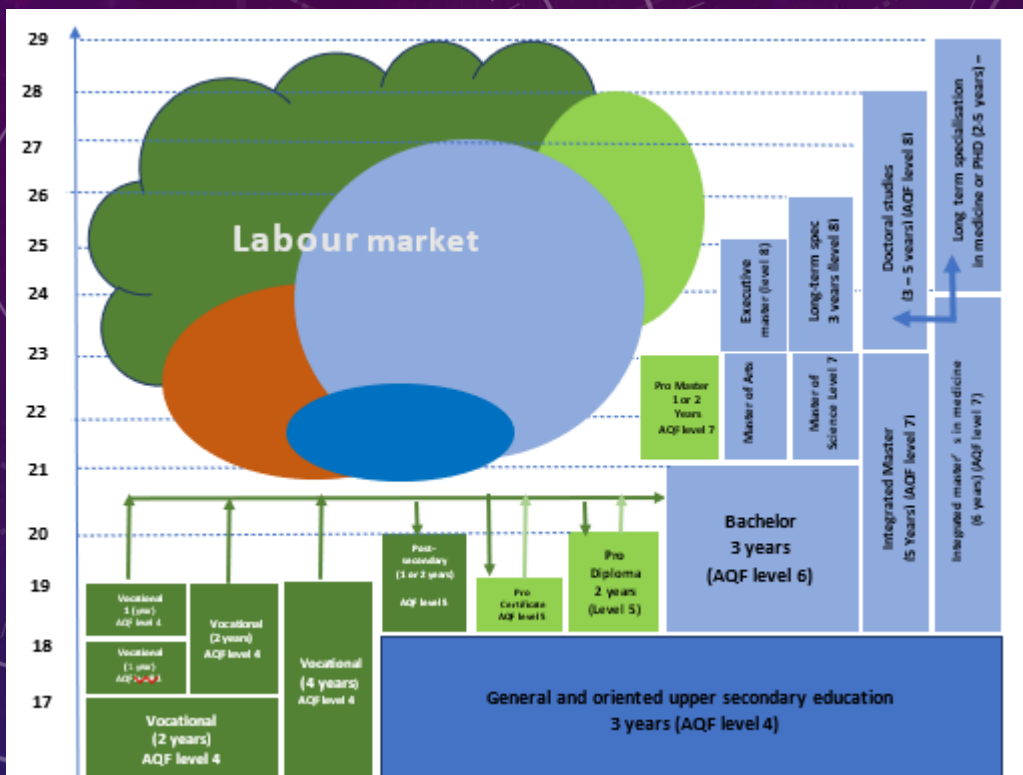
**National Agency of Vocational Education  
and Training and Qualifications (NAVETQ)  
National Agency for Employment and  
Skills**



EQF versus AQF

EQF levels	AQF Levels
LEVEL 1	No equivalency in the AQF
LEVEL 2	LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3	LEVEL 3
LEVEL 4	LEVEL 4
LEVEL 5	LEVEL 5
LEVEL 6	LEVEL 6
LEVEL 7	LEVEL 7
LEVEL 8	LEVEL 8

Following the Albanian legal framework there is no any qualification awarded corresponding to the EQF first level

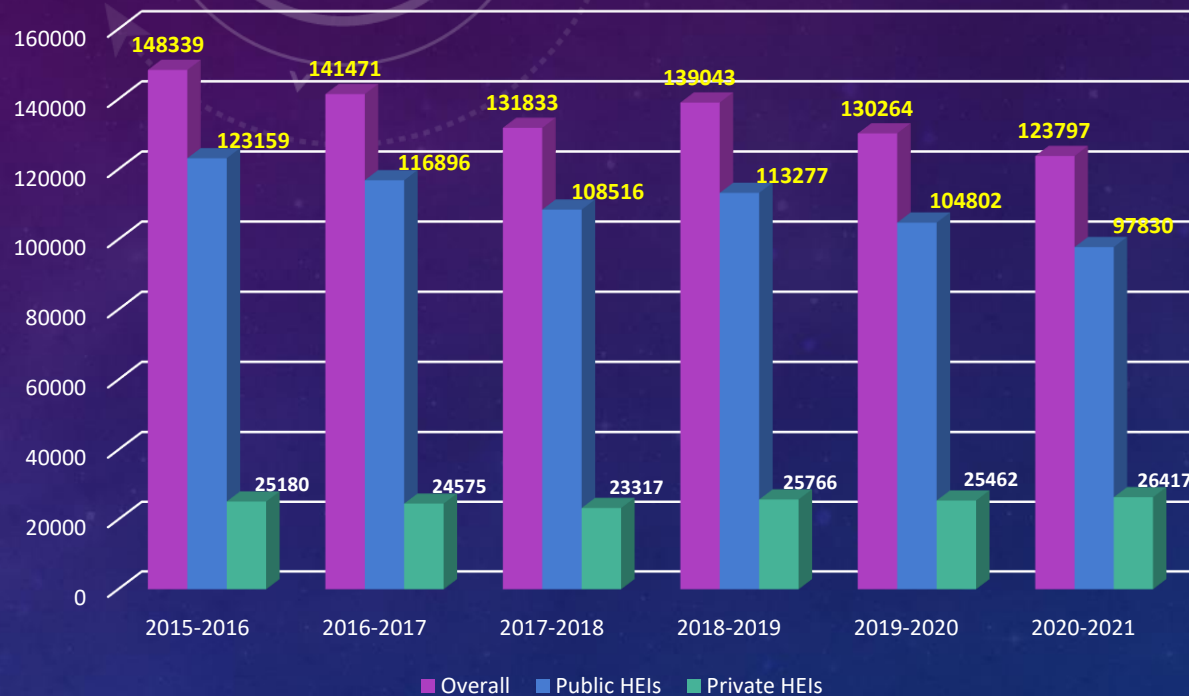


Lower secondary education

One can observe the *decreasing number of students* within the last years due to:

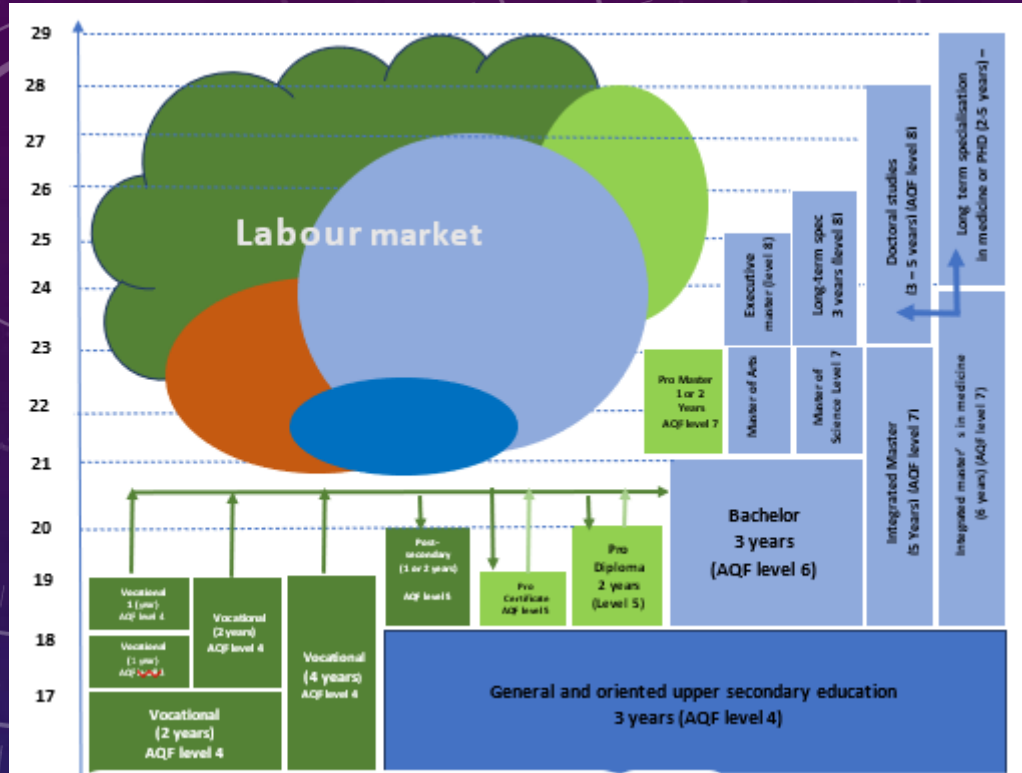
- ❖ demographic evolution;
- ❖ brain drain.

Evolution of the number of students  
in the Albanian HE system



- ❖ From post-secondary vocational training there is no any direct bridge to HE system (only via maturity exam)
- ❖ From post-secondary HE qualification there is a conditional direct bridge to the Bachelor or Integrated Master studies





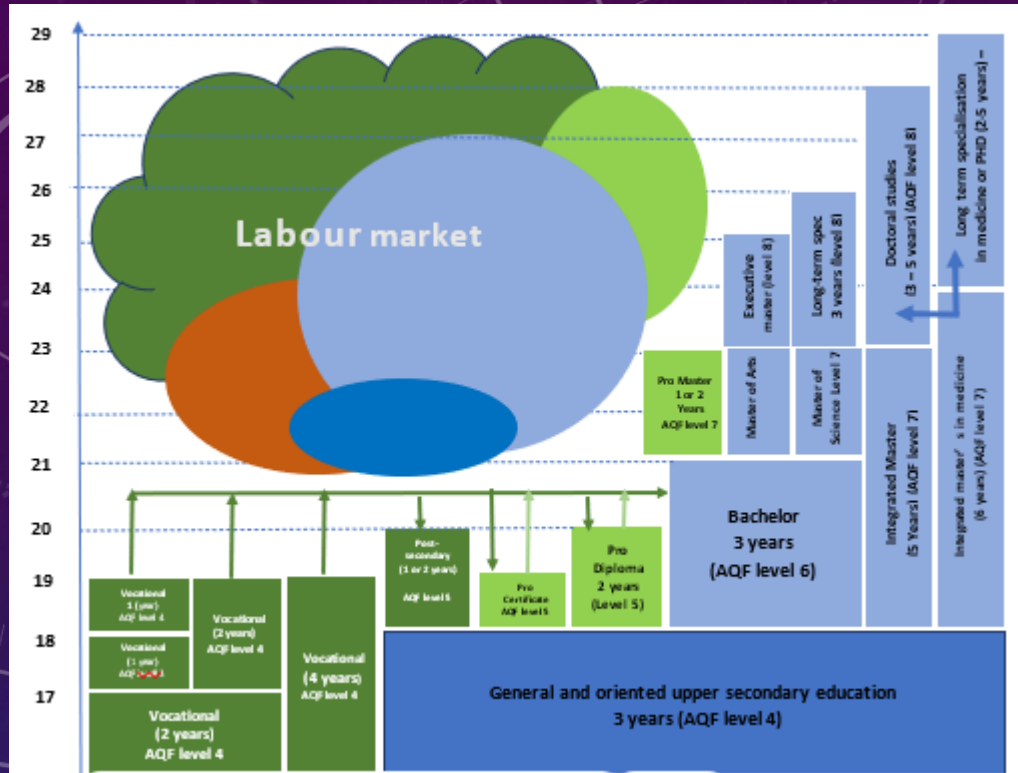
Lower secondary education

HE system is led by the law 85/2015 (after 2007 and 2010 laws)

QF-EHEA	Study programme	Duration in years	ECTS	Learning programme characteristics	Summative assessment	Name of qualification	AQF level
Short Cycles	Professional post-secondary	1	60	Programmes of study with a professional typology		"Professional Certificate" "Certifikatë profesionale"	5
		2	120			"Professional diploma" "Diplomë profesionale"	
First Cycle	Bachelor	3	180	Basic knowledge in each field	General/comprehensive exam or theses	"Bachelor" "Bachelori"	6
Second Cycles	"Master of science"	2	120	Deep theoretical knowledge and scientific research skills in a certain field	Diploma thesis	"Master of Science" "Master i Shkencave"	7
	"Integrated Master of Science"	5/6	300 / 360				
	"Master of Arts"	2	120	Deep theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of art	Diploma thesis	"Master of Arts" "Master i Arteve"	
	"Professional Master"	1 / 2	60 / 120	Deep theoretical and practical knowledge in a certain field	General/comprehensive exam or theses	"Professional Master" "Master profesional"	
Third Cycle	"Executive Master"	1 / 2 years	60 / 120	Education of a high scientific and professional level	Diploma thesis	"Executive Master" "Master ekzekutiv"	8
	"Long term specialisation"	2+	120+	Professional training that offers knowledge in	General/comprehensive exam or	"Specialisation Diploma" "Specializim afatshor"	
				special occupations	diploma thesis		
	Doctoral studies	3-5		Independent development in scientific research	Doctoral Theses	Scientific grade "Doctor" "Gradë Shkencore" "Doktori"	

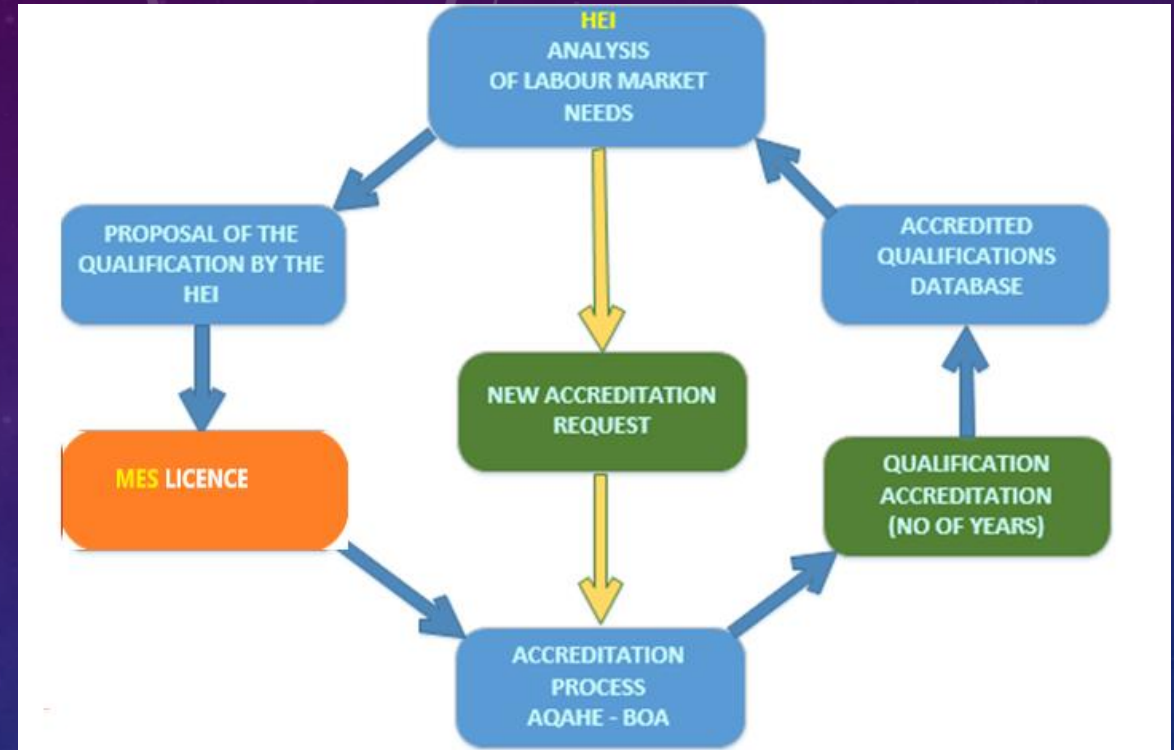
HE Qualifications Versus the AQF

AQF Level	Types of HE Qualifications Versus AQF Level description			
	Before 2007	During 2007-2010	During 2010-2015	After 2015
5	1. Professional Certificate (1 year after State Matura)	1. Post-secondary Certificate (1 year after State Matura)	1. Post-secondary Certificate (1 year after State Matura)	1. Post-secondary Certificate (1 year after State Matura)
	2. Diploma (2 years after State Matura)	2. Post-secondary diploma (2 years after State Matura)	2. Post-secondary diploma (2 years after State Matura)	2. Post-secondary diploma (2 years after State Matura)
6	Diploma (3-3,5 years full time or 4 years part time after State Matura)	First Level Diploma (3 years after State Matura)	Bachelor Diploma (3 years after State Matura)	Bachelor Diploma (3 years after State Matura)
7	1. Diploma (4 years full-time or 5 years part-time after State Matura)	1. Master of First Level (1 year after First Level Diploma)	1. Professional Master (1 year after Bachelor Diploma)	1. Professional Master (1 year after Bachelor Diploma)
	2. Master (1 more year after Diploma – 6 level)			
	3. Master (2 more years after Diploma)	2. Second Level Diploma (2 more years after First Level Diploma)	2. Professional Master (1.5 to 2 years after Bachelor Diploma)	2. Professional Master (2 years after Bachelor Diploma)
		3. Integrated Second Level Diploma (5 years after State Matura)	3. Master of Science (2 years after Bachelor Diploma)	3. Master of Science (2 years after Bachelor Diploma)
			4. Integrated Master of Science (3 years after State Matura)	4. Integrated Master of Science (3 years after State Matura)
8	1. Post university school (1 year)	1. Master of Second Level (1 year after Second Level Diploma or Integrated Second Level Diploma)		1. Executive Master (1 year after after Master of Science or Integrated Master of Science)
	2. Post university studies (1 year)			
	1. Post university school (2 years)	2. Long term specialisation (at least 2 years after Second Level Diploma or Integrated Second Level Diploma)	1. Long term specialisation (at least 2 years after Master of Science or Integrated Master of Science)	2. Executive Master (2 years after Master of Science)
	2. Post university studies (2 years)			3. Long term specialisation (at least 2 years after Master of Science or Integrated Master of Science)
	3. Long term specialisation (at least 2 years after Diploma or Master)			
	4. Doctor (at least 3 years after Post University studies) (Before 1990 there was the degree of Candidate of Science that is equivalented to the grade of Doctor)	3. Doctor (From 3 to 6 years after Second Level Diploma or Integrated Second Level Diploma)	2. Doctor (From 3 to 6 years after Master of Science or Integrated Master of Science)	4. Doctor (From 3 to 5 years after Master of Science or Integrated Master of Science)



Lower secondary education

The AL HE system is governed by the HE Law no.85/2015, entirely Bologna Process oriented



A loop scheme in the respect of HEI autonomy with three check-points:

1. Licencing process led by the MES
2. Student matriculation led by the CES
3. Accreditation process led by the QAHE

## Level descriptor's philosophy

### COMPETENCES

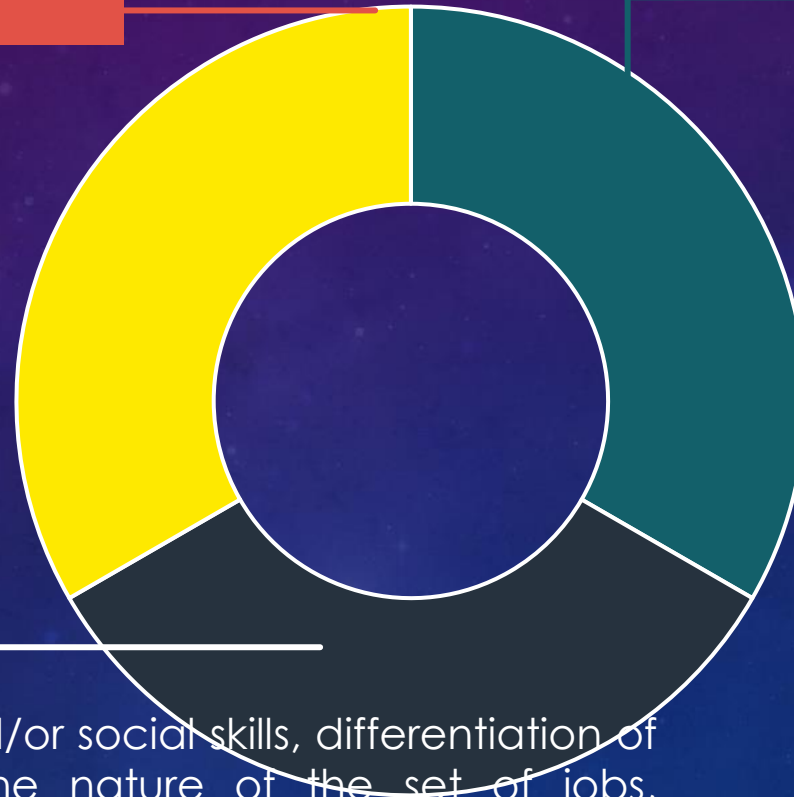
Competences in terms of  
**autonomy & responsibility**

### KNOWLEDGE

Statements on complexity of  
general and vocational  
knowledge necessary for  
performing a set of jobs or  
further learning

### SKILLS

Cognitive, psychomotor and/or social skills, differentiation of  
which is determined by the nature of the set of jobs,  
complexity of problem, type of communication, handling  
resources and materials



# AQF Level 6 descriptors

AQF level	Knowledge	Skills	Responsibility and autonomy
6	<b>Bachelor</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of their areas of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed;</li> <li>2. ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context;</li> <li>3. knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in their subjects, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study;</li> <li>4. an understanding of the limits of their knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretation based on that knowledge.</li> </ol>	<p>qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis;</li> <li>2. effectively communicate information, arguments, and analysis, in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist environment audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively;</li> <li>3. undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.</li> </ol>

## AQF Level 5 descriptors to Dublin ones

	AQF HE level descriptors	DUBLIN descriptors	
<b>Level 5</b>	<p>Specialised <b>factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of work and/or study</b> and consciousness on the boundaries of these knowledge.</p> <p>Use, process and analyse specific information of the field of work and/or study.</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge, theories, applied methodologies within the field of study.</p> <p><b>Use principles of planning, organising and control of processes in a particular field of activity.</b></p> <p>Knowledge to develop assessment criteria.</p> <p>Wide range of cognitive and practical skills needed to find creative solutions for abstract problems.</p> <p>Carrying out complex operations by means of working tools, machineries, apparatuses, or other devices.</p> <p><b>Demonstration of skills in planning, organisation and controlling of job activities.</b></p> <p>Skills to control and support personnel, by providing explanations or instructions to carry out a specific activity.</p> <p>Apply management and supervision in work or study contexts where is an unforeseen change of circumstances.</p> <p>Review and develop personal and others achievement.</p>	<p><b>Have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in a field of study</b> that builds upon general secondary education and is typically at a level supported by advanced textbooks;</p> <p><b>such knowledge provides an underpinning for a field of work or vocation, personal development, and further studies to complete the first cycle;</b></p> <p><b>Can apply their knowledge and understanding in occupational contexts;</b></p> <p>Have the ability to identify and use data to formulate responses to well-defined concrete and abstract <u>problems</u>;</p> <p><b>Can communicate about their understanding, skills and activities, with peers, supervisors and clients;</b></p> <p><b>have the learning skills to undertake further studies with some autonomy.</b></p>	<b>Short Cycle</b>

**GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

**1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ALBANIA**

**2 - EUROPEAN BACKGROUND**

**3 - ALBANIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK**

**4 - REFERENCING AND SELF-CERTIFICATION OF THE AQF TO THE EQF AND QF-EHEA**

**5 - FULFILMENT OF CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES**

**6 - FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE AQF**

**REFERENCES**

**APPENDIX**

**5 - FULFILMENT OF REFERENCING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES**

- Referencing criteria of the AQF versus the EQF
- Self-Certification of the AQF versus the QF-EHEA

**10 CRITERIA**  
**7 CRITERIA**

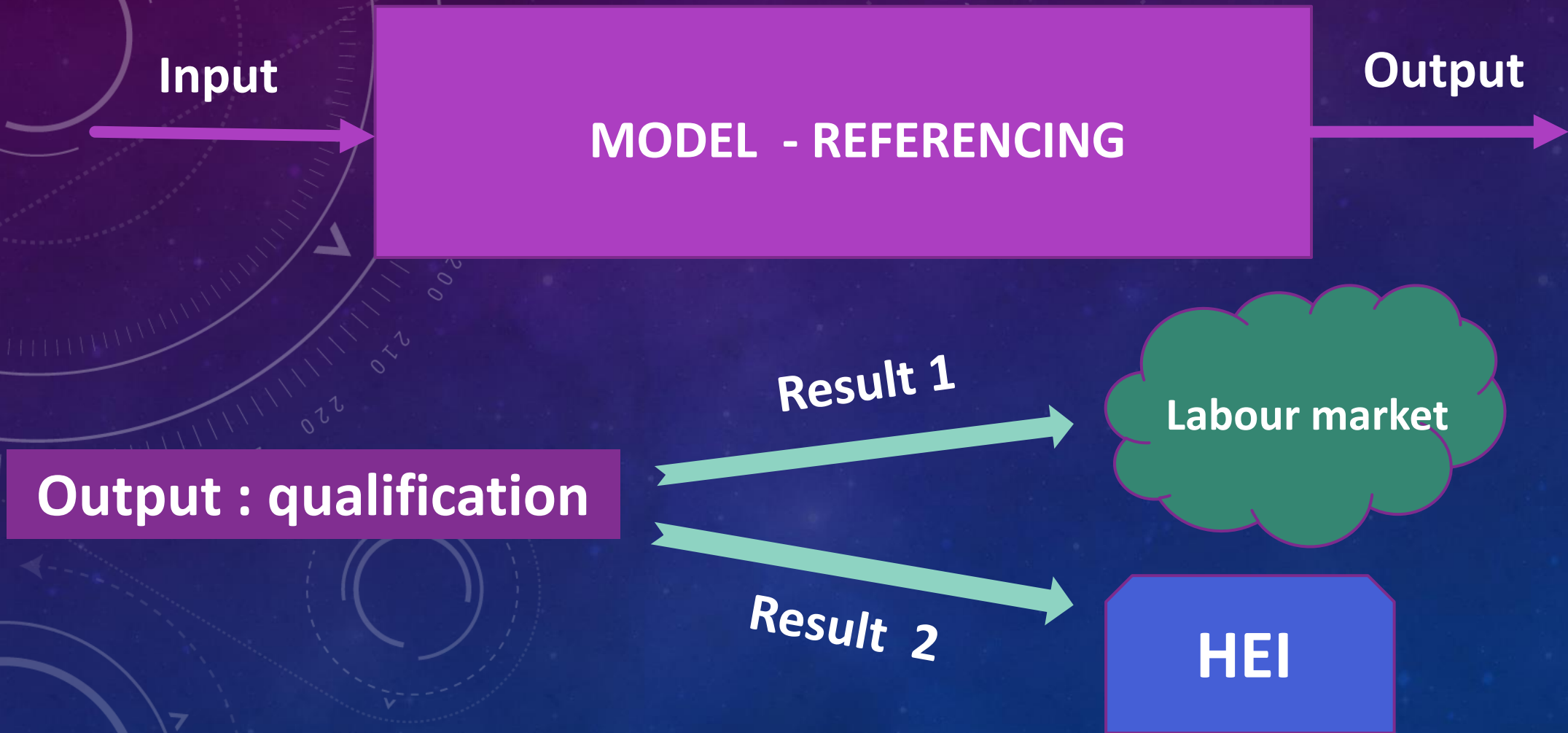
AQF Level	HE Albanian Qualifications definition	HE European Qualifications definition	EQF Level
5	✓ Post-secondary Certificate (60 ECTS) ✓ Diploma (120 ECTS)	Post-secondary HE degree Short cycles	5
6	Bachelor degree (180 ECTS)	Bachelor degree First HE cycle	6
7	✓ Master degrees Professional (60 ECTS); ✓ Professional (120 ECTS); ✓ of Science (120 ECTS)	Master degree Second HE cycle	7
8	✓ Executive Master (60 ECTS); ✓ Executive Master (120 ECTS); ✓ Doctoral studies	Doctoral studies Third HE cycle	8

**Response to the QF-EHEA Criteria and Procedures**

- ❖ In Albania, the competent national bodies certify the compatibility of the AQF with the QF-EHEA ;
- ❖ MES has been the co-initiator and co-coordinator (together with the MFE) in all phases in the development and implementation of the AQF;
- ❖ The self-certification process have involved both local stakeholders international experts;
- ❖ The completion of the self-certification process shall be noted on Diploma Supplements issued subsequently by showing the link between the AQF and the European frameworks;
- ❖ Succeeding the process of AQF referencing is also due to the group of experts involved “enough big and small to be efficient”, “nationally and internationally” and to the hardworking & accuracy by implying a triple check to each national particularity.



# Polytechnic University



# Polytechnic University

**Input : LEVEL 4 qualification**

**Output : HE qualification**

**Diploma with its title**

**Learning outcomes**

**Knowledge**

**Skills**

**Competence  
A&R**

# Polytechnic University

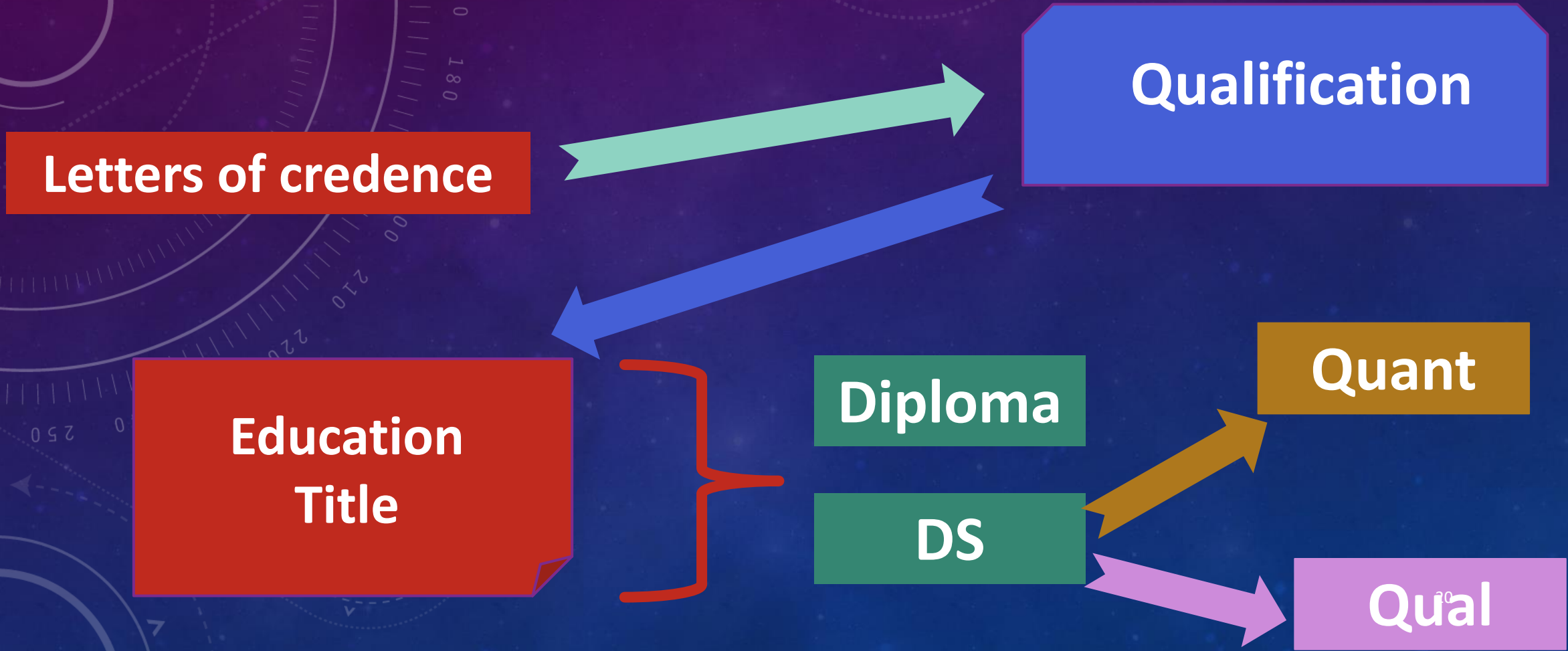
Referencing : 2 processes

Come to Polytechnic

Go out Polytechnic

Letters of credence

# Polytechnic University



# Polytechnic University

**Diploma  
Supplement**

**AQF LEVEL**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**SKILLS**

**COMPETENCE (A&R)**

# Polytechnic University

“Kingdom of quality”  
is guaranteed by our  
3 mousquetaires



**ARAMIS**

personifying  
**knowledge**



**Porthos**

personifying  
**Skills**



**Athos**

personifying  
**Autonomy &  
Responsibility**

# Polytechnic University

**From our “Kingdom of quality”  
to the whole World of Work**



**D'Artagnan  
personifying  
our graduated fellows  
making them reverence to...**

**THANK YOU !**