



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

# Implementation of the Key Commitment: Qualifications Frameworks

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# Overview

**Key Commitment: a three-cycle system compatible with the overarching frameworks of the EHEA and first and second cycle degrees scaled by ECTS**

Thematic areas:

- Self-certification of the national qualifications framework to the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA (main focus of the work)
- Implementation of the ECTS User's Guide
- Short cycle higher education
- Multiple purposes and the use of the qualifications frameworks by stakeholders
- Relationship between the qualifications frameworks and quality assurance

# Overview

- Three meetings
- Two hands-on workshops on self-certification
- Conference on the implementation of the ECTS Users' Guide
- Two PLAs:
  - NQFs
  - multiple purposes of qualifications frameworks and stakeholders
- Seminar on linking qualifications frameworks and quality assurance

# Main outcomes and some observations

- Increased awareness and understanding
- Importance of the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework
- Key role of the stakeholders in the preparation as well as the implementation of the Framework
- Co-operation with National Correspondents for Qualifications Frameworks, (Council of Europe)
- Co-operation with the European Qualifications Framework (European Commission)
- Link with other policy areas, notably quality assurance and recognition

# Further work needed

- Understanding the role of qualifications frameworks in education: promoting access, recognition and comparability, the use and the role of learning outcomes
- Availability of easily accessible up-to-date information on:
  - self-certification criteria and procedures as well as self-certification reports
- Lack of peer review of the self-certification reports
  - Participation of international experts in the preparation of the report is important
  - Peer review of the report is important for clarity, transparency and credibility

# Further work needed

- Further coherent co-operation between the two overarching frameworks: QF-EHEA and European Qualifications Framework
- Good practice and experience when it comes to the peer review of the referencing/self-certification reports
- Thematic work
- Information

# Peer learning as a working method

- Strengths
  - Coordination by the BICG
  - Commitment of countries
  - Combination of large conferences and work in smaller groups
  - Financial support

# Peer learning as a working method

- Challenges – or room for improvement
  - Participation: who and how? Ministries, higher education institutions
  - How to combine broad participation and the work in smaller groups?
  - Importance of the work on the national level (implementation)
  - Co-operation with other existing European structures
- Question marks
  - Suitability of the peer learning method in different policy areas
  - Co-operation and coherence between policy areas



# Discussion

- Aim: Further improvement in the implementation of Key Commitments
- Self-certification process
  - Co-operation with international organizations?
  - How to organize peer review of the self-certification report?
  - Needs for updates of the reports/renewed self-certification?
- Peer learning method
  - How to improve and further develop?
  - Which policy areas?