

Draft proposal Terms of Reference of the EHEA Network of National Coordinators for the working period 2021-2024

Name of the Network EHEA Network of National coordinators for qualifications frameworks
Coordinator Council of Europe
Composition Coordinators of national qualifications frameworks for higher education of all EHEA member states, European Commission, EHEA consultative members.
Purpose and/or outcome <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To exchange experience and offer advice in the development, implementation, and review of national qualifications frameworks2. Further coherence between national QFs and the Overarching Frameworks of Qualifications of the EHEA (QF-EHEA)3. Further coherence between the QF-EHEA and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF)4. Advice EHEA members and the BFUG on issues related to the QF-EHEA and national qualifications frameworks.
Reference to the Rome Communiqué [Current version of the Communiqué; to be adjusted if the relevant parts of the Communiqué are modified.] <i>We commit to completing and further developing the National Qualifications Frameworks compatible with the Overarching Framework of Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA) and ask the BFUG to continue to update the criteria for self-certification to include a stronger element of peer review of national reports. We mandate the Network of QF correspondents to continue its work in the coming period, contributing to the further development of the QF-EHEA and the self-certification of national qualifications frameworks against it.</i> <i>Flexible and open learning paths, part of the original inspiration for the Bologna Process, are important aspects of student-centered learning and are in increasing demand in our societies. In addition to full degree programmes, many higher education institutions are offering or may offer smaller units of learning, which enable learners to develop or update their cultural, professional, and transversal competences at various stages in their lives. We ask the BFUG to explore how and to what extent these smaller, flexible units, including those leading to micro-credentials, can be defined, developed and implemented by our institutions using EHEA tools.</i>
Specific tasks The Network shall act as a forum for debate and advice on issues related to the QF-EHEA and national frameworks, in particular with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ ensuring coherence between national frameworks and the QF-EHEA;➤ ensuring coherence between the QF-EHEA and the EQF;

- advising on the development and implementation of ECTS-based short cycle qualifications as stand-alone higher education qualifications within the QF-EHEA in countries that wish to develop and implement which short cycle qualifications;
- advising on how and to what extent smaller, flexible units, including those leading to micro-credentials, can be defined, developed and implemented within the QF-EHEA and national qualification frameworks;
- encouraging periodic reviews of the implementation of national qualifications frameworks for higher education;
- encouraging and providing advice on renewed self-certification of national frameworks for which developments make this necessary or desirable;
- developing proposals for arrangements to strengthen the peer review of national self-certification reports and processes.
- encouraging reflection on how national qualifications frameworks can best help education systems fulfill all major purposes of higher education.

Working method

Annual meetings of the Network are organized with the participation, as far as possible, of representatives of all EHEA members and consultative members. The meetings will normally be held in September/October. Specific issues may also be addressed by electronic communication or online meetings.

Whenever relevant, joint activities with the EQF Advisory Group, Thematic Peer Groups, or national contact points may be organized.

The Network is coordinated by the Council of Europe, which brings the outcome of its work to the attention of the BFUG as well as the EQF Advisory Group.

Reporting

Reports will be submitted to the BFUG and Board in writing.