



 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Education, Science  
and Research



Qualifications Frameworks for trust, transparency and diversity (**QUATRA – TPG A**)

# The recommendation on short-cycle qualifications in HE

Academic Information Centre

Bologna Thematic Peer Group B meeting,  
01.02.2024

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# Working Group on Short-Cycle Higher Education

*(chaired by Academic Information Centre, Latvia)*

## **Bulgaria, Latvia, Azerbaijan, Belgium Flanders (4 from 33)**

- Fiche on short-cycle among the working group members
- Survey on short-cycle among the working group members
- Draft recommendation

# Structure of the recommendation

1. Main conclusions from the survey of TPG A member countries
2. General characterisation of short-cycle qualifications in higher education
  - 1) The purpose of SCQ in higher education
  - 2) The features of SCQ in higher education
3. Recognition of short-cycle qualifications in higher education
4. Possibilities to refer SCQ in various national higher education systems to the principles of Paris Communiqué

# The Paris Communiqué, Appendix III

*(adopted on 25.05.2018)*

## Learning outcomes

## ECTS credits

Qualifications that signify completion of the higher education short-cycle are awarded to students who:

Typically include **90-120 ECTS credits**

- have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in a field of study that **builds upon general secondary education** and is typically at a level supported by advanced textbooks; such knowledge provides an underpinning for a field of work or vocation, personal development, and further studies to complete the first cycle
- can apply their knowledge and understanding in **occupational contexts**;
- have the ability to identify and use data to formulate responses to well-defined concrete and abstract problems
- can communicate about their understanding, skills and activities, with peers, supervisors and clients
- have the learning skills to undertake further studies with some autonomy

# The 7 elements to be considered 1

1. Access to short-cycle studies. Paris Communiqué (25.05.2018) states that the SCQ “builds upon general secondary education”, need for adequate admission requirements,
2. Duration and/or volume of study programmes (e.g., ECTS credits)  
Countries, introducing or developing the SCQ should follow the Paris Communiqué suggestions that the SCQ include 90-120 ECTS credits
3. Access to further studies (i.e., existing bridges to Bachelor’s studies);  
countries should ensure strong pathways to further higher education studies
4. QF level of SCQ should correspond to EQF level 5 or QF-EHEA short-cycle to ensure their comparability and international recognition

# The 7 elements to be considered 2

5. Quality assurance according to the principles of ESG
6. Differentiation between short-cycle qualifications and micro-credentials
7. Recognition of the short-cycle qualifications (internal and international).  
The countries should follow the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its subsidiary documents providing fair recognition of short-cycle qualifications

# From discussions in the National Correspondents' meeting on 8.09.2023

From descriptor

**«builds upon general secondary education»**

change to

**«build upon further education»**



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LEARNING

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