

Bologna Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks

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UK Presidency of the Bologna Process

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Overarching Frameworks for Qualifications

In its meeting in Luxembourg 15 June 2005 the Board of BFUG asked the Bologna Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks for a proposal for a reaction by BFUG to the EU Commission's consultation document on a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning to be published in July.

The Working Group has analysed the Commission's document as compared to the Framework for Qualifications of EHEA. The conclusions of the analysis are:

The proposed European framework for lifelong learning qualifications is different from the EHEA-framework as regards to scope and methodology. But they are not inconsistent and not incompatible.

The EHEA-framework will continue to exist as a sectoral overarching framework for higher education enabling higher education qualifications to relate to each other through national qualifications frameworks in each of the 45 Bologna member countries. The added value of the EQF should be to relate higher education to other areas of education and training and vice versa.

The establishment of national qualifications frameworks for higher education as decided by ministers in Bergen should continue. When a recommendation for EQF is adopted it is up to the EU member states to decide to extend the existing framework for higher education to cover the whole range of lifelong learning. This two-step procedure is possible because the two reference frameworks are consistent and compatible.

A note with a more detailed analysis is attached.

Best regards

Mogens Berg
Working Group Chair