

Qualifications Frameworks for trust, transparency and diversity – TPG A 2
(QUATRA – TPG A 2)
01.09.2025 – 31.08.2028

Peer Learning Activity

QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS – UNIFORMITY AND DISPARITIES IN PASSPORTING QUALIFICATIONS

Draft Agenda

27 October 2026

AX The Palace, Triq Il – Kbira, Sliema SLM 1542, Malta

Hosted by: Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), Malta

Time	Topic
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Opening of PLA <i>James Perry Maia, CEO, MFHEA</i>
09:10 - 09:45	Key Note – Passporting of the EQF & NQF • Concept of “passporting” in the context of academic qualifications • EQF vs NQF <i>Stefan Sant, MFHEA</i>
09:45 – 10:35	Recognition of Qualifications Across the EHEA • Current Recognition Practices across Participating Jurisdictions • Role of ENIC/NARIC networks and national recognition authorities • Differences in national approaches to recognition • Challenges to consistent recognition within the EHEA <i>Stefan Sant & Jon Vercellono, MFHEA</i> • “Substantial Difference Principle” <i>Allan B. Pedersen, President of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee</i>
10:35 – 10:55	Coffee Break
10:55 – 11:15	International Institutions: Experience of IMLI and its students with the NQF & EQF regime <i>Dr. Murat Sumer, Nippon Foundation Assistant in International Maritime Law and Coordinator of Academic Affairs, International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)</i>

11:15 – 12:35 NQF & EQF in Use

- EQF's standing with the Europass Documents

Clifford Debattista, European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA)

- Employers' perspective – is the EQF and NQF working transnationally?

Ilaria Spiteri Axiak, Senior Advisor, MISCO

- Is NQF Sufficient for Local Skills?

Glorianne Cachia, National Skills Council (NSC), Malta

12:35 – 13:35 Lunch

13:35 – 14:05 Legal and Governance Considerations

- Who “owns” the EQF?
- European Degree governance structure – a viable option?

Stefan Sant, MFHEA

14:05 – 14:35 Breakout Session

- Group 1 – Recognition, Passporting of Qualifications and the EQF (chaired by Órla Barry, TPG A member of Ireland)
 - 1) If a qualification is referenced to the EQF or self-certified to the QFEHEA, should it enjoy stronger recognition rights when assessing qualifications across the EHEA? For example, outcomes of referencing or self-certification are considered during credential evaluation.
 - 2) Can recognition of qualifications truly remain a national competence while achieving effective cross-border qualification passporting?
 - 3) What additional mechanisms in recognition would be required for qualifications referenced EQF or self-certified to the QF-EHEA to be accepted in other national systems with fewer individual assessments?
- Group 2 – Governance, Trust and the Future of Recognition (chaired by Jacek Lewicki TPG A member of Poland)
 - 1) Who should be responsible for overseeing the consistent application of the EQF and QF-EHEA across Europe and EHEA? For example, support in referencing to the EU/EEA countries is provided by the EQF Advisory Group established by the European Commission.
 - 2) Is there sufficient trust in national referencing and self-certification processes to support greater automatic recognitions of HE qualifications?
 - 3) What is the single greatest obstacle preventing qualifications referenced EQF or self-certified to the QF-EHEA from functioning as a true passporting mechanism?

14:35 – 14:45 Health Break

14:45 – 15:05 **Feedback from Breakout Groups**

Group 1 – Vigge Gro Beate, TPG A member of Norway

Group 2 – Nora Angelova, TPG A member from European Students Union

15:05 – 15:20 Conclusions, key findings and next steps

- Summary of key issues identified
 - Areas requiring further investigation
 - Potential recommendations
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The event is arranged in the terms of the Erasmus+ project No 101228736 “[Qualifications Frameworks for Trust, Transparency and Diversity – TPG A 2](#)” (QUATRA – TPG A 2).