

Peer Learning Activity

PASSPORTING ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS: THE ROLE OF THE EQF AND NQFs IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (EHEA)

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	Welcome and Introduction <i>James Perry Maia, CEO, MFHEA</i>
09:10 – 09:45	Keynote Speech – 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 Practises 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. Elda Belija, Chief of Administration, International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)</i>

11:15 – 12:35 NQF & EQF in Use

- EQF's standing with the Europass Documents
Dorianne Cerovac, 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
- Group 2 – Governance, Trust and the Future of Recognition

14:35 – 14:45 Health Break

14:45 – 15:05 Feedback from Breakout Groups

Rapporteurs from Each Group

15:10 – 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).