Lithuanian Qualifications Framework: state of art

Lina Vaitkute

Qualifications and VET Development Centre

Some history on LTQF

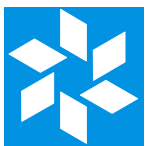| discussions | consultations | policy shaping | implementation |

2005 – development of LTQF started

2007–2008 – draft of LTQF

2010 – LTQF approved by the Government, referencing of LTQF to EQF started

2012 – *Report on Referencing the LTQF/ EQF and EAHE*

2013 – *LTQF/EQF levels indicated on VET cerificates*

- EQF - LTQF - 8 qualification levels *(1-1, 2-2, etc.)*
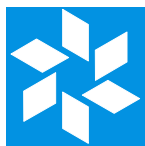- *descriptors* defining levels *differ* between the LTQF and EQF frameworks

EQF	LTQF
knowledge, *skills* and *competences* are used as criteria for describing levels of learning outcomes	*complexity*, *autonomy* and *variability of activities*, expresed through matrix of *cognitive, functional and general* competences

Areas of LTQF implementation

- the management of the Register of Studies, Training Programmes and Qualifications, other national and institutional registers as well as information systems;

- the development and approval of sectoral qualifications standards and vocational training standards;

- the development and implementation of formal VET or HE programmes;

- the evaluation of the competences acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning;

- the provision of information and counselling;

- the evaluation and recognition of qualifications acquired in the country and abroad;

- the attribution to the respective qualification levels of qualifications acquired before the approval of LTQF Description;

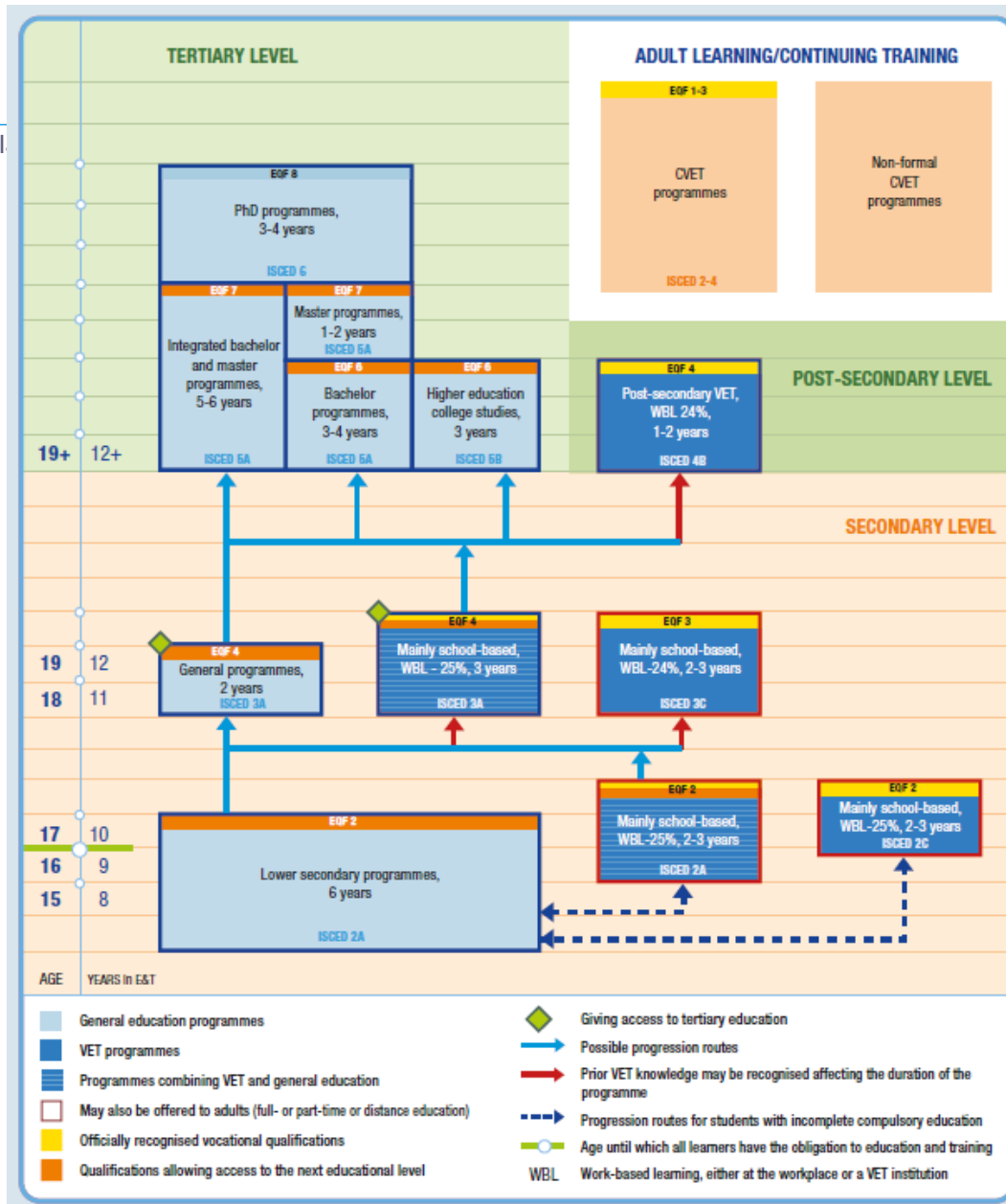- the issue of qualification certificates to persons.

8	Third cycle studies at universities	
7	Second cycle studies at universities	
6	First cycle studies at universities and colleges	
5		
4	I-VET * Only if GE completed	General education * Matura attestation, i.e. School leaving certificate
3	I-VET/ C-VET	No GE qualifications of this level
2	I-VET/ C-VET	General education * basic education
1	C-VET	No GE qualifications of this level

Education and training system chart

Lithuanian Qualifications Framework: implementation milestones

- Approval of the LTQF by the government decree in 2010
- Approval of the study cycle descriptors in 2011
- Referencing of LTQF to the EQF in 2012
- Implementation of the LTQF – implementation measures:
  - *Design of sectoral occupational standards*
  - *Design of the national modular curricula in the initial VET*
  - *Design of the national descriptors of study fields in higher education*
- Indication of LTQF/EQF levels on VET certificates from 2013
- Indication of LTQF/EQF levels on HE diploma supplements from 2015
- Indication of LTQF/EQF levels on GE certificates from 2016

- Ensuring systemic linkage between LTQF, sectoral-occupational standards, descriptors of study fields and higher education curricula.

- Different objects of these instruments:

➢ **LTQF**: levels of qualifications

➢ **Sectoral-occupational standards**: contents of qualifications (competences) referring to the requirements of work processes.

➢ **Descriptors of study fields**: contents of core learning outcomes in the fields of study

- Communication between GE, VET and HE sectors is still a challenge

- Need for more systemic guidelines on how to apply LTQF descriptors, sectoral-occupational standards, descriptors of study fields in the curriculum design.

New possibilities provided by the LTQF

- Introduction of the new types of degrees and qualifications:
  - ➢ Short study cycle qualifications on the LTQF level 5
  - ➢ Vocational master degrees on the LTQF level 7
- Entering qualifications from outside of formal education (business, international qualifications) into the LTQF
- Recognition of prior learning

Short study cycle qualifications on the LTQF level 5

- Currently there are no institutionally provided qualifications on the LTQF/EQF level 5.

- There has started a debate between the initial VET providers and higher vocational education colleges on the provision of qualifications linked to the LTQF/EQF level 5.

- Initial VET schools seek to revise part of their provided qualifications and to upgrade them to the level 5 and the colleges of higher vocational education seek to introduce the short study cycle programmes and to reference their provided qualifications to level 5.

Organisations participating in the LTQF implementation

- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Economy
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre
- Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education
- Education Development Centre
- Centre of Information Technologies in Education

- Central Professional Committee
- Sectoral Professional Commitees

Central and sectoral professional committees

- Central Professional Committee equally representing employers, trade unions and education providers is established for coordinating strategic issues of the QS formation. It is delegated a right to initiate the renewal of LTQF; to establish priority sectors for the formation of qualifications system; to advise the KPMPC/ QVETDC on linking national qualifications with the EQF

- The SP Committees will set priorities for the development of qualifications standards and will endorse standards. SP committee is made up of people from the education and industry

For GE sector (Education Development Centre – UPC)

- Development of description of general primary, lower-secondary and upper secondary programmes in line with LTQF

For VET sector (KPMPC)

- Formation of qualifications and development of modular VET system
  - *Results: 10 sectoral standards (LTQF levels 1-8) and 60 modular VET programmes (LTQF levels 3-4)*

For HE sector (SKVC)

- Development of descriptors of study cycles and framework for benchmark statements
- Development of system of study benchmark statements (SKAR-2)
  - *Results: 50 study benchmark statements*

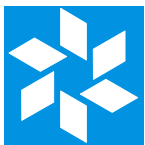# Major developments related to NQF implementation (2)

For VET sector

- Introduction of internal quality assurance management systems in 70 VET institutions (VET providers)
- External assessment of VET programmes (KPMPC)
  - *Result: reports on quality of 90 programmes in 70 VET institutions*
  - *Compilation and IT system of tasks for assessment of 60 VET programmes*

For HE sector

- Development of HE institutions external evaluation system (SKVC)
  - *Results: methodical guidelines, training and external evaluation of 850 study programmes and 19 institutional reviews of HEI*
- Introduction of internal quality assurance management systems in 26 HE instititutions (HE institutions)

Thank you for your attention

Questions???