

TOWARDS A NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

MALTA QUALIFICATIONS COUNCIL
Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment

What governs this framework?

**Malta's National
Qualifications Framework
for Lifelong Learning is
governed by Legal Notice
347 of October 2005.**

Is Malta's NQF modelled on a prototype?

Yes, Malta's NQF is in line with the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning which the European Commission and the European Parliament adopted in September 2006.

What are the main guiding principles of Malta's NQF?

1. Levels of education and qualifications can be measured by what a person is capable of doing rather than what an individual has been taught.
2. Parity of esteem between VET and HE.
3. Relevance of qualifications to Malta's economic growth and social cohesion.

What learning approach does this framework put forward?

The proposed NQF is a reference tool using the learning outcome approach.

Every level of qualification is based upon a step-by-step process in which the learner and not the institution is at the centre of any course of action.

What purpose does an NQF has for learners, employers, training providers and other stakeholders?

An NQF is a common reference for
QUALITY ASSURANCE and a
TRANSLATION DEVICE between:

- various qualifications,
- qualifications systems and
- levels of qualifications.

Are sectoral qualifications part of an NQF?

They certainly are!

Malta's NQF will place sectoral qualifications within a commonly agreed qualifications framework for lifelong learning.

What are the direct benefits of an NQF?

A National Qualifications Framework increases transparency of qualifications, recognition of learning outcomes and builds mutual trust between all stakeholders particularly between learners, training providers and employers.

Which main processes led to this Qualifications Framework?

Malta's National Qualifications Framework adheres to the Bologna and Copenhagen processes and aims at attracting more individuals to learning experiences and to employability.

It also aims at more and better investment in education and training.

Is Malta's NQF compatible with other qualifications frameworks?

Malta's NQF has 8 Levels of qualifications and is compatible with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area and the European Qualifications Framework which includes the framework of qualifications of the EHEA.

Which Level is attributed to the first cycle in Higher Education within Malta's NQF?

The descriptor for the higher education short cycle developed by the Joint Quality Initiative as part of the Bologna process, corresponds to the learning outcomes of Malta's NQF level 5.

Level 5 in Malta's NQF bridges VET with HE.

What are the Levels of qualifications for Higher Education?

The descriptors for the First, Second and Third cycle in the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area correspond to the learning outcomes of Malta's NQF Levels 6, 7 and 8.

What about vocational education and training?

The NQF proposes a new vocational education and training framework with five levels of qualifications from a VET Foundation Level One to an Advanced VET Diploma comparable to an undergraduate diploma/certificate or Level 5 of the NQF.

How do Key Competences feature in Malta's NQF?

The acquisition of Key Competences is central to the educational process and provides the mechanism to achieve parity of esteem.

Key competences will facilitate mobility and progression of Malta's present and future workforce.

Will Malta's NQF transform all learning experiences into *currency* for employability?

Informal and non-formal education and training as well as the accreditation of prior learning will eventually form part of Malta's National Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.



MALTA'S NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

BY EXIT POINTS

8	DOCTORAL DEGREE		8
7	MASTER'S DEGREE POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE		7
6	BACHELOR'S DEGREE		6
5	UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE	ADVANCED VET DIPLOMA	5
4	MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE	INTERMEDIATE VET DIPLOMA	4
3	SIX SEC GRADE 5	BASIC VET DIPLOMA	3
2	THREE SEC GRADE 5 OR SIX SEC GRADE 7	VET FOUNDATION LEVEL 2	2
1	TWO SEC GRADES 6 TO 7	VET FOUNDATION LEVEL 1 LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATE	1



Kunsill Malti għall-Kwalifiki
Malta Qualifications Council

MALTA'S NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

BY SECTOR

SCHOOL SECTOR

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR

HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

8			DOCTORAL DEGREE
7			MASTER'S DEGREE POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE
6			BACHELOR'S DEGREE
5		ADVANCED VET DIPLOMA	UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE
4	MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE	INTERMEDIATE VET DIPLOMA	
3		BASIC VET DIPLOMA	
2	SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE SEC	VET FOUNDATION LEVEL 2	
1		VET FOUNDATION LEVEL 1 LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATE	



Kunsill Malti għall-Kwalifiki
Malta Qualifications Council

MALTA'S NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

BY OCCUPATION

8	DOCTORAL DEGREE	PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGERIAL
7	MASTER'S DEGREE POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE	
6	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	
5	UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA / CERTIFICATE ADVANCED VET DIPLOMA	TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
4	MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE INTERMEDIATE VET DIPLOMA	
3	SIX SEC GRADE 5 BASIC VET DIPLOMA	SENIOR OPERATIVE AND OPERATIVE
2	THREE SEC GRADE 5 OR SIX SEC GRADE 7 VET FOUNDATION LEVEL 2	
1	TWO SEC GRADE 7 OR LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATE OR VET FOUNDATION LEVEL 1	

Designed by AGV Group (Malta) - www.agv-gis.com - Printed by Government Printing Press - 21 224 466