

# Dennis van Gessel

## DG EMPL, European Commission

**Why international/ sector qualifications are important**  
The role of sectors and international organisations in education & training



THE RELEVANCE OF THE ACTIVE LEISURE  
SECTOR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION  
FRAMEWORK TO THE EQF (SIQAF)



Active  
Leisure  
Alliance

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





# **State of play EQF and why international / sector qualifications are important**

**Dennis van Gessel, DG EMPL, European Commission**



# EQF Objectives



Transparency, comparability and portability of people's qualifications

Employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners

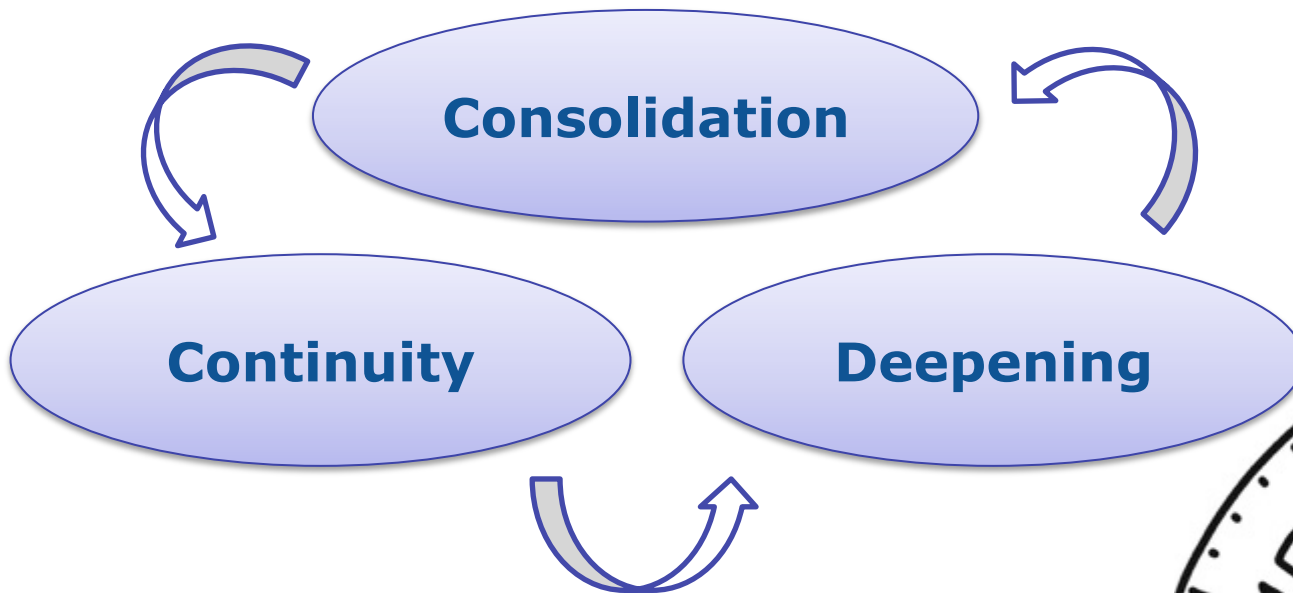
Linking formal, non-formal and informal learning

Supporting the validation of learning outcomes acquired in different settings

Contributing to modernising education and training systems

# The 2017 EQF Recommendation

- Repeal & replace the Recommendation of 2008



# New elements



Further  
deepening  
the EQF

The diagram features three interconnected fishbowls. The top bowl contains a single orange goldfish. The bottom-left bowl is partially filled with water and has bubbles rising. The bottom-right bowl is also partially filled with water. Three large, light-blue, curved arrows connect the bowls in a clockwise cycle: one from the top bowl to the bottom-left, one from the bottom-left to the bottom-right, and one from the bottom-right back to the top bowl.

To easily  
understand and  
compare  
qualifications



# Current state of EQF implementation

(May 2018)

- *39 countries participate in the EQF process*
- *35 (27 EU + 8 non EU MS have referenced)*
- *23 countries indicate EQF levels on certificates, and/or Europass supplements and/or qualification databases*

# Current and future challenges

- *Important impacts of the EQF so far, but challenges remain:*
  - *Bringing the EQF closer to learners, workers, employers*
  - *Consistency in referencing across countries*
  - ***Non-formal qualifications (private sector, international, sectoral)***



# Current and future challenges

- ***Non-formal qualifications (private sector, international, sectoral) in the new EQF recommendation (May 2017):***

*"Support the setting up of voluntary procedures on the levelling of international qualifications through national qualification frameworks or systems and information exchange and consultation between Member States on those procedures to ensure consistency"*

# Non-formal qualifications:

Support the setting up of voluntary procedures on the  
**levelling of international qualifications**

**Companies – Sectors - Organisations**



Information exchange and consultation between MS on those  
procedures to ensure **consistency**

# Why are *international / sector qualifications* important

- EQF aims at being a translation device for all types and levels of qualifications, including **qualifications awarded outside formal education and training systems.**
- Important to promote a **consistent levelling of international / sectoral qualifications to the EQF through NQFs.**
- **Globalisation** (leading to more international standards)

## Related ongoing work

- NQF-in conference in Warsaw, 5/6 June 2018, on **how to include non-formal sector qualifications in NQFs and proposals on a European terminology on international and related qualifications.**
- An upcoming study on the ESCO Qualifications Pillar. This study will address **Quality assurance of private, sectoral and international qualifications.**
- The upcoming EQF AG project group to develop **“voluntary procedures on the levelling of international qualifications through national qualification frameworks or systems** and information exchange and consultation between Member States on those procedures”.



Thank you