

QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

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QUALIFICATIONS: A COMPLEX PHENOMENON

- Quality
- Workload
- Level
- Profile
- Learning outcomes

WHAT IS A QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK?

- Description of all qualifications in a given (higher) education system
- Description of how these qualifications articulate
- Description of how learners can move between qualifications within a system
- Description understandable to informed foreigners
- Description of learning outcomes

MINISTERS IN BERGEN 2005 AND LONDON 2007

- We have an overarching framework (adopted in Bergen 2005)
 - Three cycles
 - Possibility for intermediate qualification within cycles in national frameworks
- We will develop national frameworks compatible with the EHEA framework by 2010
- This is a steep challenge and we need some coordination even if QFs are ultimately a national responsibility

BASIS FOR COOPERATION

- How do we see the concept of qualifications?
- How do we recognize qualifications?
- What are valid reasons for non-recognition (“substantial differences”)?
- How can we establish and train national information centers?
- How can we make QFs a useful instrument and not just a bureaucratic device?
- How can we move procedures and formalities toward contents
- How can we develop and use learning outcomes?

THE BROADER ISSUE

- Qualifications for what purposes?
 - Preparation for the labor market
 - Preparation for citizenship
 - Personal development
 - Broad, advanced knowledge base
- What kind of education do we need? =
- What kind of society do we want?
 - (Eugenio Tironi)