

Introduction



European Qualifications Framework National Coordination Point

The NCFHE is the entity responsible for the development of the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF). It ensures that the MQF is used effectively and also acts as the National Coordination Point for the European Qualifications Framework as a conversion device for international qualifications.

The work plan of the EQF National Coordination Point for 2017 included a number of activities aimed at increasing the awareness of the Malta Qualifications Framework and Europass, and to improve and enhance the understanding of these tools among the general public as well as NCFHE stakeholders. In spite of the fact that the MQF was established in 2007, awareness of the Framework still needs further improvement as indicated by the *'Study on the widespread understanding and appreciation of the Malta Qualifications Framework and European Qualifications Framework'*, conducted by NCFHE in 2016. In response to this, the NCFHE carried out various initiatives, such as:

- a conference held in June 2017 presenting the latest research conducted by the National Europass Centre, the EQF National Coordination Point and Euroguidance;
- a five-day study visit at the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership;
- a national colloquium with NCFHE stakeholders and experts from abroad;
- the production of promotional materials.



During a conference held in June 2017 the National Europass Centre, the EQF National Coordination Point and Euroguidance presented their latest research projects. The EQF National Coordination Point presented the findings of its study on the widespread understanding and appreciation of the Malta Qualifications Framework and European Qualifications Framework. Apart from increasing synergy between the mentioned networks, this event increased visibility of the activities of the three networks among stakeholders.

The EQF National Coordination Point also undertook a five-day study visit at the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQFP), which consisted of representatives from various units of the NCFHE, namely accreditation, recognition, quality assurance and research.

In the last sixteen years, SCQFP has transformed the Scottish educational sector in promoting mapping, recognition and transferability of skills. The Scottish Qualifications Framework (SCQF) recognizes the importance of prior learning, progression in the workplace and social inclusion. Through the study visit, the NCFHE representatives broadened their knowledge on the various areas of operation of the SCQFP that are of direct relevance to the work carried out by the NCFHE, of the implementation of the SCQF as well as the role of stakeholders in the management and implementation of the SCQF. In this way the study visit has provided the participants with skills essential for their day to day operation as well as for increasing awareness of the MQF and its implementation in Malta.



The NCFHE carries out an annual national colloquium to inform stakeholders about latest developments and discuss the further development of the MQF. This National Colloquium was organised by the Research and Policy Unit in November 2017 with a particular focus on the Key Competences Framework. Insights from CEDEFOP on the reform of the Key Competences Framework that forms part of the new skills agenda for Europe served as a basis for further discussion on the impact for vocational education and the labour market in Malta. Case studies from Scotland also provided an opportunity to discuss how the Malta Qualifications Framework can be promoted more effectively in the future.



Moreover, the NCFHE produced a set of promotional materials which are to help in the process of dissemination information and increasing awareness of the Malta Qualifications Framework.

Further information on the work of the EQF National Coordination Point Malta is available on the website of the NCFHE at:

<http://ncfhe.gov.mt/en/Pages/Projects/eqf.aspx>

