

COMMUNICATION TO LICENSED FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

<i>Title:</i> Enhanced NCFHE Register		
<i>From:</i> Sandro Spiteri, Director	<i>Date:</i> 21 st August 2014	<i>Comm. No.:</i> 18/2014

The NCFHE Register has recently been enhanced. The Register landing page, at <http://www.ncfhe.org.mt/content/home-register-of-further-and-higher-education-institutions/38928386/> explains the type of information available in the lists:

- **Name of Institution:** for ease of reference and search, the names of all institutions are included without the initial definite article. So for example, 'The Malta Institute of Higher Education' would be included as 'Malta Institute of Higher Education'.
- **Name of Programme:** as provided by the Institution.
- **Awarding Body:** if the Awarding Body is the same as the Name of the Institution, this means that the course has been developed by the Institution and accredited by the NCFHE. If the Awarding Body is different from the Name of the Institution, the course has been developed and accredited abroad and recognised by the NCFHE, and is being provided locally through a valid representation/franchise agreement between the Awarding Body and the Institution that is accredited by the NCFHE.
- **MQF/EQF Level:** the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) is equivalent to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). For further information please view <http://www.ncfhe.org.mt/content/home-malta-qualifications-framework/5963805/>.
- **Number of Credits (ECTS/ECVET Learning Points):** ECTS refers to the length of academically-oriented courses/programmes, whilst ECVET refers to vocationally-oriented programmes. In the Malta Qualifications Framework, ECTS and ECVET have equivalent value. So, Course A and Course B may both be at MQF/EQF Level 5, but whereas Course A has 60 ECTS/ECVET, Course B has only 10 ECTS/ECVET. So, Course A has more learning hours, and therefore more content, than Course B. Prospective applicants need to make sure that a particular course satisfies eventual employment or further study requirements, which may depend both on the MQF/EQF Level as well as the number of ECTS/ECVET. This is especially important since there is no international agreement of the definition of such terms as 'Diploma' and 'Certificate' in terms of number of ECTS/ECVET.
- **Licence Duration:** this may be 1 year for a provisional license, or 5 years for a regular license.

- Comments: from time to time the NCFHE may post comments next to particular courses to alert potential service users of specific issues.
- Additionally, the NCFHE is introducing two new lists that will assist users in locating courses and programme by sector or subject. The first list is for courses offered by institutions with a regular licence, whilst the second list is for institutions with a provisional licence.

It is hoped that this additional information will address some of the concerns that both users and providers have expressed with respect to access to information on courses.

You may also wish to note that the NCFHE is in the process of developing an e-search facility within the Register for the greater convenience of users.

Regards

Sandro Spiteri

Director for Quality Assurance