

- A national qualification framework (NQF) is a systematic ladder of qualifications in a country's education system.
- NQFs vary considerably as some only include information about a country's higher education system while others include the whole range of the educational system.
- A qualification framework (QF) is also called a transparency tool because it assists evaluators in understanding where a certain qualification is placed in the country's educational system, such as the level of the qualification or access granted to further education or employment. QFs also help explain how the qualifications included relate to one another.
- QFs are based on learning outcomes and presume that the qualifications included in the framework are recognized or quality assured.
- In addition to a qualification framework, there can be subnational and regional frameworks that can be cross-referenced to ensure higher transparency in a region.
- When comparing qualifications from different countries, the individual NQFs and the regional framework can help evaluators establish whether the qualifications are comparable.

When comparing NQFs of two different countries, consider the following:

- If two qualifications are placed on a different level, it can depend on the difference in the total number of levels in each QF or that the two qualifications are simply not on the same level.
- The use of overarching frameworks can be beneficial; if the qualifications compared are on the same level in the overarching framework, their level could be considered comparable.
- Qualifications with different profiles (e.g. vocational versus academic) can be placed on the same level. You should therefore check the profile/function of the qualification to be recognized and find the qualification with a comparable profile/function in your system.
- When the qualification to be recognized is outside the higher education system you should find the comparable qualification in your system.
- If the two qualifications being compared are placed on a different level in the overarching framework, use other sources which give information about the qualification components, such as a diploma supplement, guiding legislation, or other informational resources about the countries' educational systems to establish their status and standing in their system, which level the qualifications give access to, and their learning outcomes.

NQFs can include both formal and non-formal qualifications; it is also important to consider that the words academic, professional, technical, and vocational have disparate definitions in different frameworks and may have different avenues to accessing employment or additional education in their country of origin.

COUNTRY	ACADEMIC	VOCATIONAL	ADOPTION DATE (if known)	Referenced to OVERARCHING or REGIONAL FRAMEWORK	URLs
AFGHANISTAN	Afghanistan National Qualifications Framework (ANQF); <i>pending was under development as of 2017</i>				
ALBANIA	KORNIZA SHQIPTARE E KUALIFIKIMEVE (Albanian Qualifications Framework)		2010	Not yet referenced to the EQF or QF-EHEA	http://qsha.gov.al/infos/njesim_diplome/ligj_23-2018_10052018.pdf

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<i>No NQF as of 2022</i>				https://whec2022.net/resources/Outlining%20the%20Establishment%20of%20a%20US%20Qualification%20Framework%20-%20ECE.pdf
URUGUAY	<i>No NQF as of 2022</i>				https://www.oitcenterfor.org/sites/default/files/file_publicacion/Analytical%20inventory%20MNC.pdf
UZBEKISTAN	National Qualifications Framework for the System of Continuous Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NQF SCE Ruz)	Additional measures were passed to improve and fundamentally reform vocational education through Presidential decree UP-3812 on 6 September 2019	15 May 2020	Harmonization between EQF and Uzbek QF is ongoing	https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/project-result-content/1defadc8-d204-43cc-87f2-1d14defa8125/Guidelines_NQF_final_en.pdf https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/5302-cabinet-approves-national-qualifications-framework
VATICAN CITY (HOLY SEE)	Qualifications Framework of the Holy See (Quadro Nazionale delle Qualifiche della Santa Sede) (<i>Only HE</i>)		Legislative Decree No 13, 16 January 20136 and Decree of 8 January 2018	EQF	http://www.educatio.va/content/cec/en/ecclesiastical-institutions-of-higher-education/national-qualifications-framework/qualifications-framework.html https://www.certifico.com/normazione/266-decreti-normazione/7814-decreto-8-gennaio-2018 https://www.certifico.com/component/attachments/download/12331
VENEZUELA	<i>No NQF as of 2022</i>				https://ec-vpl.nl/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-1bd8d4b6ddd4c79d458b83336da881c4/2017/09/A5-Exploratory-analysis-Perez-and-Rivas.pdf
VIETNAM	<i>No NQF as of 2021</i>			ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf)	https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ED-02-ASEAN-Qualifications-Reference-Framework-January-2016.pdf https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/m/720E67F5F1CC3E1DC125791A0038E688_Transnational%20qualifications%20frameworks.pdf