Distance Educator

O1A3 Adaptation to current local requirements and develop and translation of the curriculum

Report

Poland

Danmar Computers

Distance Educator- Training Educators of Adults in the digital age

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Introduction

As part of the third phase of the first intellectual output's development, this document, prepared by Danmar Computers, provides an overview of the information related to the National Qualifications Framework of Poland.

The European Qualifications Framework is a reference framework whose aim is to relate the qualifications systems of various countries. In order to facilitate this effort, each Member State is expected to develop a National Qualifications Framework.

National Qualifications Framework – Specific requirements

The Polish Qualifications Framework was formally adopted by the Law on Integrated Qualifications System of December 22, 2015, which came into force in January 2016.

The Polish Qualifications Framework consists of 8 levels. Each of these levels is described by general characteristics of the scope and complexity of knowledge, skills and social competencies required of individuals with qualifications of a given level. The Polish Qualifications Framework takes into account characteristics typical of qualifications awarded in general education, vocational education and higher education.

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PQF levels	Qualifications from the formal system	Regulated and non-statutory qualifications	EQF levels
8	Third cycle of higher education (PhD)		8
7	Second cycle of higher education Integrated first and second cycle Partial qualification for post-diploma studies		7
6	First cycle of higher education Partial qualification for post-diploma studies		6
5	Vocational qualifications Partial occupational qualifications		5
4	Upper secondary school leaving certificate (*Matura*) Vocational qualifications Partial occupational qualifications		4
3	Vocational qualifications Partial occupational qualifications	Assembly of construction woodwork (*Montowanie stolarki budowlanej*)	3
2	Lower secondary school leaving certificate Vocational qualifications Partial occupational qualifications		2
1	Primary school leaving certificate		1

Picture 1. Graphic presentation of the PQF corresponding to the EQF; source: National qualifications framework developments in Europe 2017.

The PQF additionally includes three grades of educational outcome descriptors:

- universal, which apply to all types of education

- specific, which apply to VET and/or higher education

- area/discipline

Under the PQF, we recognize two types of qualifications:

- full (completed level of education)

- partial (confirmed by certificates)

Changes were made in 2012, implying that journeyman and master examinations are to be conducted by the examination boards of the chambers of crafts. In November 2017, the first non-statutory qualification was added to the integrated qualification register: Carpentry installation at EQF level 3 for the VET formal qualification.

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In addition, a new way of describing and acquiring qualifications, i.e., learning outcomes, was introduced in the vocational education program basis, required since the 2012-2013 school year. The core curriculum distinguishes consistent sets of learning outcomes that can be validated as part of out-of-school learning, as well as accumulated and recognized for subsequent qualifications. The concept of having learning outcomes distinguished in qualifications is consistent with the ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) system being developed in Europe.

In Poland, the accumulation and transfer of credits within the higher education system functions in the form of ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). ECTS has been fully adopted by Polish universities - its implementation was required by law (Law on Higher Education of July 27, 2005 (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 572, as amended)).

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Type of studies	Name of qualification	ECTS credits	Planned qualification level in the PQF
First cycle studies (Bologna first cycle)	Diploma certifying the professional title of licencjat / inżynier or an equivalent title	At least 180	6
Second cycle studies (Bologna second cycle) or Long cycle studies	Diploma certifying the professional title of Magister / magister inżynier or an equivalent title (for example, physician)	Second cycle studies – at least 90 Long cycle masters degree studies: at least 300 (five-year studies), 360 (six-year studies)	7
Third cycle studies (Bologna third cycle)	Diploma certifying the academic degree of *doktor* in a specific discipline	45–60	8
Additionally:			
Postgraduate non-degree studies	Certificates of completion of postgraduate non-degree studies	At least 60; (the duration of the studies should not be less than two semesters)	Depending on the programme

Picture 2. Graphic presentation of higher education system qualifications; source: Educational Research Institute (2014). Referencing the Polish qualifications framework for lifelong learning to the European Qualification Framework.

Links between the National Qualification Framework and the European Qualification Framework

The Polish Qualifications Framework allows Polish qualifications to be related to the levels of the European Qualifications Framework and through them to the qualification levels of

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individual EU countries. The Polish Qualifications Framework is compatible with the European Qualifications Framework, making it much easier to transfer credits and confirm qualifications acquired in Poland in other European countries.

Picture 3. Links between the Polish Qualification Framework and the European Qualification Framework; source https://www.kwalifikacje.gov.pl/o-zsk/polska-rama-kwalifikacji

Procedure for Including Qualifications in the NQF

The Polish Qualifications Framework has led to the identification of areas where learning outcomes were not previously applied or not fully used. The Polish Qualifications Framework also takes into account qualifications awarded outside formal education and training (non-formal and informal training) which brings great benefit to learners.

An important point is that the PQF is aligned with ECVET and EQF, as it allows for accreditation of acquired learning outcomes regardless of the EU country in which they were obtained. As a result, the learner uses the qualification to better match the requirements in the labor market. The benefits of this situation are that Polish citizens have an increased chance of employment in the EU.

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