

NQF Development and Governance – Peer Sharing

Morocco NQF Webinar 21 January 2021

John O'Connor - Quality and Qualifications Ireland



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



Our Work on Qualifications

- Implementation of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- National Awarding Body for Further Education and Training
- External Quality Assurance Body for Post-School Education and Training
- Promote and facilitate international recognition of qualifications
- National Co-ordination point for European Qualifications Framework

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

The **NFQ**:

- A system of ten **levels for classifying** qualifications in Ireland
- Promotes the use of **learning outcomes** to represent and recognise learning achievements
- Defines the **relationship between qualifications** and supports **pathways** within further education and employment opportunities
- Promotes public confidence in the **quality of qualifications** offered and achieved in Ireland
- Facilitates academic **recognition of qualifications**
- A **policy instrument for lifelong learning**

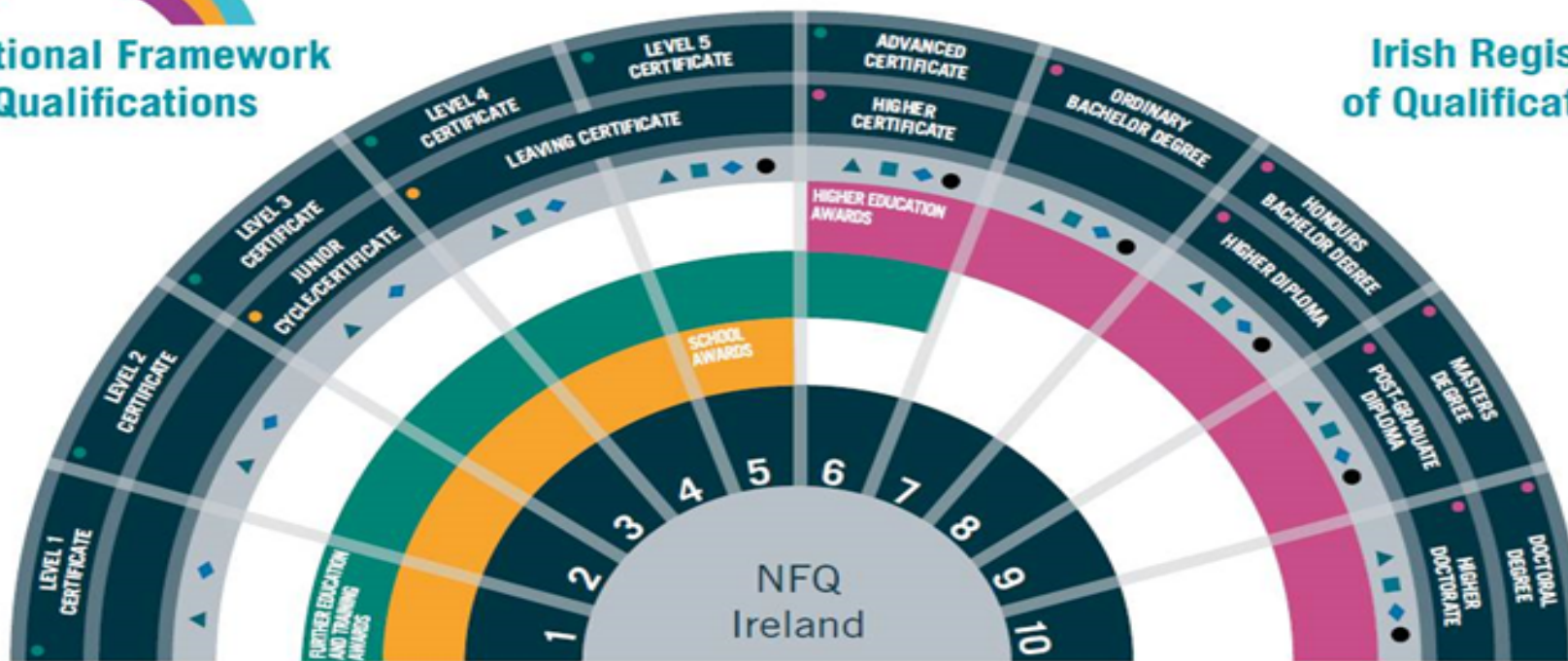
The Irish NQF



QQI

National Framework of Qualifications

Irish Register of Qualifications



CLASSES OF AWARD

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
- Professional Awards:** these are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships

For more information on

- Qualifications
 - Providers
 - Courses
- visit www.irq.ie



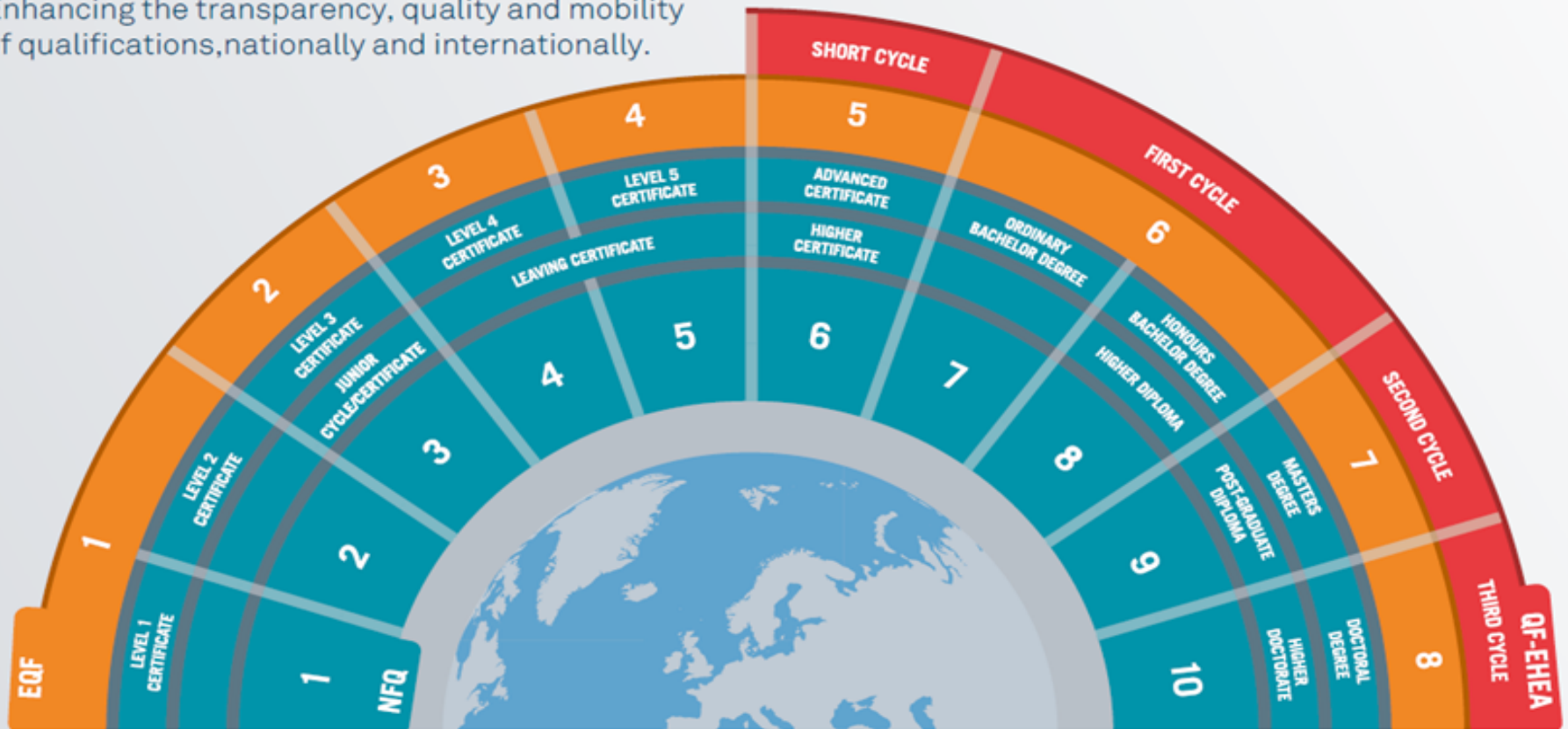
Supported by the Erasmus Programme of the European Union

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European Dimension



Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global
Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



- NQF Irish National Framework of Qualifications
- EQF European Qualifications Framework
- QF-EHEA Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area

The Irish NFQ in Practice

➤ **Implementation**

- Legislative framework and partnership approach governing NFQ implementation by awarding bodies, providers and quality assurance bodies.
- Legislation has supported establishment, consolidation and development phases of the NFQ.

➤ **Use**

- Students, employers, researchers, guidance, credential evaluators, regulators, policy makers...

➤ **Impact**

- Transparency, Quality, Lifelong Learning, Mobility and Recognition....

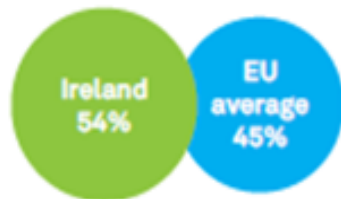
Practical application and use of the NFQ in Ireland



IRELAND - QUALIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE

Key Facts and Figures

Ireland ranked **6th** in the EU for participation in adult **Lifelong Learning**



Irish Register of Qualifications



444
Providers



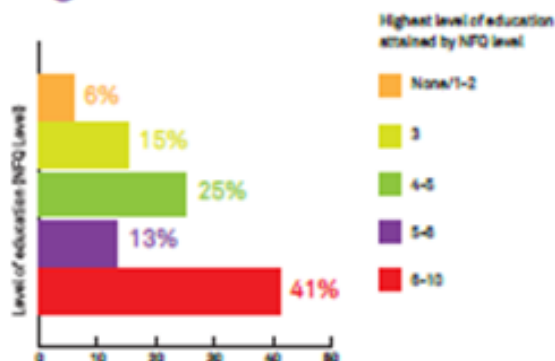
5462
Qualifications



8834
Programmes

www.irq.ie

Qualifications Profile of Irish Population aged 15-64



Foreign Qualifications Recognition

Comparability Statements issued by NARIC Ireland



TOP 10 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



c350,000

Total Number of Graduates with NQF Qualifications in 2019



Higher Education Qualifications

55% of persons aged 25-44 have higher education qualifications

International Students in Ireland studying for Higher Education Qualifications

43% from Asia

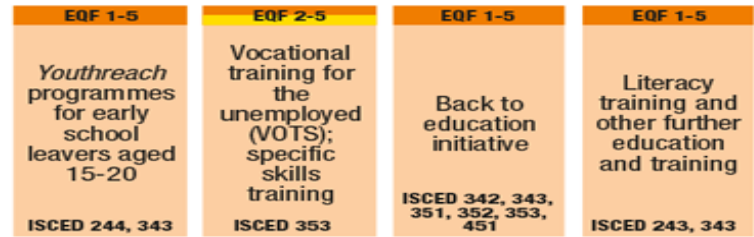
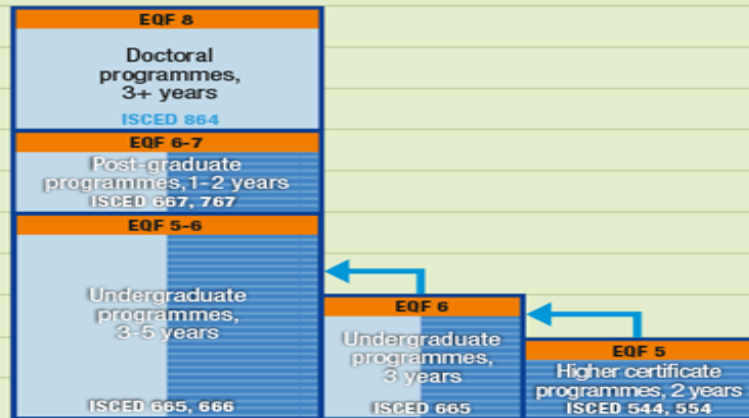
30% from North America

20% from EU

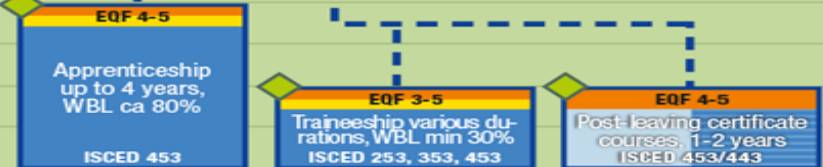
7% from Rest of the World

SECOND CHANCE AND ADULT LEARNING

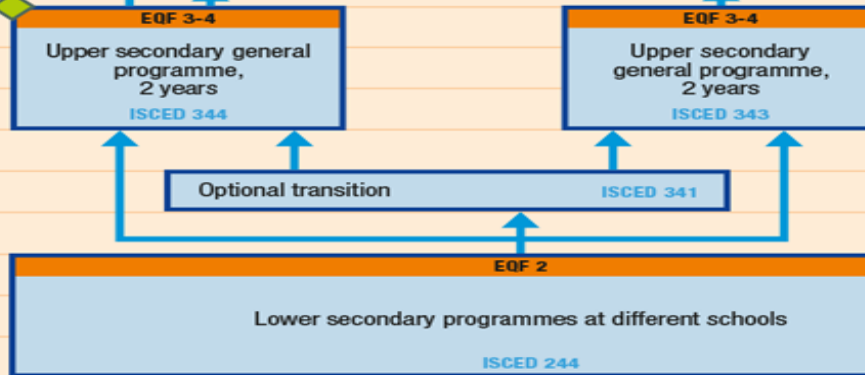
TERTIARY LEVEL



POST-SECONDARY LEVEL



SECONDARY LEVEL



18+ 12+

18 13
17 12
16 11

15 10
14 9
13 8

AGE YEARS in E&T

- General education programmes
- VET programmes
- Programmes combining VET and general education
- Also available to adults
- Officially recognised vocational qualifications
- Qualifications allowing access to the next education level
- Giving access to tertiary education
- End of compulsory education
- Possible progression routes
- Possible, but atypical study paths
- WBL Work-based learning, either at the workplace or a VET institution

Institutional Arrangements for NFQ Development

➤ 1999 Qualifications Act established the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland

The objects of the Authority shall be as follows:

(a) to establish and maintain a framework, being a framework for the development, recognition and award of qualifications in the State (in this Act referred to as a “framework of qualifications”), based on standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired by learners;

(b) to establish and promote the maintenance and improvement of the standards of further education and training awards and higher education and training awards of the Further Education and Training Awards Council, the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, the Dublin Institute of Technology and universities established under section 9 of the Act of 1997; and

(c) to promote and facilitate access, transfer and progression

National Qualifications Authority of Ireland 2001-2012)

- **Statutory body**
- **Representative Board 14 Members**
- **Obligated to consult on policy formation**
- **Focus on development work**
- **Staff c27, annual govt budget c.4m€.**
- **Organisational Structure – NFQ Development and Implementation; Qualifications Recognition; Corporate.**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland 2012-2021

- **QQI Established under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act 2012**
- **Functions to administer external quality assurance for post school Education and training system in Ireland**
- **To further develop, implement and review the National Framework of Qualifications**
- **To promote the international recognition of Irish qualifications and the recognition of international qualifications in Ireland**
- **[QQI Strategy 2019-2021](#) Mission, Values, Priorities, Indicators**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland 2012-2021

- **Non-Representative Board of 10 Members, except for learner and international representatives**
- **Accountable to Government**
- **Has an 'advisory' function to Ministers**
- **'Subject to this Act, the Authority shall be independent in the performance of its functions'**
- **Annual Budget c11m€ (50/50 exchequer and fees)**
- **Specific NFQ governance arrangements evolving**
- **European Level Governance?**

NFQ - Governance Eco-System



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Governance of Qualifications and Quality Assurance System - Reflections

- **Legislation and Institutions**
- **Trust**
- **Transparency**
- **Independence/Autonomy**
- **Culture of decision making (policy making)**
- **Accountability**
- **Risk**
- **Regulatory Principles – Necessary, Proportionate, Transparent, Consistent, Effective**

Further Reading

www.nfq.ie Key Milestones, Policies and important texts

<https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Key-Milestones-in-the-Development-of-the-National-Framework-of-Qualifications.aspx>

www.QQI.ie Quality Assurance Guidelines <https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/QA-Guidelines.aspx>

Qualifications Act 1999

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1999/act/26/enacted/en/html>

Qualifications Act 2012

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/28/enacted/en/html>

Qualifications Amendment Act 2019

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2019/act/32/enacted/en/html>

Qualifications Green Paper <https://www.qqi.ie/News/Pages/New-Green-Paper-on-Qualifications.aspx>



Thank You