



**ACQF**  
African Continental  
Qualifications Framework



# African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) 14<sup>th</sup> Peer Learning Webinar

03/03/2022

# ACQF Peer Learning Webinar 14

03 March 2022

- **Welcome**
- We start soon
- Please use **TRANSLATION** – select your
- You can keep your camera on, but sound off, if not speaking
- If you did not give consent to record – please camera off

- **Bienvenu(e)s**
- Début sous peu
- Veuillez utiliser **TRADUCTION** – votre langue préférée
- Vous pouvez garder l'image – mais son éteint si vous ne parlez pas

- **Benvindo(a)s**
- Começamos em breve
- Por favor, use a **TRADUÇÃO** – selecione o seu idioma preferido
- Pode manter a sua imagem; mas o som apagado enquanto não fala

# 14th ACQF PLW

## Focus: Recognition of prior learning, Validation of non-formal and informal learning

- All learning acquired in all contexts is valuable
- Validation and recognition of knowledge, skills and competences from non-formal and informal learning, experience – fundamental for LLL policies, social and economic inclusion, personal development
- New digital tools offer new potentialities to renew, enhance RPL

## Cases discussed at this Peer Learning Webinar

- **Case 1 - Zambia**: RPL system - policy framework, methods, practical application.
- **Case 2 - Cameroon**: Le système VAE / RPL system - development experience
- **Case 3 - France**: Le système VAE / RPL system: approach, mechanisms and experience. Longstanding experience and renewal.
- **Last session**: discussant, Q&A, Poll

# Context of this webinar

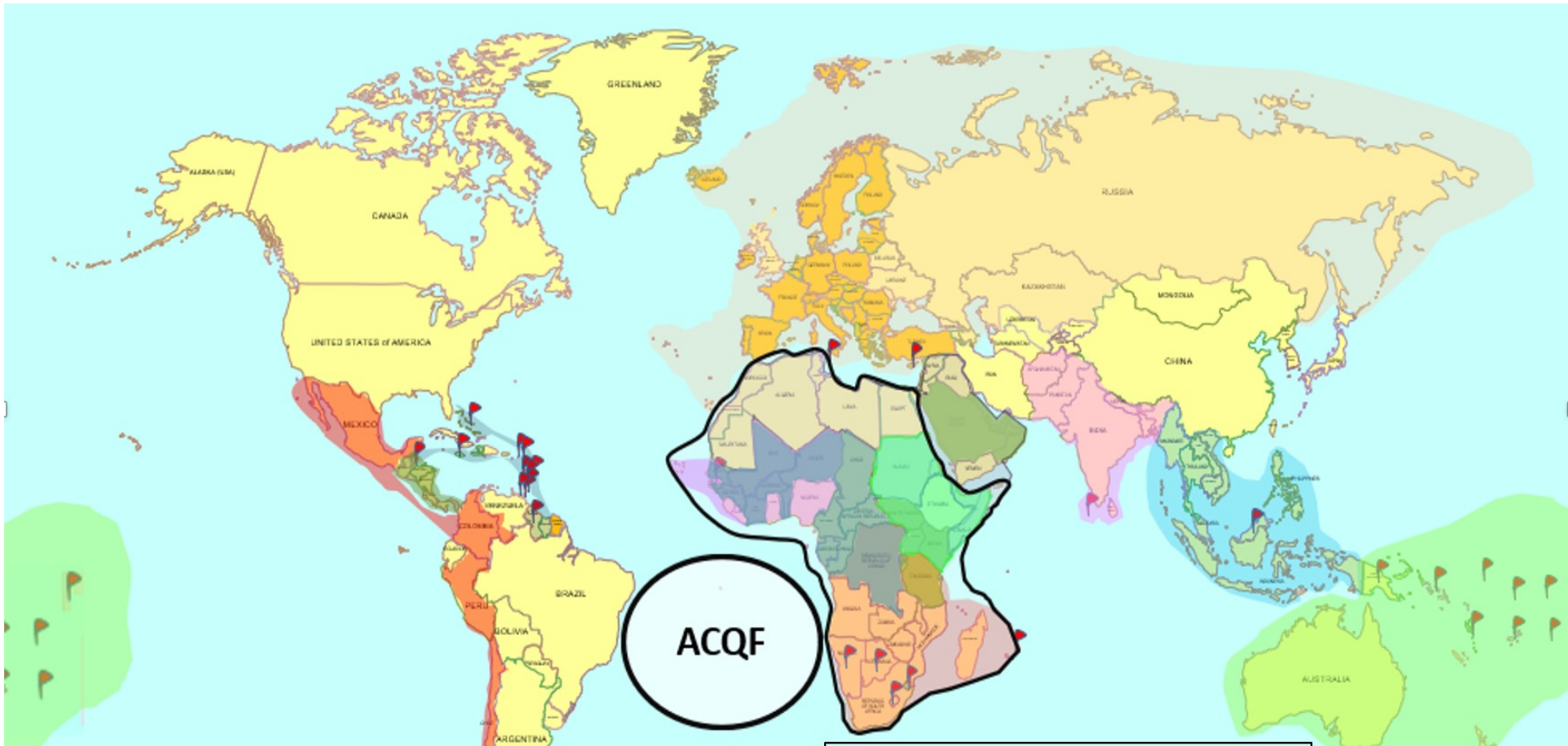
Webinar: Capacity Development Programme of the project “Developing the ACQF”

ACQF development project (09/2019-09/2022)

- Component of “Skills for Youth Employability Programme” / Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) – Technical cooperation (AU-EU-GIZ-ETF)
- Main objective: lay the foundations for the ACQF as a sustainable policy instrument - a reference qualifications framework for LLL, connecting regional and national qualifications frameworks; supporting comparability & transparency of qualifications of all levels and sub-sectors; and contributing to relevant policies for continental integration. Participative approach

# ACQF – a very large RQF

- African Union Policy Initiative
- Based on AU policies (CESA, AU Free Movement Protocol, AfCFTA)
- Qualification Framework for mutual trust, cooperation, support to countries / regions



# ACQF development – main outputs

## ACQF Policy Document and Action Plan

- 10 Guidelines: synthesis, technical
- 10 Training Modules

### Governance model - project time:

- AUC – steer and support
- Advisory Group: expanded since 07/21
  - Project team

## ACQF website

### Capacity development, networking, outreach people

- Peer Learning activities
- Thematic briefs
- Newsletter
- Training programme

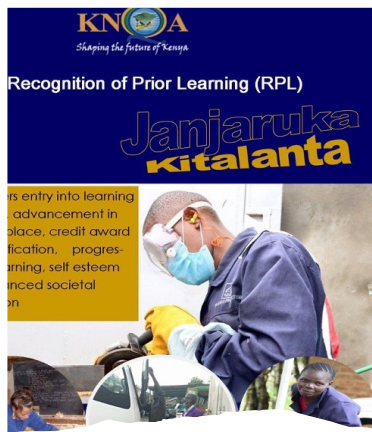
### Analysis

- Mapping Study
- Scenarios ACQF
- ACQF Feasibility study
- School curriculum study
- SADCQF: review and renewal study
- ACQF governance study
- Other studies in preparation

# Components Capacity Development Programme (CDP)

Combination of modalities for different needs (2021-2022)





## Capacity development programme 2022

- ACQF Peer Learning Webinars: thematic focus on Recognition of Prior Learning / VAE / RVCC (3 webinars). Output: *“Book of RPL-webinars”*  
**February-March**
- ACQF in-depth training programme: two 5-days programmes.  
**April (online) and July (hybrid)**
- ACQF Conferences  
**May and September**
- Learning Management System (e-learning)  
**March**
- Thematic briefs on new themes



# History: PLW 2020-2021

2020	National Qualifications Frameworks	Regional Qualifications Frameworks
Africa (14 cases)	Angola, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe – 12 cases	Southern African Development Community Qualifications Framework (SADCQF), East Africa Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (EAQFHE) – 2 cases
Other regions, continents (8 cases)	Bahreïn, France, Ireland, Portugal, Slovenija – 5 cases	Arab Qualifications Framework (AQF), European Qualifications Framework (EQF), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Qualifications Reference Framework – 3 cases

## 2021

National Qualifications Frameworks	Quality Assurance frameworks	Recognition of learning / Qualifications	NQF MIS /Databases Qualifications	Thematic focus
Seychelles	CAMES (Regional)	RPL (Kenya)	South Africa	✓ Learning outcomes
Namibia	ANAQ-Sup (Senegal)	AQVN	Kenya	✓ Levels and descriptors
NQF-TVET reform		Angola - INAARES		✓ RQFs
Mozambique		Cabo Verde - ARES		✓ School curriculum
				✓ Micro-credentials (Cedefop)



## Website ACQF

Is at your service

<https://acqf.africa/>

Visit – use - contribute  
– send us news about  
your NQF / NQS

# Home

## Who we are

The African Continental Qualifications Framework contributes to transparency of qualifications and trust between African qualifications frameworks.

[Find out more](#)

## How does ACQF support your Qualifications Frameworks and Systems?

The ACQF will be the largest of the regional qualifications frameworks (RQFs), as it cooperates with 55 countries and 8 regional economic communities (RECs). ACQF will be the only RQF interacting with two different levels – national and regional qualifications frameworks.

The ACQF will support:

- Comparability, quality and transparency of qualifications and support people's lifelong learning;
- To facilitate recognition of diplomas and certificates, and support mobility (learners, workers, services);

# All Peer Learning Webinars on ACQF Website - for you



[Home](#) / [Capacity Development Programme](#)

## Peer Learning Webinars

Learn About National and Regional Qualifications Frameworks from the relevant institutions. Presentations and videos guide you into this domain. ACQF Peer Learning Webinars foster knowledge circulation, sharing of good practice and mutual trust. In 2020 the seven Peer Learning Webinars shared 22 cases - 17 National Qualifications Frameworks and 5 Regional Qualifications Frameworks. In 2021 the five Peer Learning Webinars diversify the thematic coverage and added new cases of African Qualifications Frameworks, RPL systems and experiences, Qualifications Registers, Learning Outcomes approach, Quality Assurance and Recognition in higher education, Referencing between frameworks and others.

### [Training Programme: Skills and qualifications - towards better frameworks and systems for people's lifelong learning](#)

Apr 18, 2022 09:00 AM to Apr 22, 2022 01:30 PM — Online,

Individuals, societies, economic systems, countries and regions need more and better skills and qualifications for the green and digital transition, for equal opportunities, better jobs, resilience and democracy. Refresh and upgrade your knowledge on qualifications frameworks and systems. Learn on new and digital tools supporting modernisation of qualifications and the response of qualifications frameworks and systems to the transformation of learning and work. Be part of an inspiring learning journey with many other African and international participants.



### [15th Peer Learning webinar - Recognition of Prior Learning: regional and national approaches and practice](#)

Mar 24, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM — Online,

This final webinar on RPL will explore the cases of South Africa (tbc), Senegal, Mozambique and Portugal, and discuss differences and common traits of Recognition of prior learning / VAE in different contexts.



### [14th Peer Learning Webinar - RPL / VAE / RVCC \(RCA\)](#)

Mar 03, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM — Online,

Recognition of prior learning is not limited to lower levels of qualifications. Four different cases show a wide and diverse scope of RPL / VAE in Africa and Europe.



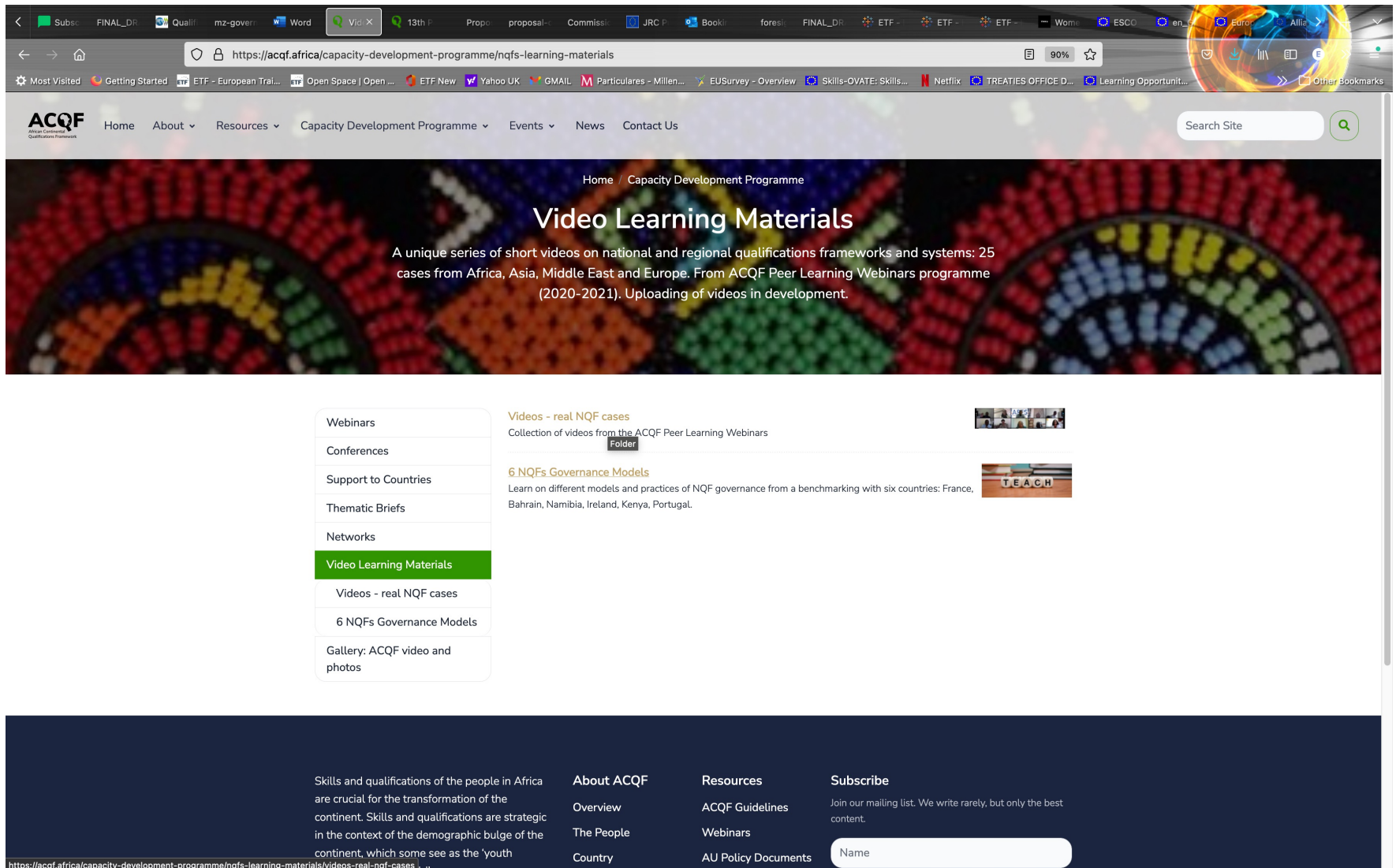
### [13th Peer Learning Webinar - focus on Recognition of Prior Learning](#)

Feb 18, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM — Online,

The project "Developing the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)" continues the series of peer learning webinars in 2022. This new series focuses on developments and practices in the domain of Recognition of Prior Learning / Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience / Reconhecimento validação e certificação de competências



# All learning materials easily accessible on ACQF website



**ACQF**  
Africa Council  
Qualifications Framework

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## Video Learning Materials

A unique series of short videos on national and regional qualifications frameworks and systems: 25 cases from Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe. From ACQF Peer Learning Webinars programme (2020-2021). Uploading of videos in development.

- Webinars
- Conferences
- Support to Countries
- Thematic Briefs
- Networks
- Video Learning Materials**
- Videos - real NQF cases
- 6 NQFs Governance Models
- Gallery: ACQF video and photos

**Videos - real NQF cases**  
Collection of videos from the ACQF Peer Learning Webinars  
Folder

**6 NQFs Governance Models**  
Learn on different models and practices of NQF governance from a benchmarking with six countries: France, Bahrain, Namibia, Ireland, Kenya, Portugal.

TEACH

Skills and qualifications of the people in Africa are crucial for the transformation of the continent. Skills and qualifications are strategic in the context of the demographic bulge of the continent, which some see as the 'youth

**About ACQF**  
Overview  
The People  
Country

**Resources**  
ACQF Guidelines  
Webinars  
AU Policy Documents

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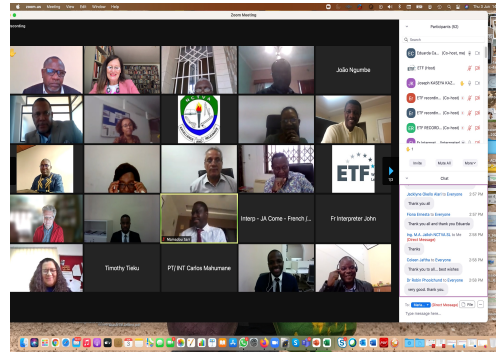
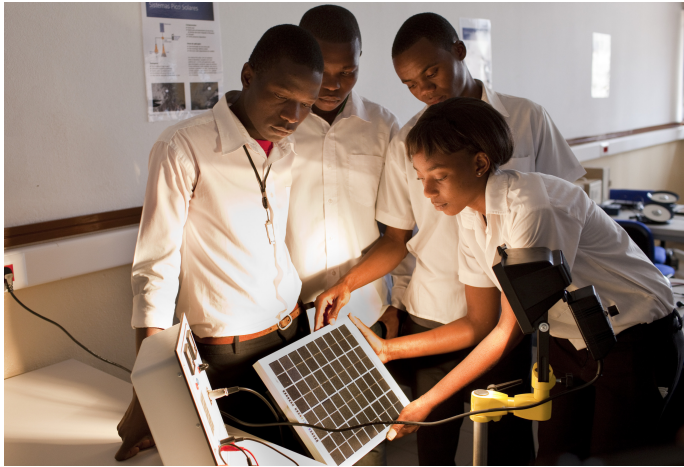
Name

<https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/nqfs-learning-materials/videos-real-nqf-cases>

RPL, VAE,  
RVCC -  
Validation  
of learning  
gives us  
Wings



# Learning – everywhere, many modes and goals



**KNQA**  
Kenya National Qualifications Authority

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)  
*Sajilisha ujuzi wako kupitia RPL*

**Janjaruka kitalanta**

PT/NT holders who do not have a diploma, advancement in the same program will receive a qualification, completion of training, and enhanced social recognition.

Are you seeking to certify your skills?  
Then RPL is here for you  
Visit: [www.knqa.go.ke](http://www.knqa.go.ke)

Visit: [www.knqa.go.ke](http://www.knqa.go.ke)



**GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING IN KENYA**

June, 2021

A photograph showing several people, including a man in a red shirt, working at sewing machines. They appear to be in a vocational training or workshop setting.

# Previous webinar – 18/02/2022

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## 1. ACQF Guideline on Validation of Learning (focus on RPL): presentation of the draft text

By: Modest Hamalabbi, member of the drafting team

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## 2. Validation of non-formal and informal learning in Europe: past-present and future.

By Cedefop, Ernesto Villalba-Garcia

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## 3. Country case: Cabo Verde – RVCC system

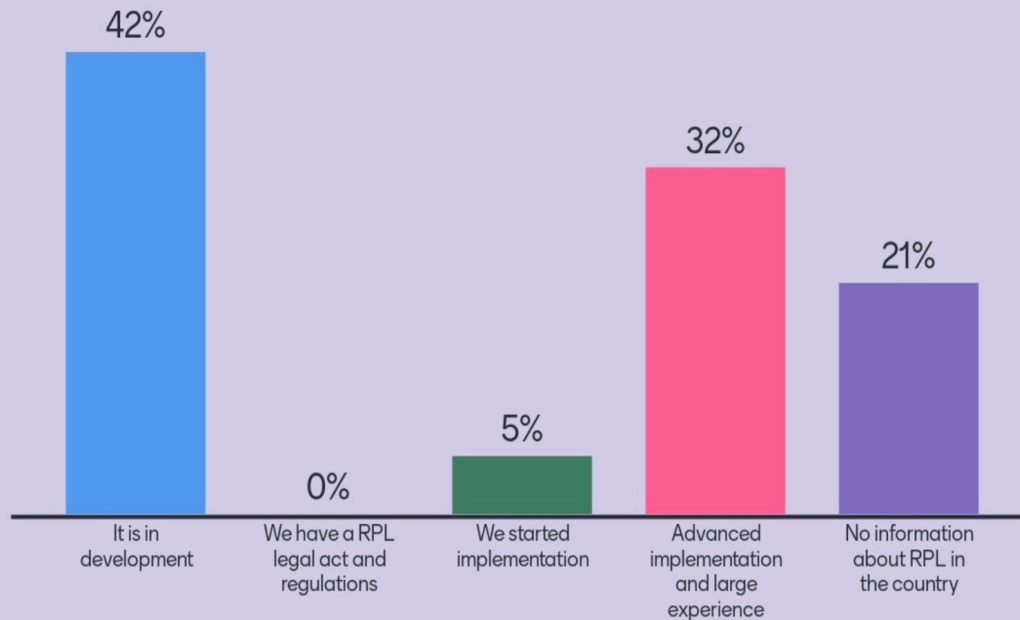
Policy and legal framework, methods, links to NQF and practical implementation in several sectors.

By UC-SNQ, Amilcar Mendes



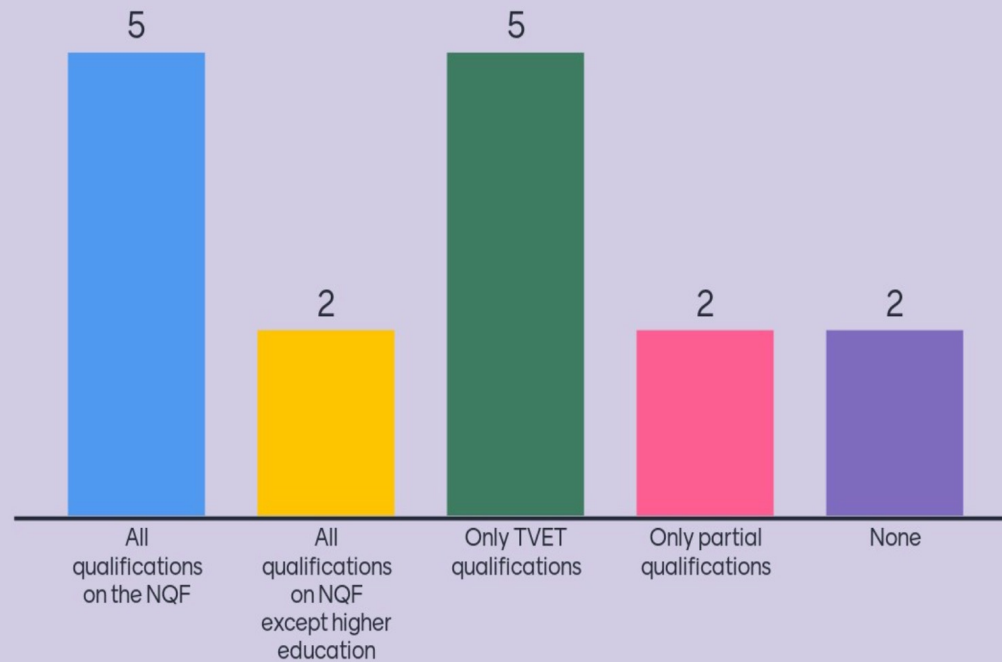
# Some results from the poll of 18/02/2022

## 1. RPL in your country: what is the status of the RPL system?



# Some results (2)

## 2. Which qualifications can be obtained through RPL processes?



# Some additional results (3)

## 3. Main barriers / challenges for wider RPL implementation in your country? (tick all that applies)



# Results from Poll

**Question:**  
**how**  
**should**  
**ACQF**  
**help?**

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More discussion, sharing good practice and campaigns

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Deeper understanding links RPL-HE

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Sharing of good practice on private sector involvement

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Training of RPL practitioners

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RPL – equitable / comparable with formal learning

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Support countries develop, implement RPL

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Digitalisation: certificates, supplements

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Network RPL / VAE

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# RPL advisor: qualification (RNCP, France)

<https://www.francecompetences.fr/recherche/rncp/35259/>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the France Compétences website. The page is titled "Répertoire national des certifications professionnelles" and "Conseiller en parcours VAE et AFEST". It features a navigation bar with links for "LA FORMATION ET L'APPRENTISSAGE", "FRANCE COMPÉTENCES", "BASE DOCUMENTAIRE", and "MÉDIATION". The main content area is pink and contains the following information:

- Nomenclature du niveau de qualification : Niveau 6
- Code(s) NSF :
  - 333 : Enseignement, formation
  - 315 : Ressources humaines, gestion du personnel, gestion de l'emploi
- Formacode(s) :
  - 15070 : technique recherche emploi
  - 94018 : accompagnement VAE
  - 44591 : conseil accompagnement VAE
- Taux d'insertion global moyen à 6 mois : 92%
- Taux d'insertion moyen dans le(s) métier(s) visé(s) à 6 mois : 92%
- Date d'échéance de l'enregistrement : 10-02-2024

On the right side, there is a box containing the "N° de fiche" **RNCP35259**. Below the main content, there are several blue buttons for navigation: "CERTIFICATEUR(S)", "RÉSUMÉ DE LA CERTIFICATION", "BLOCS DE COMPÉTENCES", "SECTEUR D'ACTIVITÉ ET TYPE D'EMPLOI", "VOIE D'ACCÈS", "LIENS AVEC D'AUTRES CERTIFICATIONS PROFESSIONNELLES...", "BASE LÉGALE", and "POUR PLUS D'INFORMATIONS". At the bottom right, there is a "J'ai une question" button and a "TOP" button.

# Our speakers today

## Fidelis Cheelo

- Standards and Quality Assurance Manager
- Zambia Qualifications Authority

## Prof Rodolphine Wamba

- Deputy Director of Quality Assurance
- Ministry of Higher Education, Cameroon

## Linda Beauce

- Chargée de mission
- Follow-up and development of VAE / RPL
- Ministry of Labour, Employment and Inclusion



For your  
reference  
and further  
reading

# NQF - as a system

- NQF: A policy and instrument for the development and classification of qualifications according to a set of criteria for specified levels of learning achieved, which aims at integrating and coordinating national qualifications subsystems and improve the transparency, access, progression and quality of qualifications in relation to the labour market and civil society.
  - Objectives, principles, contribution to reforms and policies
  - Levels and descriptors
  - Qualifications Map
  - VAE - RPL
  - Qualifications DB / register
  - QA
  - Monitoring & evaluation
  - Governance and implementation set-up: public (education, employment) & private sectors



# Regional Qualifications Framework

- A broad structure of levels of learning outcomes that is agreed by countries in a geographical region. A means of enabling one national framework of qualifications to relate to another and, subsequently, for a qualification in one country to be compared to a qualification from another country.

## Aims of Regional Qualifications Frameworks (RQF)

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RQFs, have grown out of communities of countries with an aim 'to facilitate mutual trust in qualifications and promote student and worker mobility; therefore, they are linked to other initiatives related to mutual recognition of qualifications, of goods and of services'.

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To develop a common understanding and strengthen transparency of member country qualifications.

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Seek commonalities and clarify differences.

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Build mutual trust across the community of countries.

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Countries that have a regional, economic or social identity, or wish to see one develop, have cooperated in the development of regional qualifications frameworks (RQFs).



# Referencing NQFs to a Regional QF (example)

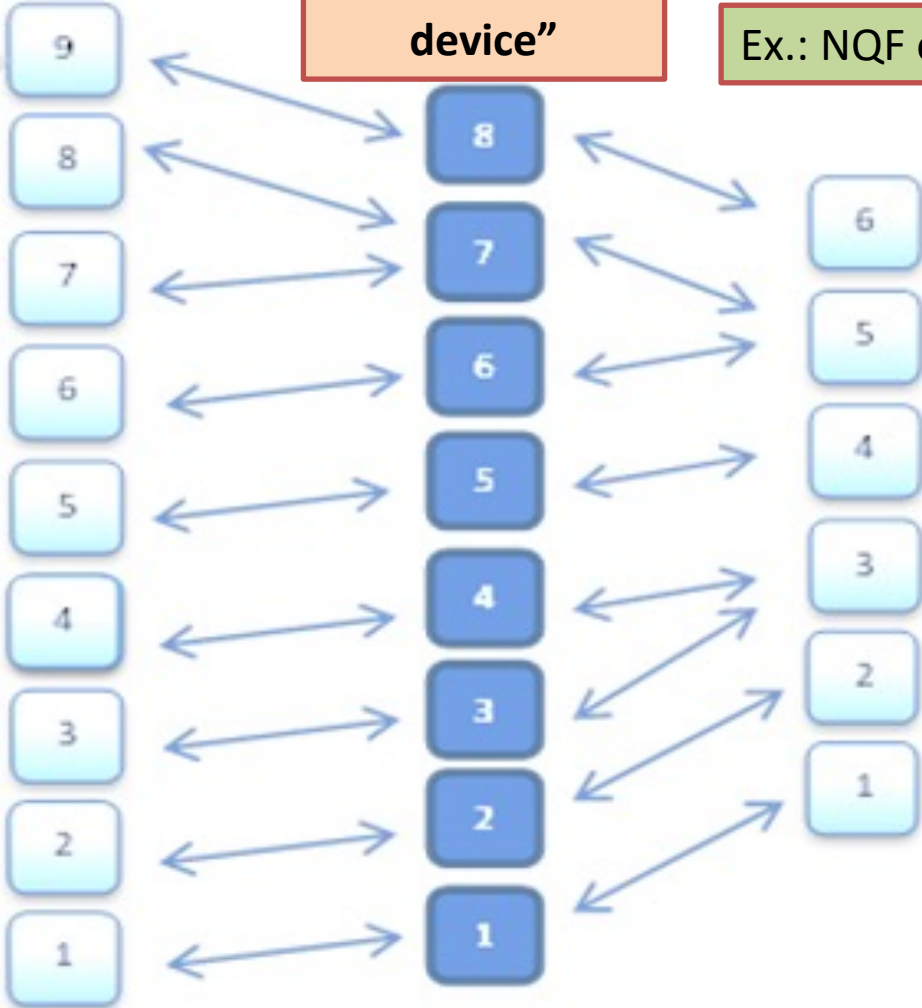
Ex.: NQF of Country B

Ex.: RQF (such as ACQF) = "translation device"

Ex.: NQF of Country A

National Qualifications: in the NQFs

National Qualifications: in the NQFs



# ACQF in the African Union policy context

- Skills and qualifications: at heart of African renaissance.
- ACQF: vital policy of the AU and its development is underway (2019-2022)
- Agenda 2063: integrated Africa
- Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2023
- AU Free movement Protocol (Art 18)
- Free Trade: AfCFTA
- CESA 16-25
- Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) and Addis Convention on Recognition of Qualifications

The ACQF will be:



**INCLUSIVE**

qualifications of all levels and sub-systems of education and training

**RECEPTIVE TO INNOVATION**

from new trends and technologies



**OPEN**

to stakeholders' contribution; good practice from Africa and the world

**The ACQF is vital to the processes that contribute to create an African education space:**

▶ Advance the implementation of CESA 2016-2025

▶ Harmonise higher education in Africa and implement the

# ACQF development project (09/2019-2022)



Component of “Skills for Youth Employability”  
/ Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) – Technical  
cooperation



**Main objective:** lay the foundations for the  
ACQF as a sustainable policy instrument  
**contributing to relevant continental policies**



CESA 16-25

**Main Output:** ACQF Policy and Technical  
Document + Action Plan + ACQF Guidelines

- Analysis and evidence
- Capacity development programme
- Participative approach

# Building the ACQF (2020-2022)

**Output 1:** Scenarios and options for the ACQF

Feasibility analysis

**Output 2:** ACQF policy and technical document and action plan

Objectives and principles, architecture, functioning and governance of ACQF

**Output 3:** ACQF Capacity development programme & networking

## **Evidence**

ACQF Mapping Study

## **Technical foundations**

ACQF Guidelines; ACQF website;  
other analyses (AfCFTA-ACQF,  
School curriculum survey)

# Purposes of ACQF

Enhance

Enhance comparability, quality and transparency qualifications of all types and levels, support people's lifelong learning outcomes.

Facilitate

Facilitate validation of learning, recognition of diplomas and certificates and mobility of learners and workers

Cooperate

Work in cooperation and complementarity with national and regional qualifications frameworks, and support African continental integration and creation of African Education common space

Promote

Promote cooperation and referencing between qualifications frameworks (national, regional) in Africa and worldwide





# Principles and functions ACQF



## Principles

- Inclusive: all levels qualifications, types of learning
- Innovation-ready
- Open: users', stakeholders' needs; good practice others

## Functions

- Referencing Qualifications Framework – NQF / NQS – ACQF
- Hub, catalyst, support for development of NQFs and their instruments
- Overarching framework against which NQF and RQF / LD can be calibrated, if needed / relevant
- Reference for comparison with other international frameworks

# ACQF Mapping Study (2020 complete)

## Countries online survey (33 countries responded):

Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Union Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, D R Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, The Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia; Chad, Republic of Congo, Ghana, Zimbabwe

## Countries and RECs – visits and reports:

Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo. EAC (EAQFHE), SADC (SADCQF), ECOWAS (mentions CAMES, LMD). New started: Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

Review process in 3 rounds (external, project expert, country and REC). Published:

<https://www.nepad.org/skillsportalfor youth/publication/african-continental-qualifications-framework-acqf-mapping-study>

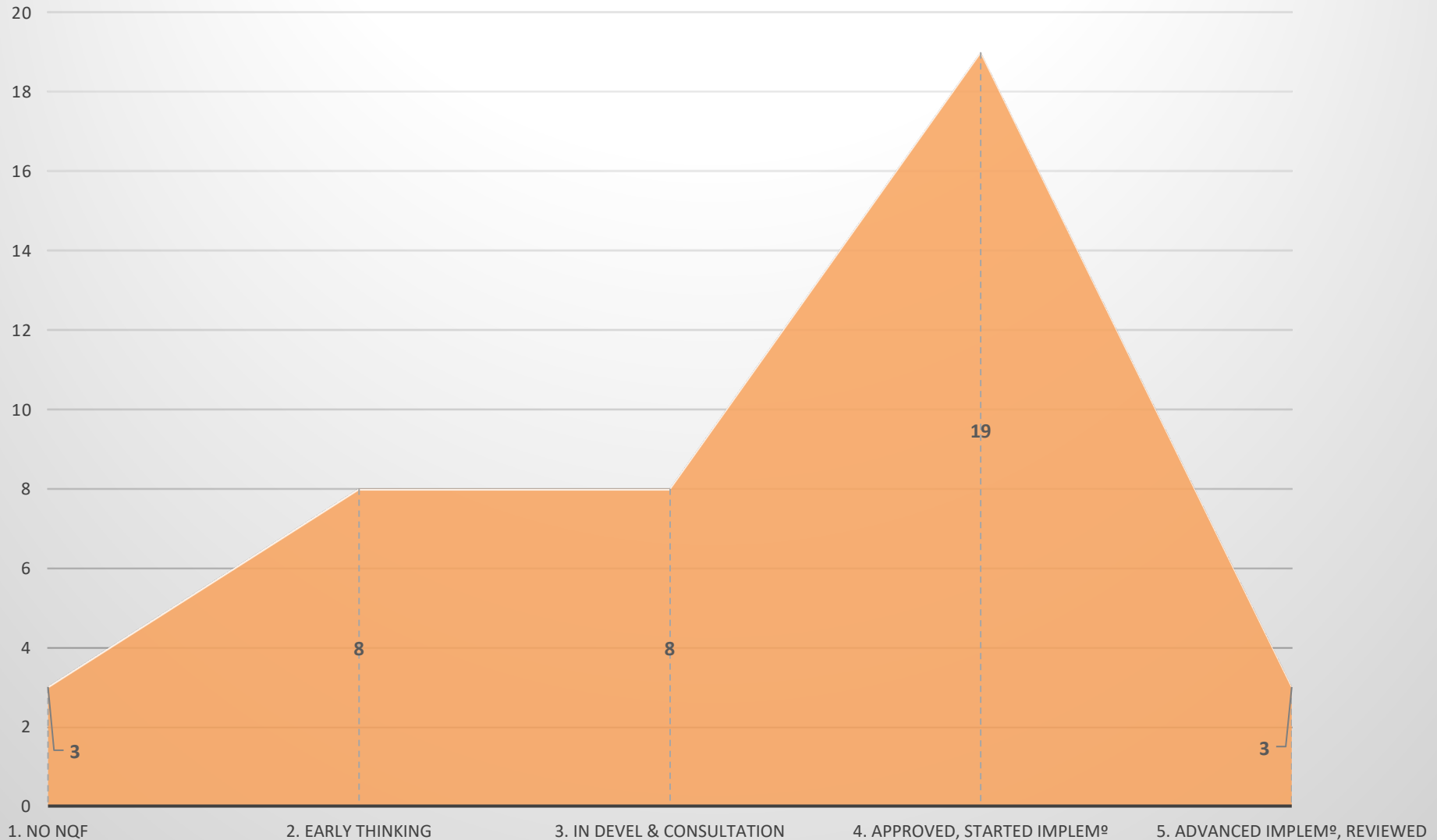
## Countries and RECs – peer learning, updates, meetings:

Eswatini (meeting), Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tunisia; Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Cape Verde, South Africa. SADCQF and EAC. CAMES (meetings)



# NQFs in Africa – stage of development and implementation (from 41 countries)

Qualifications Frameworks, Africa - stage of development implementation (01/2021; total = 41 countries)



# Stage of QF development and implementation (from 41 countries)

Stage of NQF (QF) development and implementation	Countries
No NQF	Chad, Republic of Congo, São Tomé e Príncipe
NQF in early thinking	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Togo
NQF in development and consultation	Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Madagascar, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia
NQF legal act approved, implementation started	Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia
NQF in advanced implementation and reviewed	Cape Verde, Mauritius, South Africa

# Overview levels and level descriptors in African NQF-RQFs

## Levels

- **10** (16 NQFs)
- **8** (5 NQFs)
- **7** (1 NQF)
- **6** (1 SQF)
- **5** (1 SQF)

### 2 RQF:

- **10** (1 RQF)
- **8** (1 RQF)

## Domains LD – some examples

- Knowledge, skills, competence
- Knowledge, Skills, Autonomy-responsibility
- Knowledge, Skills, Personal attitudes
- Learning demand - processes
- Areas of knowledge (depth, breadth, complexity); nature of skills; agency & context
- KS, complexity, autonomy-respons, adaptability, communication
- Competence, skills, autonomy
- Degree complexity; reasoning & problem solving; knowledge; Autonomy-responsibility

# ACQF: main pillars

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A Network of NQF agencies (authorities, councils) working together with Quality Assurance and Recognition agencies and institutes to drive and implement the ACQF, and with supporting / policy guidance role of AUC.

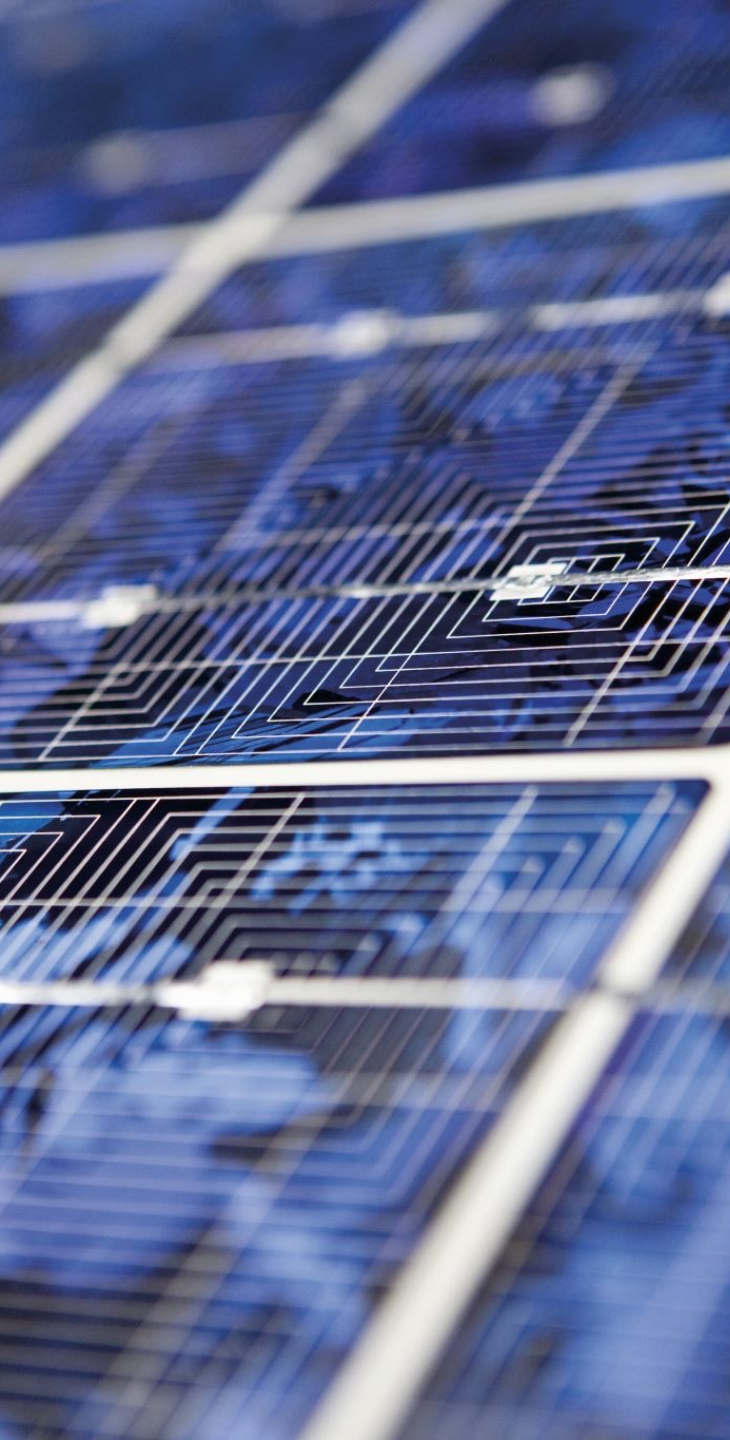
Referencing between NQFs / NQS and ACQF

ACQF levels on qualifications and databases – upon successful referencing NQF-ACQF

Support countries developing and strengthening their NQFs – with quality-assured qualifications. The ACQF own level structure and descriptors can inspire countries. Countries can use the ACQF Guidelines for their own home NQF.

A continental database (DB) of qualifications – all interested countries can connect to it; countries can directly link their qualifications to this DB

A sustainable capacity development basis to create knowledge, mutual learning and sustainable solutions on qualifications and skills



# 10 Guidelines and training modules

1. Learning outcomes

2. Level descriptors

3. Referencing NQF-ACQF: criteria, process, tools

4. Validation of learning: RPL, CATS, recognition

5. Quality assurance

6. Registration, databases of qualifications

7. Monitoring & evaluation in the context ACQF

8. Communication / users' outreach

9. Innovation and technology in NQFs / ACQF

10. Qualifications, NQFs, NQS - systemic view



Each  
Guideline  
has 2  
sides

For use at  
NATIONAL  
(regional) level

For ACQF's use

# 1 Guideline =

1. Users: countries / regional authorities, QF-working groups, stakeholders, AUC, NQF Network
2. The topic – what is it? State-of-art, knowledge base, principles. Conceptual+theoretical foundations, applications in the Qualifications - QF domain, literature, cases
3. How the given theme / policy area relates to / applies in ACQF context
4. Recommendations on application
5. Tools (e.g. templates, self-assessment questions, check-lists...)

## Synthesis Guideline

**2-3 pages**

- Concept(s)
- Users
- Recommendations related with ACQF
- Links with other ACQF Guidelines

## Technical Guideline

**15-30 pages + annexes**

- Comprehensive presentation of the topic
- Recommendations on application in ACQF context
- Links with other ACQF Guidelines
- Literature
- Annexes

## Training Module

Purpose, users

LO

What

Why

How

Cases

(Self)-assessment

Sources