

# SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS AND FRAMEWORKS

FOR MUTUAL TRUST IN A CHANGING  
WORLD

THE EXPERTS CONTRIBUTING TO  
THE ACQF TRAINING PROGRAMME



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## Andrea Bateman

Works as a freelance consultant providing advice in the areas of qualifications and quality assurance frameworks. She has been the principal consultant for the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework since its initial design discussions, and was responsible for the initial design refinement of the Pacific Qualifications Framework. She works with various countries assisting in establishing their emerging qualifications systems, including designing NQFs and quality assurance arrangements, and establishing the functions of the body responsible for quality assuring the system. Andrea is a co-author of ACQF comprehensive Mapping study. She is developing ACQF Guideline and Training Module N° 10 (Qualifications and NQF – systemic view).



## Coleen Jaftha

Is a South-African expert with substantial professional experience in South African Qualifications Framework (SAQA) and SADC Qualifications Framework, contributor to international initiatives on regional qualifications frameworks. Coleen is developing four ACQF Guidelines and Training Modules: N° 1 (learning outcomes), N° 2 (level descriptors), N° 3 (referencing to ACQF) and N° 8 (Communication and outreach).



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## Eduarda Castel-Branco

Is a senior specialist, qualifications and labour market expert of European Training Foundation (ETF). Eduarda has long-standing experience in NQF development working with ETF partner countries and as a member of the Advisory Group of European Qualifications Framework (EQF). She is the thematic and technical coordinator of ACQF project, team leader; author of five ACQF country mapping reports, co-author of the ACQF comprehensive mapping report and synthesis report, and the ACQF Feasibility study; co-author of ACQF Guideline and Training Module N° 5 (Quality Assurance). Coordinates and animates ACQF programme of Peer Learning Webinars and the activities of support to countries' NQF.



## Dr. Eusebius Juma Mukhwana

Is the Director General of Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA). He is an expert of the ACQF development project, contributing to the reflection on the scenarios for ACQF, feasibility study and options for governance of ACQF. His has extensive professional experience in higher education policies and networks.



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## Dr. Winnie Anne Bulimo

Is an educationist currently serving as a Deputy Director charge of Standards Assessment and Quality Assurance at the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA). Previously she served as a Senior Assistant Director Technical Education in the state department of Vocational and Technical Training, and a Regional Center Training Coordinator at the Kenya Education Management Institute. Dr. Bulimo has a vast experience in development implementation of educational policy.

In her current position, she has led a team of experts to develop standards and guidelines to support implementation of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework. Among them is development of the Kenya Credit Accumulation and Transfer policy and guidelines.

She holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Planning and Management from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) and a Masters in Educational Planning and Management. She has also undertaken various leadership courses including Strategic Leadership and Development Program and the Senior Management Course at the Kenya School of Government and a gender Mainstreaming Course.

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# Mirriam Chiyaba, Fidelis Cheelo and James Mwewa

The team of Zambia Qualifications Authority is contributing to ACQF development. The team is composed by the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Technical Services, the Manager of Standards and Quality Assurance, and the Manager of Qualifications Services. They develop ACQF Guidelines and Training Modules N° 4 (Validation of Learning) and N° 6 (Registration and Databases of qualifications).



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## Rebecca Pursell-Gotz

Is a Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist with a social science background, and specific expertise in education and public health. She has been working in the field of monitoring and evaluation for the past 16 years. During this time, she has been responsible for developing and undertaking M&E training, developing M&E frameworks and undertaking evaluations of education programmes at basic and higher education level. These include a range of thematic areas including evaluations of TVET programmes, school leadership, communities of practice, and transformation in higher education. Rebecca has experience in the use of mixed methods, developing and evaluating theories of change, programme design and implementation. She has worked in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi and South Africa. Her work has engaged government, international development agencies and non-governmental organisations.

## Zahraa McDonald

Is a researcher at JET Education Services. She is a sociologist that has focused on education for the past 15 years. Subsequent to her PhD which examined the intersection of Islamic education and post-secular citizenship she completed post-doctoral fellowships at Stellenbosch University, UCT, CPUT and UJ. Her post-doctoral fellowship at CPUT was with the South African Research Chair in Teacher Education in the Centre for International Teacher Education.



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## Sejo K. Mupundu

Is a Botswana citizen and a Zambian resident with comprehensive background in education management specializing in Quality Assurance and Quality Management, spanning over 11 years in a regulatory body. She holds MSc in Strategic Quality Management from the University of Portsmouth, in the United Kingdom, Post Graduate Certificate Quality Assurance in Education - Botswana Open University, Bachelor of Arts- Sociology and Diploma in Criminal Justice-University of Botswana and Quality Management System Certification according to ISO 9001:2008- Implementation of QMS, Documentation and lead auditor.

Currently, she is working as a Registration and Accreditation Officer at Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA). During this time, she has worked across different Departments at Botswana Training Authority (BOTA) and BQA respectively, covering Standards Development, Standards Based Assessment, Curriculum Development, implementation of National Credit and Qualifications Framework and Quality Assurance of Education and Training Providers as well as Learning Programmes. Sejo is an altruistic lady who believes in community work, personal development, and social development. She is a founder of a charity organisation called Monthlies Trust which advocates for the welfare of women, girls and vulnerable groups of society. She is versatile to adapt to changes in different multicultural setups. Her strengths include, structuring, process re-engineering, networking, relationship building while leveraging her deep understanding of African education system. Her ambition is to become a Quality guru in the African education system. Her enthusiasm and passion in her current role allow her to network with captains of industry and key stakeholders. Ms. Mupundu thrives on challenging the status quo to achieve her goals and deliver on stakeholder expectations.



## Mathias Bonongo

Was born in Cameroon where he completed his schooling. After higher studies attested by the Diploma of Teacher of Technical Education, Option Mechanical Engineering, he was assigned in 1997 to the Technical High School of Bandjoun, where he began a teaching career. In 2006, he was appointed Assistant Research Officer in the Division of Employment Promotion at the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training where he participated in the various studies to determine the labour needs for construction projects of structuring projects (port of Kribi, Mbalam iron, and new hydroelectric dams). In 2013, he was supported by his hierarchy who made him Pedagogical Attaché at the General Inspectorate of Training until 2020. During this period, he participated in numerous continuing education and study trips to various countries in Africa, Europe and Asia, in the field of training engineering. Between 2015 and 2016, he contributed to the drafting of the guide to the management of vocational training and apprenticeship systems in sub-Saharan Africa, under the aegis of the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF). In March 2020, he was associated with colleagues from Cameroon for the production of the country report on qualifications as part of the African Continental Qualification Framework (ACQF) project. He is currently responsible for the development of vocational training programs at the National Institute for the Training of Trainers and Program Development in Yaoundé, a project in which he worked during the implementation work between 2014 and 2019.

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## Paula Leite de Carvalho

Of Cape Verdean nationality, was born on 1st June 1968. She did her primary and secondary education in Cape Verde. She has a degree and a Master in Linguistics from Voronej State University, former USSR, and from Rouen University, France. She was a secondary and higher education teacher. For 15 years she was a technician in the Pedagogical, Science and Technology Service. She was Service Director in the Directorate General of Higher Education (DGES). In DGES, she worked in the Vacancies and Scholarships Service, having been Focal Point for several Scholarship Programmes (Hungary, France, Australia, Canada, Morocco, Algeria, Senegal, etc). Since 2018, she works at the Higher Education Regulatory Agency (ARES) performing the role of Procedures Manager. Both in DGES and ARES, she has always worked on the Recognition of Degrees and Diplomas and the supervision and control of the operation of public and private higher education institutions. Since 2005, she is a member of the National Commission for Professional Equivalences, of the current National System of Professional Qualifications.



## Alberto Vieira Landim

He is currently studying for a master's degree in International Relations and Economic Diplomacy at the University of Cape Verde (ARES). He is currently attending a Master's Degree in International Relations and Economic Diplomacy at the University of Cape Verde and has a degree in Economic Sciences and Management by the Hassan II University of Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in 2015. He is a very proactive and organized professional, also has a command of English and French. In his free time, he enjoys sport fishing and reading books. He appreciates continuous learning, exchange of experiences and good practices and in the future, he wishes to continue to develop his professional skills and competences and become a more and more complete professional.





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## Laura Veza-Visan

Is a digital labour market consultant working on the ESCO project for the Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. She has been part of the project since 2014 and currently is in charge of communication and the coordination of the community of ESCO implementers: the organisations using ESCO in their projects, research or applications in Europe and internationally. More recently, she initiated and led the monitoring and evaluation strategy of the project, to assess the impact and contribution of ESCO in the labour market and education and training areas. Laura's expertise draws on knowledge management, labour market research, results-based management and stakeholders' engagement in the context of EU skills & labour mobility policies.



## Dereje Awgichew Woldemariam

Was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He had the chance to work as a lecturer at different Private and Public Universities, but also as an Educational Quality Auditor at ETA (former HERQA), where he had also the role of Accreditation Expert. He recently took the role of Director at the Authentication and Equivalence of Educational Credentials (recent) Mr Woldemariam has an MSc in Optimization and a BSc in Mathematics, both from Addis Ababa University.



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## Koen Nomden

Is currently Team Leader for “Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications”, within the Skills Agenda Unit of the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion).

Before that he was a policy officer in charge of the validation of non-formal and informal learning and career guidance.

Other positions he held within the European Commission were that of Erasmus Mundus Programme Manager and of policy officer in charge of setting up a European Executive Agency in charge of implementing programmes in education, training, culture and media.

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## Sagal Abdulle

Is a Program Officer supporting IGAD's Education Programme and is currently coordinating the development of IGAD's Regional Qualifications Framework. Sagal holds a Master of Education, specializing in comparative international and development education from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor's in International Development Studies from York University. Sagal has worked for over a decade supporting academic institutions, civil society organizations, donors and governments to deepen analysis, shape policy and funding, and refine interventions to defend people's right to education. Sagal is committed to co-creating interventions that stimulate systemic change towards tangible shifts in people's lives, particularly those at the fringes of society.



## Kebede Kassa Tsegaye

Is an Ethiopian and Senior Program Coordinator of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) since 2017. His work with IGAD as a Senior Advisor on social development on consultancy basis dates back to 2011.

Between 2015 and 2019, he served as a Director for Research and Knowledge Management Office, at St. Mary's University (Ethiopia).

From 2003-2010, he worked at the African Union, Department of Social Affairs as a Senior Expert/Program Officer where he was leading development of continental policies and strategies on health, culture, sports and population and development.

Between 1988 and 2003, he taught and held various posts, including as Dean, School of Graduate Studies, at Alemaya University in eastern Ethiopia.



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## Prof. Michael Mawa

Is a higher education quality assurance expert. He is currently the Head of the Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework Unit at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). He previously served as Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Uganda Martyrs University; also served as the Director of Quality Assurance at Nkumba University. He is the Founding President for the Ugandan Universities Quality Assurance Forum (UUQAF) as well as the Founding President of the East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN).

Prof. Michael Mawa has served as a Quality Assurance Expert in programme assessment, institutional assessment (audits) and quality assurance training for the National Council for Higher Education Uganda, Commission for University Education- Kenya, the Tanzania Commission for Universities and the Inter-University Council for East Africa. He has been engaged in quality assurance trainings organized under the DIES/DAAD TrainIQA programme for West Africa and SADC region. He has been trainer for the IIEP-UNESCO Internal Quality Assurance Training Programme for universities in Africa and Middle East.

Prof. Mawa holds a Doctorate in Social Sciences from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Italy. He also holds several certificates in Higher Education Quality Assurance, in Higher Education Leadership and in Strategic Human Rights Litigation. He has been engaged in university education since 1997 and continues to serve higher education in the East African Region and in Europe where he is a visiting professor at Ludwigshafen University of Business and Society in Germany.

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## Mauro Pelucchi

Is a senior data scientist and big data engineer responsible for the design of the "Real-Time Labour Market Information System on Skill Requirements" for CEDEFOP.

He currently works as Head of Global Data Science @ EMSI Burning-Glass with the goal to develop innovative models, methods and deployments of labour market data and other data to meet customer requirements and prototype new potential solutions.

His main tasks are related to advanced machine learning modelling, labour market analyses, and the design of big data pipelines to process large datasets of online job vacancies.

In collaboration with the University of Milano-Bicocca, he took part in many research projects related to the labour market intelligence systems.

He collaborates with the University of Milano-Bicocca as a lecturer at the Master Business Intelligence and Big Data Analytics and with the University of Bergamo as a lecturer in Computer Engineering.

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## Abdoulaye Salifou

Chief Education at UNESCO Liaison Office, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.  
Specialist Higher Education and ICT

Former graduate of Higher Administration School and holder of a PhD. in Communication with a specialization in ICT Law and in online learning. In addition, he is a holder of Master in Social Development Strategies. He has more than 22 years of professional experiences. Prior to his transfer to UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis-Ababa, he served as Regional Advisor for Higher Education and ICT, UNESCO, Abuja Regional Office, Nigeria, Coordinator of this thematic at Africa level.

He held several management positions before joining UNESCO: Regional Director for Southern Africa of UCLG-Africa, Regional Administrator Caribbean Office of AUF and Director of Studies. Besides, he also held positions of Deputy Director for Scientific policy of AUF for Central Africa and Great Lakes Region. In addition, he held positions of Director of Digital Campuses of AUF in Republic of Benin and Mali as Head of Office and Director of Digital Campus of AUF in Haiti.

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