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Project ACQF-II: Supporting implementation of African Continental Qualifications Framework



3rd ACQF Forum

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Practitioners

On 1-4 October 2024

Hotel Fairview

Nairobi, Kenya

1. Introduction

The Project "African Continental Qualifications Framework" (ACQF-II) organises the 3rd continental "Forum of the institutions of National Qualifications Frameworks", in partnership with the African Union, African countries, Regional Economic Communities. This workshop is co-organised with Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), and will take place in Nairobi, from **1 to 4 October 2024**, at the Hotel Fairview.

This Forum is focused on **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.

The workshop languages will be English, French, and Portuguese. Streaming will be available to ensure wider participation.

Main sources for learning and information:

- New! [Handbook - RPL for Practitioners](#) (2024)
- [ACQF Policy document](#) (2023)
- [ACQF Guideline 4: Validation of learning](#) (2022)
- [ACQF Training module 4: Validation and recognition of learning](#) (2022)
- [RPL Resource on ACQF Website](#)
- [RPL survey 2024: analytical report](#)
- [RPL survey 2024: infographic](#)

Background

The ACQF-II project was launched in April 2023 to support the implementation of ACQF as a continental policy instrument, contributing to transparency, comparability and recognition of qualifications, collaboration between NQFs, promotion of lifelong learning, and support to Member States in the development of NQFs and related policies. The ACQF-II project supports referencing of National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF) to ACQF; and develops and operationalises innovative tools such as the [Qualifications and Credentials Platform](#) (national and continental levels), the RPL campaign, and [Skills Data Focus](#) (labour market intelligence tools). The [ACQF Website](#) is home to all outputs and updated information on the activities.

This 3rd ACQF Forum, focused on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is part of the programme of training, dialogue and peer-to-peer sharing workshops organised by the ACQF-II project in 2024. This workshop will be followed by a final Forum in 2024 addressing policies and practices on the following themes: micro-credentials; referencing between NQFs and ACQF; the ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP); the Network of NQFs Africa.

4 th Forum of NQF Authorities		
Date	Theme	Hosting city
12-14/11/2024	Micro-credentials for employability and lifelong learning. Training workshop. QCP. Referencing.	Victoria – Seychelles

Recommendations of the 1st NQF Forum

The [1st NQF Forum](#) took place in Kinshasa (18-20 June 2024) and recommended:

1. Support and boost the development and implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) – inclusive and comprehensive, future-proof, adaptable to the demands of digital and green transformation, supporting employability, social inclusion and lifelong learning, and supported by evidence.

2. Support the connection and mutual trust between qualifications frameworks at the 3 levels (national-regional and continental): through referencing, the ACQF platform of qualifications, innovations, the RPL campaign, and sharing of good practices. Support the establishment of the African Network of Qualifications Frameworks, to ensure the sustainability of the achievements of the ACQF-II project.
3. Create synergies and complementarities between the ACQF and the Addis and Global Recognition Conventions – with common objectives and practical actions.
4. Harness the innovative power of the green and digital transformation of jobs and skills. Joint policies and practices to develop green and digital skills: national, sectoral and specific (education and training, qualifications, innovation, academic research and links with industry). Ensure an active role of NQFs, Regional Qualifications Frameworks and ACQFs as catalysts.
5. An urgent call to action: explore, develop and implement micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability linked to National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs).
6. Implement data systems and tools: interoperable databases on qualifications at all levels and sub-sectors; implementation of RPL; Real-time data and analysis on skills demand. Learners' achievements.
7. Share experiences and best practices through sharing platforms: technical guidelines and documentation, qualifications standards and other achievements of interest for the success and impact of the NQF, RQF and ACQF.
8. Strengthen the capacities of institutions, human resources and stakeholders.

Recommendations of the 2nd ACQF Forum (5-6/September 2024, Luanda):

1. To develop recommendations towards Green NQFs, Green Curriculum.
2. To prepare and start the pilot phase of referencing between RQFs and ACQF.
3. To seek synergy and linkages between RPL-CATS-Microcredentials policies.
4. To reflect on sustainable NQF governance models.
5. To reinforce the use of AI in management of NQFs, registration of qualifications and data analysis.
6. Continue to promote and support mutual learning, peer sharing and knowledge-creation among NQF institutions and related stakeholders in all countries.

2. Objectives of the 3rd ACQF Forum

Main themes explored at the 3rd ACQF Forum focuses on RPL are:

- RPL in the ACQF context
- RPL in lifelong learning policies
- Theories underpinning RPL
- How to do RPL
- Quality assurance of RPL
- RPL process, step-by-step.
- RPL Kenya: policy and practice.
- ACQF implementation activities: referencing, QCP, green skills, micro-credentials

Participants: this Forum will be attended onsite and online.

- **Onsite:** 35 representatives from 20 African countries and 4 economic regions. 20 participants from Kenyan institutions. Certificates of participation will be delivered to all assiduous participants.
- **Online:** the Zoom link will be shared to all involved countries and relevant institutions. Over 250 participants are expected to join.

Agenda

East Africa Time (GMT+2)

Day 1: Understanding RPL through concepts, practices and benefits

- **Chairpersons:** *Dr Alice Kande (KNQA), Eduarda Castel-Branco*
- **Facilitators team:** *Eduarda Castel-Branco (ACQF-II coordinator); Patrick Werquin (ACQF-II, RPL specialist), Stanley Maindi (KNQA)*

09.00-10.15

Session 1: Opening.

Speakers: Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Education; Principal Secretary in charge of TVET, Ministry of Education Kenya. Chief Executive Officer of KNQA. ACQF-II project coordinator.

- Official opening. Welcome.
- Objectives of the workshop
- Brief introduction of the participants
- Introduction of the facilitators

10.15-10.30: coffee break

10.30-11.00

Session 2: RPL in the context of ACQF-II.

Facilitator: Eduarda Castel-Branco

- In the ACQF Policy document and Guidelines
- In ACQF-II Research
- In Support to countries
- RPL – consistently address in all capacity development and knowledge-sharing activities
- Linkages with developments related to CATS and Micro-credentials

11.00-12.15

Session 3: RPL in lifelong learning policies

Facilitators: Eduarda Castel-Branco, Stanley Maindi (KNQA)

- What is RPL, and why it matters in Africa (R. Muteti)
- Short overview of RPL in African countries (SM)
- RPL for Lifelong learning, across sub-systems of education and training (ECB)
- Linkages RPL-NQF-CATS-Microcredentials (ECB)

12.15-13.15

Session 4A: Education and Training Theories underpinning RPL

Facilitator: Patrick Werquin

- Lifelong learning
- Constructivist Theory

- Experiential learning theory
- Situated learning theory
- Adult learning theory
- Transformative learning theory
- Equity and social justice
- Human capital theory

13.15-14.15: Lunch break. At the restaurant of Fairview Hotel

14.15-15.15

Session 4B: Implications for RPL of the theoretical underpinnings

Facilitator: Patrick Werquin

15.15-16.30

Session 5: Interaction, clarifications and resolutions

Facilitator: Stanley Maindi

- Short information-sharing on RPL policies and new developments from participating countries
- Questions and answers
- Exercises in groups : questions for reflection and solutions

16.30-16.45: Wrap-up of day 1. Agenda for day 2

Speakers: Mrs Olfa Laaribi (Tunisia). E. Castel-Branco.

Coffee break

Day 2: Understanding RPL in practice

Chairpersons: Eduarda Castel-Branco and Sampson Damptey (Ghana)

09.00-09.30: Welcome. Recap of day 1 - by two participants

Speakers: Mr Earnest Simelane (Eswatini); Ms Dazielle Laporte (Seychelles)

09.30-11.00

Session 6: How to do RPL – Rules for RPL practitioners

Facilitator: Patrick Werquin

1. Guidance
2. Centred on applicant / individual
3. Fairness of assessment
4. Equality, inclusiveness, diversity
5. Accessibility
6. Flexibility
7. Assessment centred on outcomes (not on duration of training)
8. Equal value and non-discrimination of certificates
9. Transparent decisions of assessors
10. Alternatives to failed applicants
11. Post-RPL support (gap training and others)

11.00-11.15: Coffee break

11.15-13.00

Session 7: Implementation of RPL - Zooming in Quality Assurance and Monitoring and Evaluation of RPL

Facilitators: *Patrick Werquin, Stanley Maindi, Eduarda Castel-Branco,*

- Quality assurance in RPL: transparency, trust and impact (PW)
- Institutional requirements for quality of RPL (SM)
- Quality assurance systems and instruments supporting RPL. Overview. Good practice (PW)
- Importance of data in implementation of RPL (ECB)
- Monitoring and evaluation in RPL (ECB)
- Digital tools, database(s) supporting implementation of RPL (SM)

13.00-14.00: Lunch break

14.00-16.00

Session 8: RPL process - Step-by-step

Facilitators: *Eduarda Castel-Branco, Patrick Werquin, Stanley Maindi*

- RPL process: identification-documentation-assessment-certification (and similar typologies) (ECB)
- Initial information and guidance (SM)
- Administrative registration (SM)
- Application, screening and eligibility (PW)
- Preparation of the final assessment (PW)
- Final assessment of learning outcomes (PW)
- Certification of learning outcomes (PW)
- Examples (ECB)

16.00-16.45

Session 8: Interaction and clarifications

Facilitators: *Eduarda Castel-Branco, Stanley Maindi*

- **Questions, discussion, exercises in groups**

16.45-16.55: Wrap-up. Agenda of day 3

Speakers: *Laurent Ndaywel (DR Congo)*

Day 3: RPL process in-depth. The RPL experience of Kenya

Chairpersons: *Eduarda Castel-Branco and João Dias (Cabo Verde)*

09.00-09.30: Welcome. Recap of day 2 - by 2 participants

Speakers: *Molise Nhlapo (Lesotho), Antonieta Fernandes (Angola)*

09.30-10.30

Session 9: RPL process. Step: Information, guidance, registration, screening.

Facilitators: *Patrick Werquin, Stanley Maindi (KNQA)*

- Zooming in the steps - Information, guidance, registration, screening (PW)
- Good practice (SM)
- Challenges (PW – SM)

10.30-11.30

Session 10: RPL process. Step: Assessment

Facilitator: *Patrick Werquin, Stanley Maindi (KNQA)*

- Zooming in the steps – Assessment (PW)

- Good practices (SM)
- Challenges (PW – SM)

11.30-11.45: coffee break

11.45-12.30

Session 11: RPL process. Zooming in the step – Certification. Good practice. Challenges

Facilitator: Patrick Werquin

- Zooming in the step – Certification (PW)
- Good practice (SM)
- Challenges (PW – SM)

12.30-12.45

Session 12: Interaction and clarifications

Facilitators: Eduarda Castel-Branco, Stanley Maindi

- Questions, discussion, proposals for further RPL activities

12.45-13.40: Lunch break

Departure to Kabete National Polytechnic: 13.45h

14.00-17.15

Session 13: RPL in Kenya

Facilitators: KNQA. Polytechnics. Local institutions

- RPL Policy and practice
- New demands and perspectives
- Linkages with CATS, micro-credentials
- Good practice from different Polytechnics
- Success factors for RPL in Kenya
- Digitalisation of RPL services, data and analytics.
- Emerging impacts

17.15-17.30

Session 14: Conclusions. Recommendations on RPL activities.

Facilitators: KNQA; AASU; ACQF-II (Eduarda Castel-Branco)

Coffee break

Day 4: Implementing the ACQF: focus on Referencing, Qualifications and Credentials Platform, country developments. Green skills

Chairpersons: Eduarda Castel-Branco and Albert Sheku (Sierra Leone)

09.00-09.40

Session 15: Overview of ACQF implementation. Progress, plans. Green skills initiative. Micro-credentials initiative.

Facilitator: Eduarda Castel-Branco

09.40-10.45

Session 16: Use of Big Data and AI in Green Skills anticipation and qualifications management.

Topic 1: Measuring Green Skills and Jobs. A data-driven approach – data from African countries, based on employers' demand.

Topic 2: Using AI in strategic management and comparison of qualifications.

Facilitator: Eduarda Castel-Branco.

Speaker: Mauro Pelucchi, Data science specialist, Global Data analyst at Lightcast.

10.45-11.00: coffee break

11.00-12.15

Session 17: Referencing to ACQF. Reports from 5 pilot countries – draft 2. Comparison. Discussion. Pending issues. Conclusions

Facilitator: Eduarda Castel-Branco.

Speakers: ARES (Cabo Verde), KNQA (Kenya) SQA (Seychelles), SAQA (South Africa), ZAQA (Zambia)

12.15-13.30

Session 18: Referencing to ACQF. Reports from new pilot countries – draft 1. Discussion

Facilitator: Eduarda Castel-Branco

Speakers: EQA (Eswatini); HEC (Lesotho); Zimbabwe. Others: to be confirmed

13.30-14.30: Lunch break

14.30-16.30

Session 19: ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform – training 3

Facilitators: Team Cognizone Consortium

16.30-17.15

Session 20: Closing session

Facilitators: KNQA, ACQF-II

- Final conclusions and recommendations
- Distribution of participation certificates.
- Closure

Coffee break



My Notes