

ACQF Connects Final webinar 2022

19/12/2022

ACQF connects and creates mutual trust

The largest RQF – 55 countries, 8 regions.
Underpinned by the key African Union policies and strategies.

Speaker: Eduarda Castel-Branco



Time	Topic	Responsible
11.00-11.10	Welcome and opening	African Union Commission. Department ESTI – Education division EU Delegation to AU ETF
11.10-11.30 Session 1	ACQF: a journey of 3 years of learning and co-construction. Main milestones and achievements.	AUC ACQF project
11.30-12.10 Session 2	Panel discussion: ACQF stakeholders explore the main learnings and views on the process and outputs and propose suggestions for the way forward	Panel: six representatives – countries and representatives of regional qualifications frameworks
12.10-12.40 Session 3	The two last outputs of ACQF project – brief overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study on the complementarities between ACQF and the African Continental Free Trade Area - Handbook on Competence-Based Training (TVET): a renewed view 	ACQF experts
12.40-12.50 Session 4	Your final views and sharing	Poll
12.50-13.00	Acknowledgements, celebration. Closure	AUC

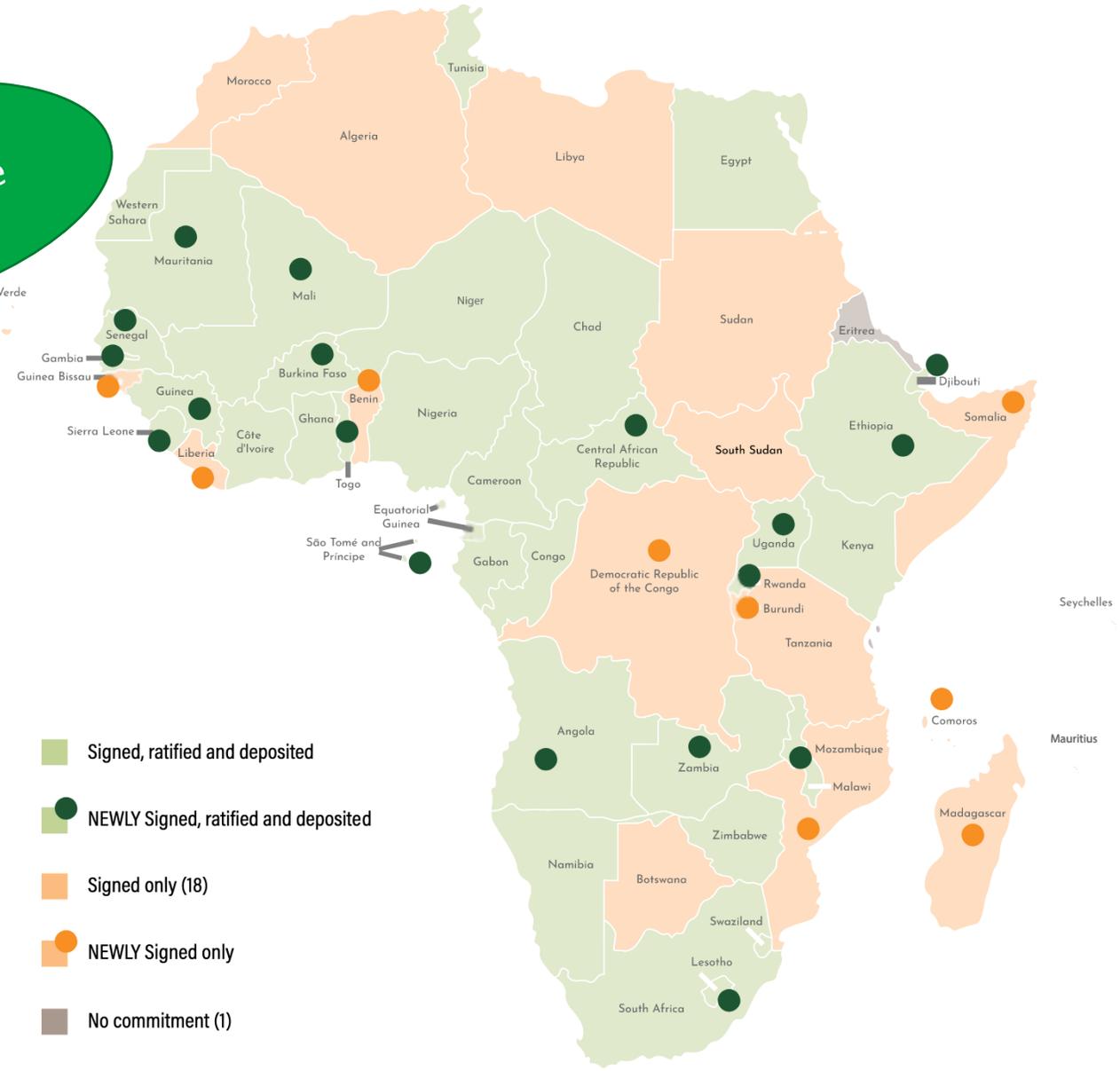
01

**Africa needs skills and
qualifications: a call for ACQF**

African Continental Free Trade Area

- 55 countries: diversity!
- 1,4 billion population

- The youngest continent
- 65% younger than 25 years
 - Almost a billion < 35 years
 - 541 million < than 14 and 455 million 15-34 years old



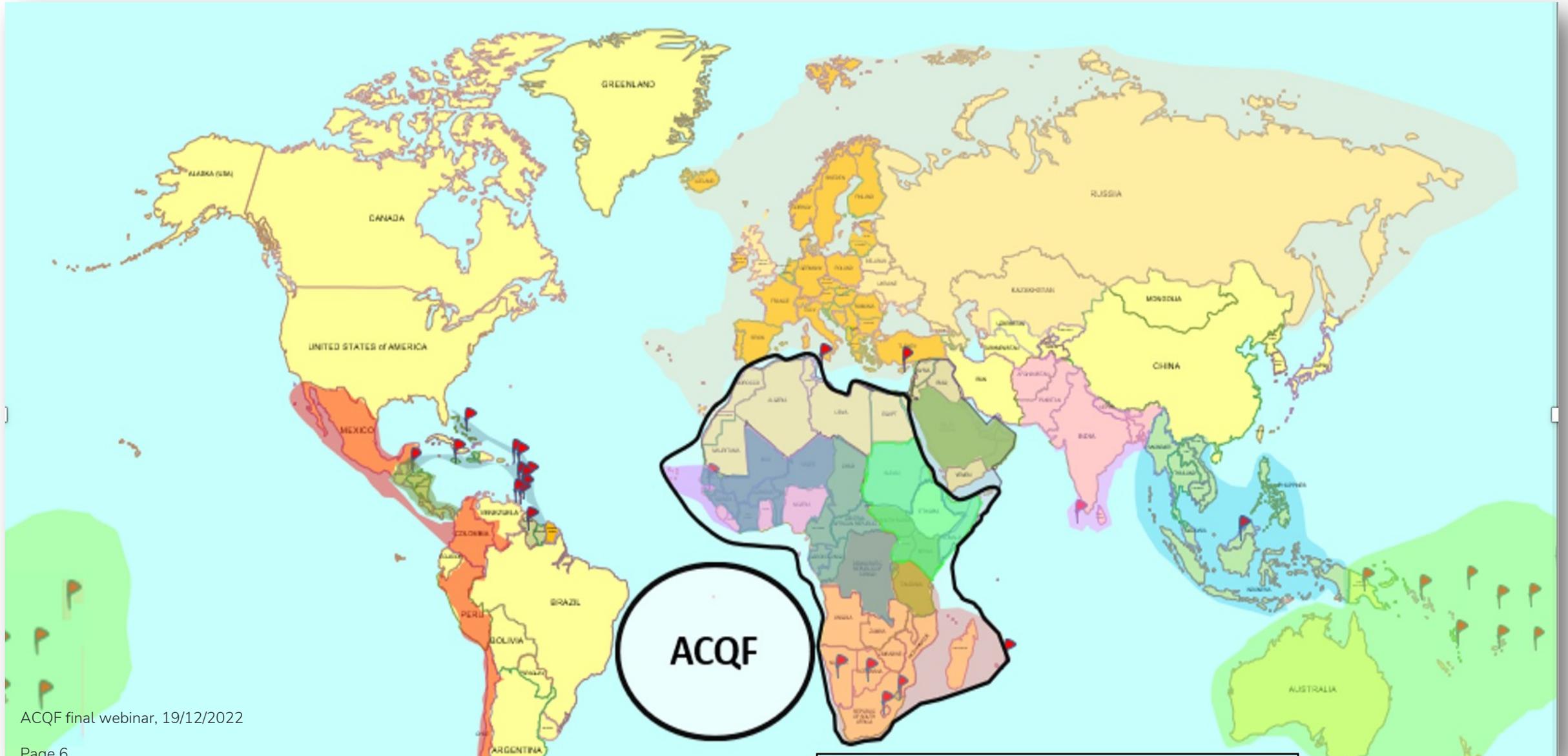
Demographic dividend and AfCFTA sets new demands on skills and qualifications - a call for ACQF

- National industrial policies need to adapt to the **new environment provided by the AfCFTA**.
- Tailoring skills policies to technical needs and emerging trends is crucial for attracting investment and increasing linkages with lead firms. **Talent and skills rank among the top four determinants driving foreign direct investment to developing economies (World Bank)**.
- Upskilling and re-skilling will be crucial to meet sector-specific needs and new requirements for **Africa's digital and green transformation**.
 - Enhancing policy dialogue between policy makers, the private sector and training institutions will help to **identify skills needs and design appropriate training programmes** at the sectoral level.
 - National governments and the private sector can also pool resources into regional centres of excellence to train **African workers, technicians, engineers, researchers**.
 - Supporting **intra-regional skills mobility** can help alleviate skill shortages in some sectors.

[Africa's Development Dynamics 2022. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=1127_1127899-pk0g8ydolw&title=Africa-s-Development-Dynamics-Overview](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=1127_1127899-pk0g8ydolw&title=Africa-s-Development-Dynamics-Overview)

A very large Regional Qualifications Framework

- African Union Policy Initiative
- Based on AU policies (CESA, AU Free Movement Protocol, AfCFTA)



ACQF is underpinned by AU policies and strategies

- Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan
- CESA 16-25
- AfCFTA
- AU Free Movement Protocol
- PAQAF



CESA-2025

12 strategic objectives: wide range of dimensions and drivers of change.

Strategic objective 4 has 2 goals directly related to NQF-ACQF

- c) Set up **national qualification frameworks (NQFs) and regional qualification frameworks (RQFs)** to facilitate the creation of multiple pathways to acquisition of skills and competencies as well as mobility across the sub-sectors.
- d) Develop **continental qualifications framework** linked to **regional qualifications and national qualification frameworks** to facilitate regional integration and mobility of graduates.



02

**Building the ACQF:
09/2019 – 10/2022**

Thank you! Countries, Regions, Institutions

Africa:

- Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Union of Comoros, D.R. Congo, R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guiné, Guiné-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
- SADC, EAC, ECOWAS, IUCEA, IGAD.
- African regional / thematic organisations: AQVN, African Curriculum Association, CAMES, AfECN

Other regions and countries:

- Bahrein, France, Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden
- EQF, ASEAN QRF, Arab Qualifications Framework, Credential Engine
- Specialised organisations and networks: CEDEFOP, ENIC-NARIC Network, ESCO European Commission, UNESCO

Thank you: ACQF experts



Coleen Jaftha

Mirriam Chiyaba, James Mwewa, Fidelis Cheelo, Modest Hamalabbi

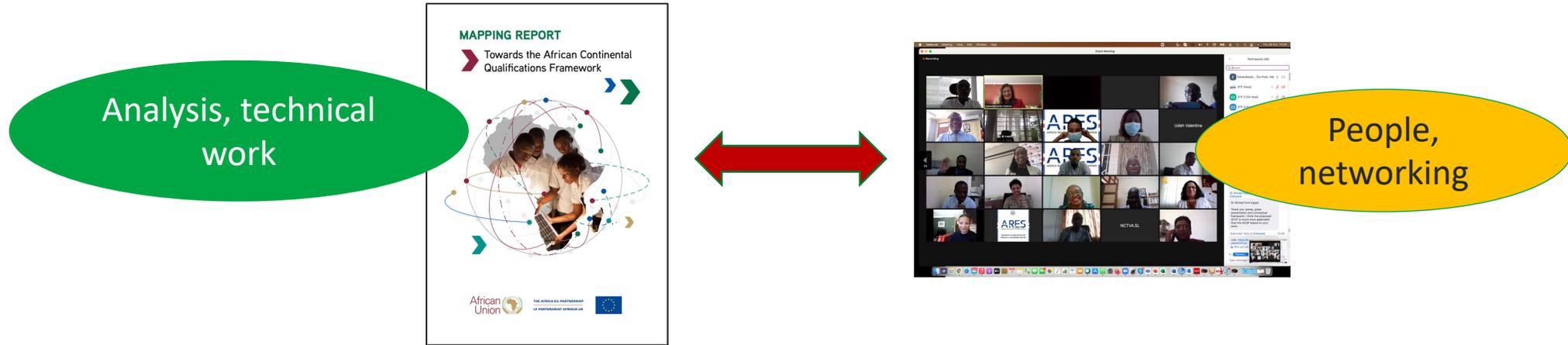
James Keevy, Eleanor Hazell, Kelly Shiohira, Zaaheeda Vally, and other experts of JET Education Services

Andrea Bateman

Deodonne Kunwufine, Eusebius J. Mukhwana, Jeffy Mukora, Kaylash Allgoo, Jean Adotevi

Karel Calitz, Mike Metcalf

Zoom and Hybrid events: Erika Davoglio, Giulia Rullo



- AUC support, political leadership
- ACQF Advisory Group: created and involved from 1st launch workshop in September 2019 in Addis – AU Headquarters
- Process combined technical-analytical component (studies) with working and networking with people
- ACQF Team : practical NQF expertise; multi-lingual; all regions
- Learning and capacity development
- Support to countries and cooperation with RECs
- Networking: NQF authorities and departments; AQVN; relevant regional associations; Addis convention committee;
- International / EU linkages and networking
- “Quick wins” (such as the 15 Peer Learning Webinars – now transformed in a platform of learning videos)

Outputs of ACQF development project (2020-2022)

- ACQF Policy Document
- ACQF Level descriptors
- 10 technical and synthesis Guidelines
- 10 Training Modules
- ACQF Website
- Mapping study collection
- Feasibility study
- SADCQF Review: report and inventory



- 5 Advisory Group meetings
- Analysis, research: study on links ACQF-AfCFTA, school curriculum mapping study (initiative ACA)
- Capacity development programme and Learning Management System (LMS)
- 2 Training Weeks
- 15 Peer Learning Webinars NQF
- 5 experience-sharing webinars (initiative AQVN)
- Work together with RECs: SADC, EAC, IGAD
- Work with countries on NQF development
- Many participations in international conferences (UNESCO, EAC, IGAD, SADC)

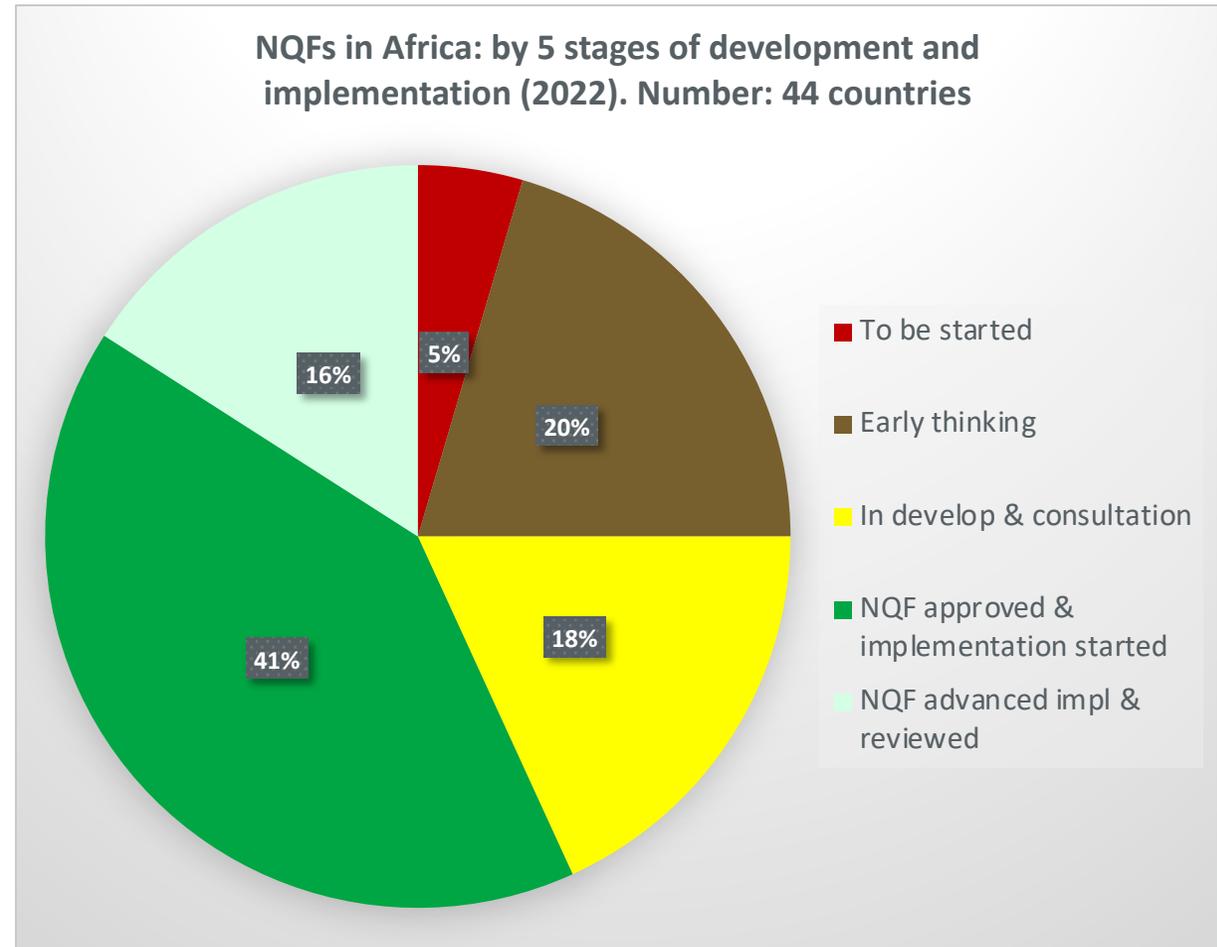
Total: 14 country + 3 regional reports

- 2020-2022: started with 10 country reports and 3 regional; in 2021-2022: added 3 new country reports, 4 updates
- For the 1st time: published analysis of NQF developments of a number of countries (9) never before included in the “Global Inventory of NQF-RQF” (updated every 2 years – joint initiative UNESCO-ETF-CEDEFOP)
 - Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Togo, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinée-Bissau, Mozambique, Nigeria; and a region: EAC

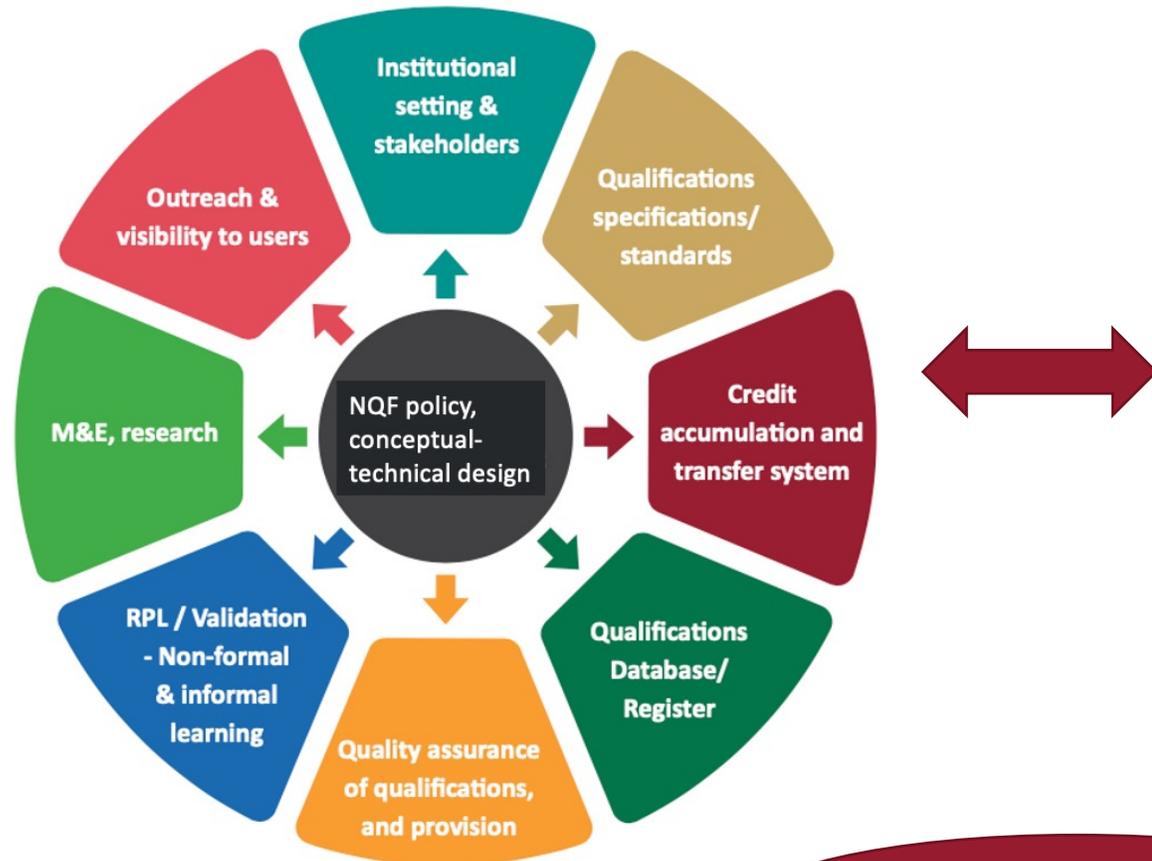
New updates and new mapping reports will be necessary in 2023-2024 – for transparency, comparability and information-sharing

Dynamics of NQF development in Africa

Stage of NQF development and implementation	Number of NQFs Africa	Countries
NQF development to be started (2)	2	Chad, Republic of Congo
NQF in early thinking (9)	9	Burkina Faso, Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, São Tomé e Príncipe, South Sudan, Togo
NQF in development and consultation (8)	8	Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan
NQF legal act approved, implementation started (18)	18	Angola, Burundi, Djibouti, Eswatini, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe
NQF in advanced implementation and reviewed (7)	7	Cape Verde, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia
Total	44	



ACQF Guidelines and training modules



- Guideline 1: Learning outcomes
- Guideline 2: Level descriptors
- Guideline 3: Referencing of NQF or system to ACQF
- Guideline 4: Validation and recognition of learning
- Guideline 5: Quality assurance in the context of ACQF
- Guideline 6: Registration and databases of qualifications
- Guideline 7: Monitoring and evaluation in the context of NQFs and ACQF
- Guideline 8: Communication and outreach
- Guideline 9: Innovation and technology in the context of qualifications, qualifications frameworks and ACQF
- Guideline 10: qualifications and qualifications frameworks – a systemic view.

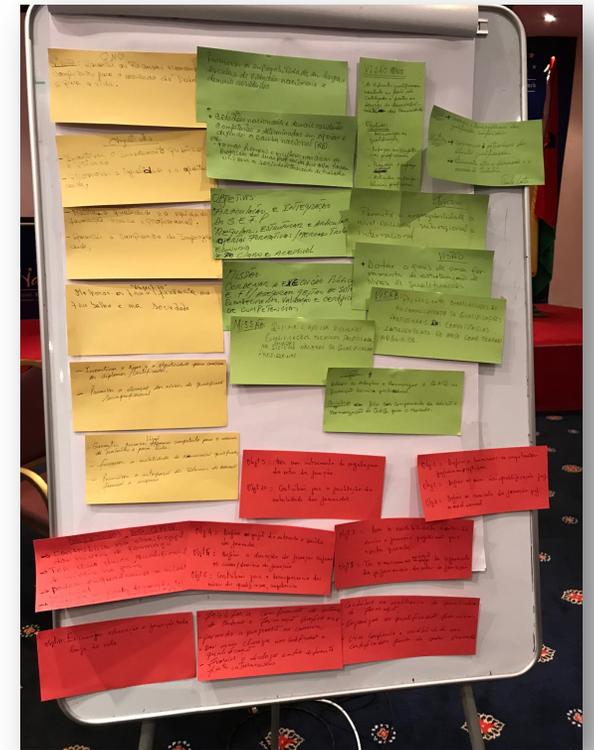
To do: finalise
publication in FR + PT

Support to countries

Guiné-Bissau – 1st NQF workshop, July 2022



- Mapping study
- NQF working group
- Workshop in Bissau
- ACQF training
- Brief Handbook - Development of professional qualifications
- Concept Paper NQF Guiné-Bissau
- Webpage on ACQF site



ACQF Training Weeks

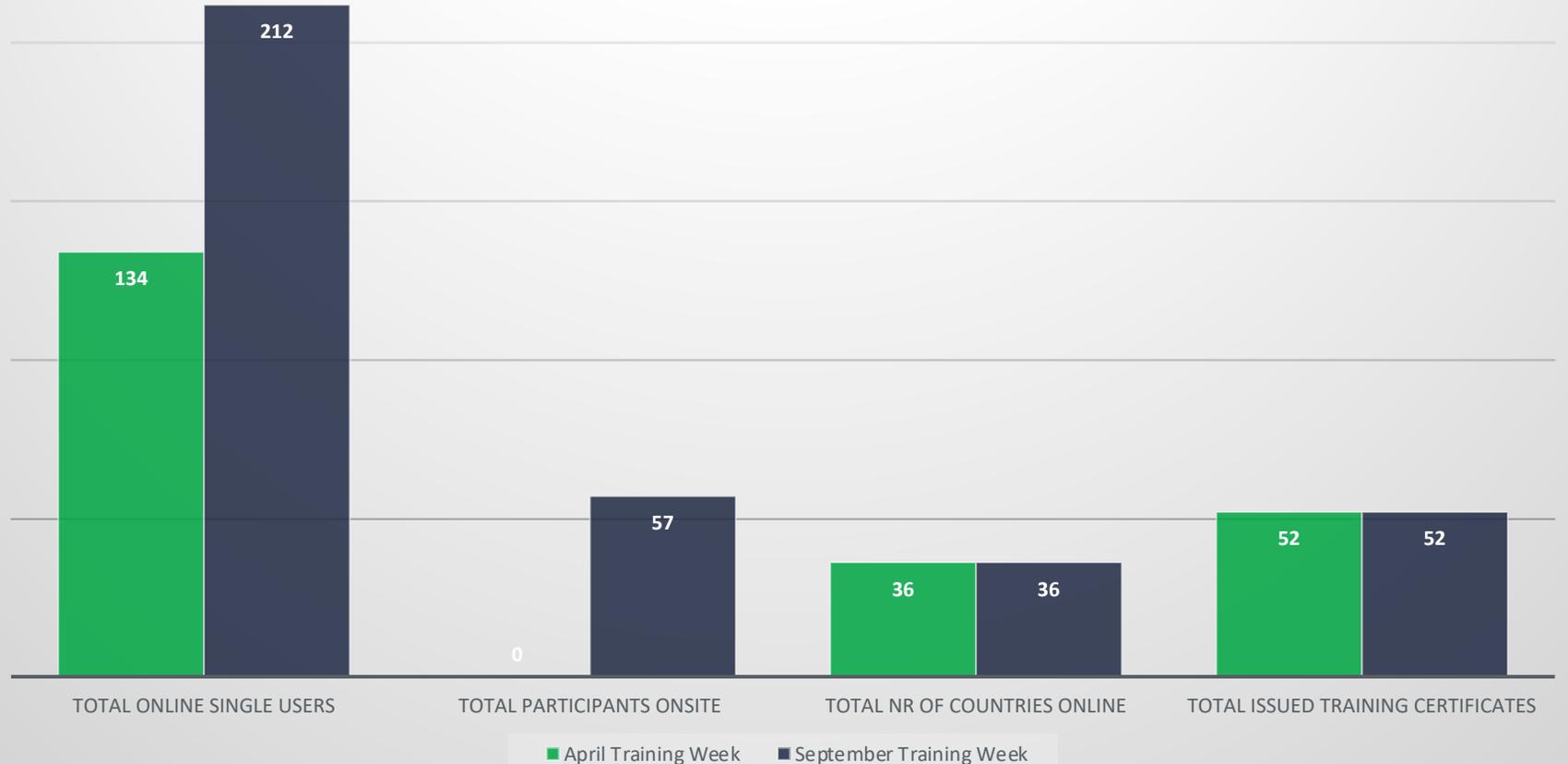
1. Online: 18-22/April 2022
2. Hybrid: 5-9/September 2022, Johannesburg



ACQF Training weeks



2 ACQF Training Weeks: Participants, countries online and issued certificates



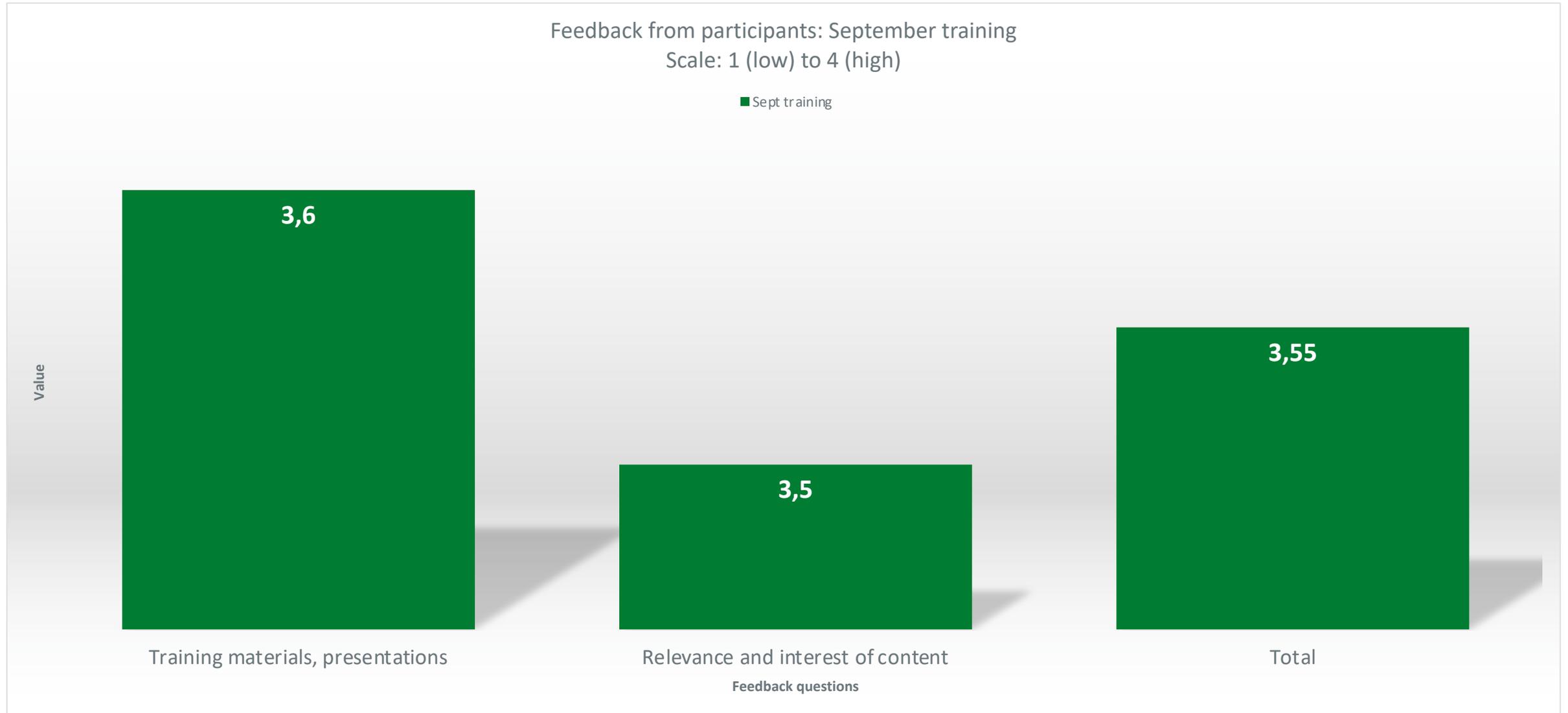
1st ACQF Training Week: feedback

Feedback from participants: April training
Scale: 1 (low) to 4 (high)

■ April training



2nd ACQF Training Week: feedback



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**ACQF: the policy and instrument
for transparency, comparability of
qualifications and frameworks**

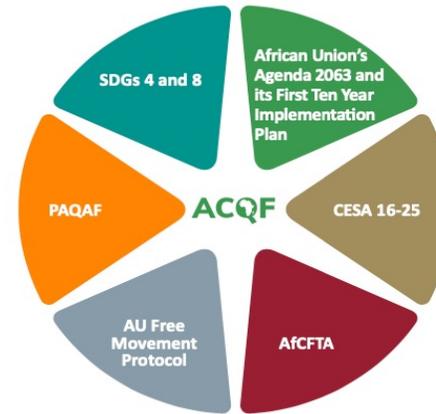


ACQF: underpinnings, purposes, principles

PURPOSES OF ACQF

- 1 Enhance** → Enhance comparability, quality and transparency of qualifications of all types and levels, support people's lifelong learning outcomes.
- 2 Facilitate** → Facilitate validation of learning, recognition of skills, diplomas and certificates and mobility of learners and workers
- 3 Cooperate** → Work in cooperation and complementarity with national and regional qualifications frameworks and support African continental integration and creation of African common space of trusted qualifications.
- 4 Promote** → Promote cooperation and referencing between qualifications frameworks (national, regional) in Africa and worldwide.

UNDERPINNINGS



PRINCIPLES





**ACQF is underpinned by
Quality Assurance**

Transparency and Trust in
Qualifications
Includes processes and
procedures to ensure
qualifications, assessment
and programme delivery
meet high standards

- **Metaframework:** translation device for referencing, comparison, cooperation between different NQFs
- **Comprehensive scope:** all levels, modes of learning
- **10 levels:** whole continuum of education and training
- **Level descriptors** expressed as learning outcomes
- **Domains of learning:** Knowledge, Skills, Autonomy and Responsibility
- **Learning outcomes orientation** supports:
 - Improve **transparency and comparability** of qualifications of different national systems
 - **Transparency and credibility of RPL** and validation of outcomes from experience, access to quality RPL
 - **Application of credit accumulation and transfer systems** in different academic and vocational pathways.
 - *Access, learning progression, lifelong learning, flexibility,*
 - *In design of qualifications: facilitate transfer of components of qualifications*

REFERENCING NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS OR SYSTEMS TO ACQF



ACQF aims at **connecting** the national (and regional) qualifications frameworks of the community of African Union (AU) member states. This core function is based on the process of **referencing to ACQF**.



Referencing: process aimed at comparing national qualifications frameworks or systems to the ACQF following criteria and procedures.



At **national level**, referencing contributes to self-assessment of the status of the national qualifications framework or system to identify areas for reform and improvement



At **continental level and between countries**, referencing to the ACQF of a significant and increasing number of national qualifications or systems leads to the creation of a common area of trusted qualifications and enables the transformative potential of the ACQF for the continent.

7 main areas of activity

“ACQF creates mutual trust”

Areas - as per ACQF Policy Document



Referencing NQF / NQS to ACQF



Support Recognition of Prior Learning



ACQF Qualifications Platform and MIS



Qualifications: common profiles for priority sectors AfCFTA / continental integration



Capacity development



Networking and cooperation



Analysis, research, monitoring and evaluation

ACQF ACQF Infographics

This project is co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

ACQF African Continental Qualifications Framework

African Union

THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

german cooperation

giz

ETF European Training Foundation

**AFRICAN CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (ACQF):
CREATING MUTUAL TRUST. A SNAPSHOT**

WHAT IS THE ACQF

an overarching referencing qualifications framework of continental scope to deliver on the objectives of ...

- enhanced transparency and comparability of qualifications
- mutual trust between qualifications frameworks and systems for lifelong learning in Africa
- common reference framework – translation device between qualifications and their levels

ACQF
African Continental Qualifications Framework

The African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) is...

- Connecting national qualifications frameworks and systems and creating mutual trust between countries
- A website rich of information for qualifications institutions and stakeholders
- A continental mapping study collection

10 ACQF Guidelines and 10 Training Modules
10 ACQF Guidelines: learning outcomes, level descriptors, referencing to ACQF, validation of learning, registers of qualifications, monitoring and evaluation of NQF, innovation and technology, communication and outreach and a systemic view on NQF.

- Snapshots on national and regional qualifications frameworks in Africa
- 12 thematic briefs for different users
- 15 peer learning webinars: experience-sharing among stakeholders of African qualifications frameworks and systems
- Two training weeks and a pool of trained African experts

- 5 peer learning webinars with stakeholders and experts of AQVN
- Support to countries and regions developing their qualifications frameworks and systems
- First continental school curriculum mapping study – in partnership with African Curriculum Association (ACA)

Discovering and supporting RPL
And a range of activities going forward supporting countries, regions and the continent.
Know more and use the ACQF website
<https://acqf.africa/>

African Union

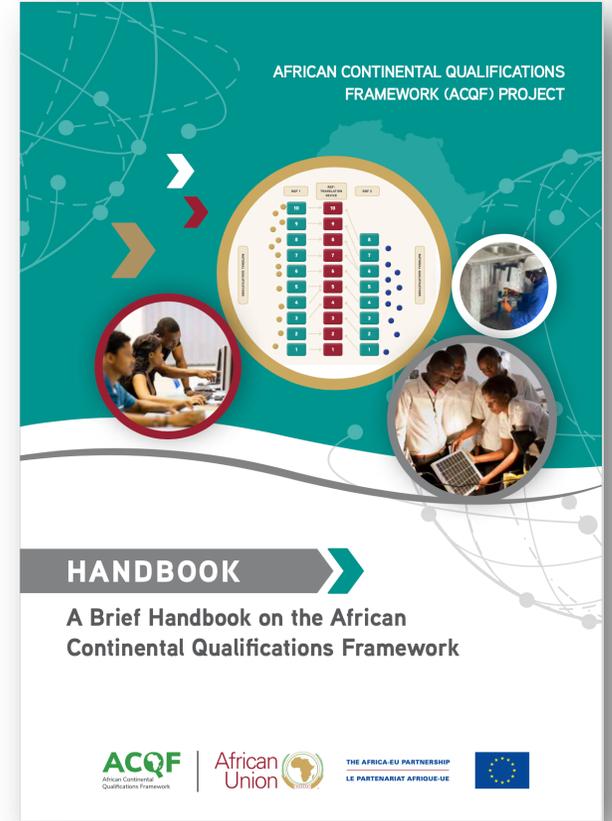
THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

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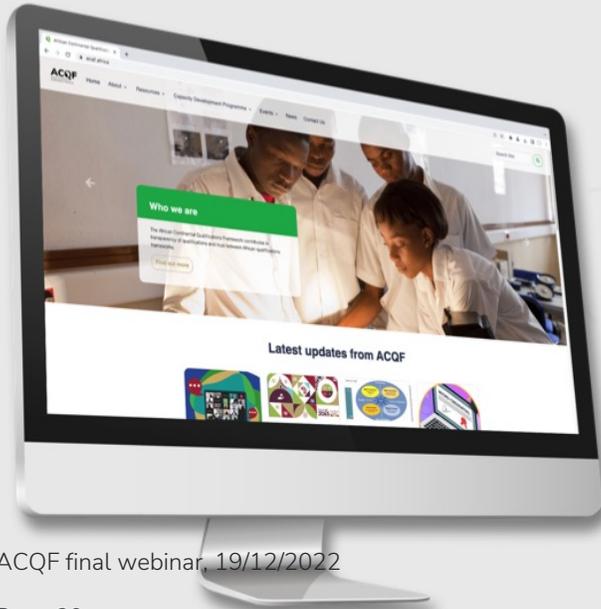
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ACQF Guidelines and Handbook



And much more on ACQF website for stakeholders, policy makers, education and training providers, learners and experts interested in themes and issues related to national and regional qualifications frameworks and their related systems, tools and governance.



Want to know more about ACQF?

Visit our website:
<https://acqf.africa/>

Going forward: 2023-2026

Validation of ACQF Policy Document - AUC and Member States

Building on the outputs / outcomes of the current ACQF project

Follow-up: new project supporting implementation

Diverse levels of cooperation – national, regional and continental

ACQF ACQF Connects and Creates Mutual Trust: www.acqf.africa

ACQF African Continental Qualifications Framework

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ACQF
African Continental
Qualifications Framework

TRANSPARENCY OF QUALIFICATIONS AND MUTUAL
TRUST BETWEEN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING IN AFRICA.

ACQF INVENTORY

ACQF MAPPING
STUDIES

ACQF TRAINING
MODULES 02
LEVELS AND LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

ACQF GUIDELINES

SUPPORT TO
COUNTRIES AND
REGIONS

In development and preparation:

- Newsletter
- New tool – ACQF Inventory
- Uploading 3 new Thematic Briefs
- ACQF publications in FR, PT

Thank you!

Chigozie Emmanuel Okonkwo
Eduarda Castel-Branco