



ACQF

African Continental
Qualifications Framework

ACQF-II inaugural workshop

Day 2
12 July 2023

Presentations of Day 2

Sessions 6 to 11

Speakers: Eduarda Castel-Branco, Michael Graham,
James Mwewa, Olavo Correia

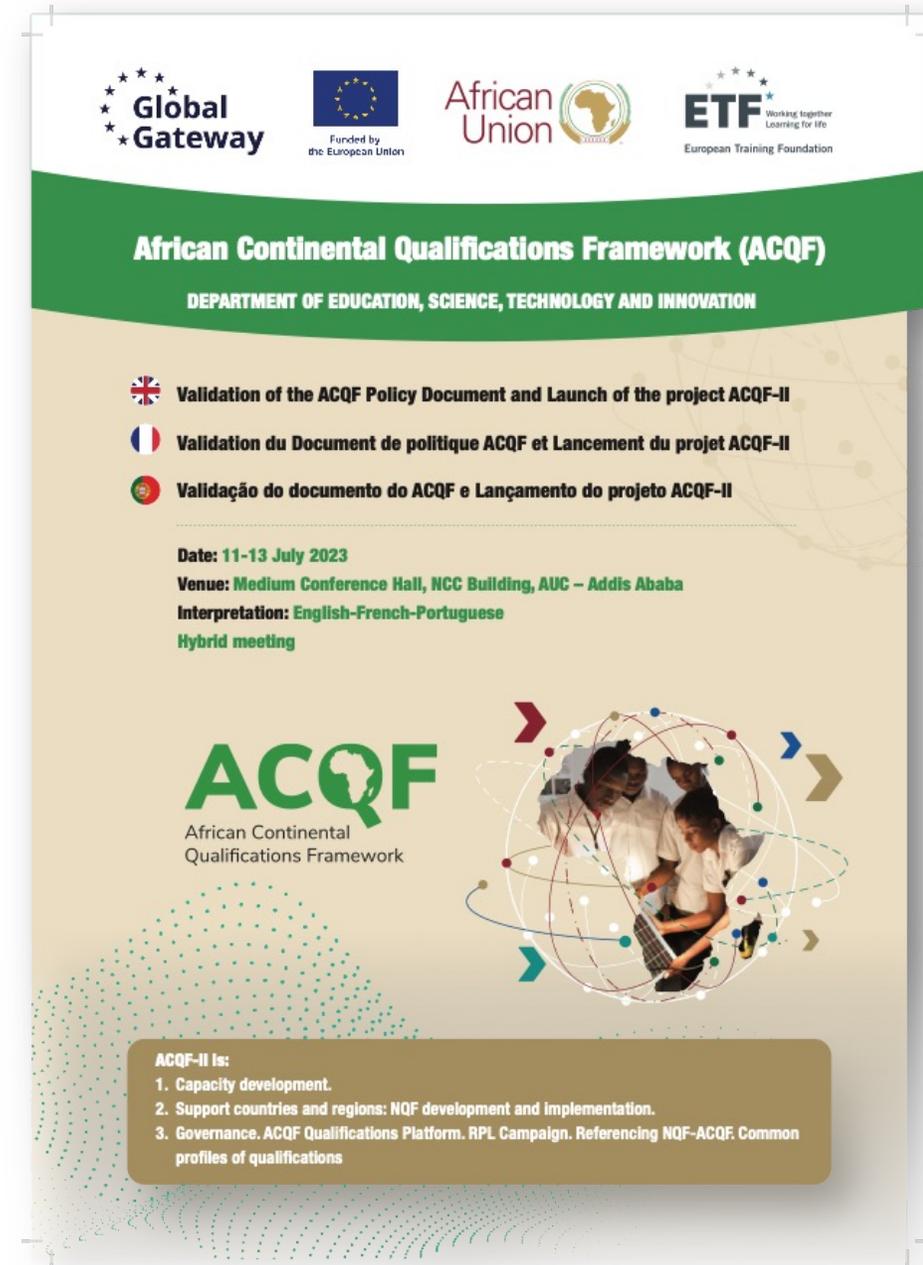


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Policy context of the ACQF. Agenda of inaugural workshop. Welcome to all participants
Speaker: AUC

Agenda

- **Session 6:** Opening session: EU Delegation to AU; H.E. AU Commissioner ESTI
- **Tea / coffee break, Group photo**
- **Session 7:** Policy context of ACQF. Agenda. Welcome to all participants (AUC)
- **Sessions 8-9:** Dynamics of NQF development in Africa (10 countries)
- **Session 10:** ACQF Qualifications Platform (Technical experts)
- **Session 11:** Capacity development programme (ACQF-II experts)



The poster features logos for Global Gateway, the European Union (Funded by the European Union), African Union, and ETF (European Training Foundation). The main title is 'African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)' under the 'DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION'. It lists three validation events in English, French, and Portuguese. The event details are: Date: 11-13 July 2023; Venue: Medium Conference Hall, NCC Building, AUC – Addis Ababa; Interpretation: English-French-Portuguese; Hybrid meeting. The ACQF logo is prominently displayed, along with an image of people working on a laptop. A list of ACQF-II activities is provided in a brown box at the bottom.

Global Gateway **Funded by the European Union** **African Union** **ETF** Working Together Learning for Life European Training Foundation

African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

🇬🇧 **Validation of the ACQF Policy Document and Launch of the project ACQF-II**
🇫🇷 **Validation du Document de politique ACQF et Lancement du projet ACQF-II**
🇵🇹 **Validação do documento do ACQF e Lançamento do projeto ACQF-II**

Date: 11-13 July 2023
Venue: Medium Conference Hall, NCC Building, AUC – Addis Ababa
Interpretation: English-French-Portuguese
Hybrid meeting

ACQF
African Continental
Qualifications Framework

ACQF-II is:

1. Capacity development.
2. Support countries and regions: NQF development and implementation.
3. Governance. ACQF Qualifications Platform. RPL Campaign. Referencing NQF-ACQF. Common profiles of qualifications

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Session 7: ACQF-II - supporting implementation of ACQF. Planned outputs and activities

Speaker: Eduarda Castel-Branco, ETF

Start: video of Final ACQF Webinar, 19/12/2022

The foundations of ACQF-II



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 / emerging sectors and skills



Capacity development



Networking and cooperation



Analysis, monitoring and evaluation

ACQF Base for ACQF implementation: outputs ACQF-I (2020-2022)

- ACQF Policy Document
- ACQF Level descriptors
- 10 Guidelines
- 10 Training Modules
- ACQF Handbook
- Advisory Group ACQF



- ACQF Website
- Analysis, research: ACQF mapping study collection, feasibility study ACQF, study and handbook on Competence-based training (TVET), study on links ACQF-AfCFTA, African Curriculum study, SADCQF review report
- Capacity development programme and Learning Management System (LMS)
- 2 Training Weeks
- 20 Peer Learning Webinars
- 5 Advisory Group meetings
- Work together with RECs: SADC, EAC, IGAD
- Work with countries on NQF development
- Many participations in international conferences (UNESCO, EAC, IGAD, SADC, IUCEA)

ACQF Website

- Navigate or use Search function - very useful
- Contains all outputs, materials, information of ACQF-I and ACQF-II
- Resources: mapping studies; thematic areas (on: RPL, micro-credentials)
- Capacity development space (all PPTs, videos, reports, guides)
 - 15 peer learning Webinars; 2 training weeks; 2 workshops SADC; 5 webinars AQVN; 11 thematic briefs;
- Snapshot on NQFs in 2 views: map and table
- 10 Guidelines

www.acqf.africa



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021

THEMATIC BRIEFS 1

Concepts and definitions on qualifications and qualifications frameworks

African Union
THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



- Glossaries, concepts and definitions in all ACQF guidelines, ACQF training modules, Policy Document
 - **From international sources**
 - ✓ UNESCO, UNEVOC
 - ✓ ILO
 - ✓ European Qualifications Framework
 - ✓ CEDEFOP
 - ✓ ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework
 - ✓ SAQA
- Compared with definitions of Addis and Global Recognition Conventions

➤ Credit

'Credit' means confirmation that a part of a qualification, consisting of a coherent set of learning outcomes has been assessed and validated by a competent authority, according to an agreed standard; credit is awarded by competent authorities when the individual has achieved the defined learning outcomes, evidenced by appropriate assessments and can be expressed in a quantitative value (e.g. credits or credit points) demonstrating the estimated workload an individual typically needs for achieving related learning outcomes.

'Credit transfer' means the process of allowing individuals who have accumulated credit in one context to have it valued and recognised in another context.

EQF Recommendation 2017.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32017H0615\(01\)&from=EN#d1e32-20-1](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32017H0615(01)&from=EN#d1e32-20-1)

➤ Learning outcomes

Statements of what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/4064_en.pdf

ACQF implementation had started in certain areas – but with limited resources

- Support to NQF development in a number of countries (1st steps)
- Capacity development...
- Analysis, research, mapping studies, surveys
- Tools: Website
- Networking
 - AQVN, Addis Recognition Convention Committee, National qualifications authorities and departments, RQFs

The project ACQF-II (2023-2026)

Objectives and outputs

African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)

Inaugural workshop of the project ACQF-II (2023-2026)

11-13 July 2023 • Addis Ababa, Headquarters of the African Union

ACQF

African Continental
Qualifications Framework

Supporting and connecting Qualifications Frameworks
Transparency and Mutual Trust in qualifications
Facilitating lifelong learning and mobility



ACQF-II is:

1. Capacity development.
2. Support countries and regions: NQF development and implementation.
3. Governance. ACQF Qualifications Platform. RPL Campaign. Referencing NQF-ACQF. Common profiles of qualifications

www.acqf.africa

Title: Support to the implementation of the ACQF (“ACQF-II”)

New project; but builds on and enhances the outputs of the ACQF-I.
Continuity: for action and impact.

Financed: EU – under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

Duration: from April 2023 to December 2026

ACQF-II is part of the flagship initiative “Youth Mobility for Africa”. This flagship is included in the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package.

ACQF-II project: overview

- **Scope:** Comprehensive, wide, holistic strategy
- **Designed to support the 7 main areas of activity of the ACQF Policy document**
- **Builds upon the outputs of ACQF-I (esp. 10 Guidelines and TM)**
- **Geography:** Continental, regional, national
- Oriented to action – at all levels (national, regional, continental)
- **Research and analysis:** support effectiveness and quality of the activities
- Work together with national and regional authorities and stakeholders
- **Technical Implementation Team** – mix of professional experiences in relevant thematic domains, countries, languages
- **Managed by ETF:** EU Agency. Longstanding experience and expertise in NQF-RQF, skills development, TVET, recognition of qualifications, LMIs

African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF)

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ACQF

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Supporting and connecting Qualifications Frameworks
Transparency and Mutual Trust in qualifications
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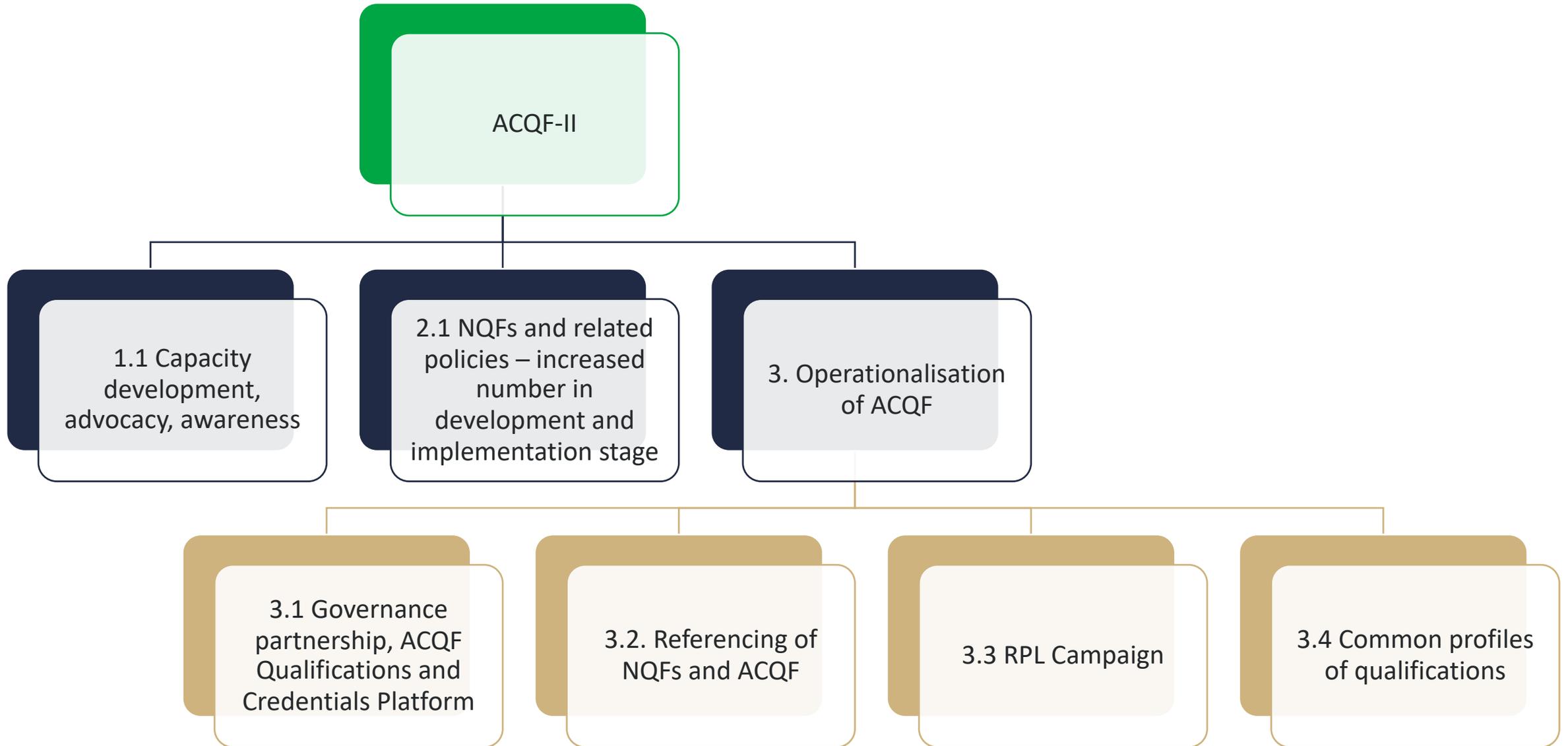
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Overall Objective and outcomes

- The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to contribute to **improved mobility, lifelong learning opportunities for African youth**, as a result of enhanced comparability and transparency of qualifications, recognition of skills and diplomas, improved mutual trust and information-sharing between qualifications frameworks and systems on the continent.
- The **Specific Objectives (Outcomes)** of this action are to:
 1. Strengthen capacities at continental (AU), national and regional levels enabling the implementation of the ACQF functions and services.
 2. Support the development and implementation of national qualifications frameworks and systems, and cooperation with regional qualifications frameworks.
 3. Set-up and operationalise the ACQF systems for delivery of the services and results in
 - (i) referencing national qualifications frameworks or systems and ACQF,
 - (ii) ACQF qualifications management information system and database,
 - (iii) recognition of skills and qualifications,
 - (iv) cooperation with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and other frameworks,
 - (v) development of common profiles of qualifications for priority sectors of free trade, inclusive economic integration, emerging occupations, green jobs, in cooperation with AfCFTA.

Main outputs



1.1 Capacity development

➤ 3 main delivery types:

- Training workshops (onsite, streaming)
- Webinars
- Conferences



➤ 3 geographies:

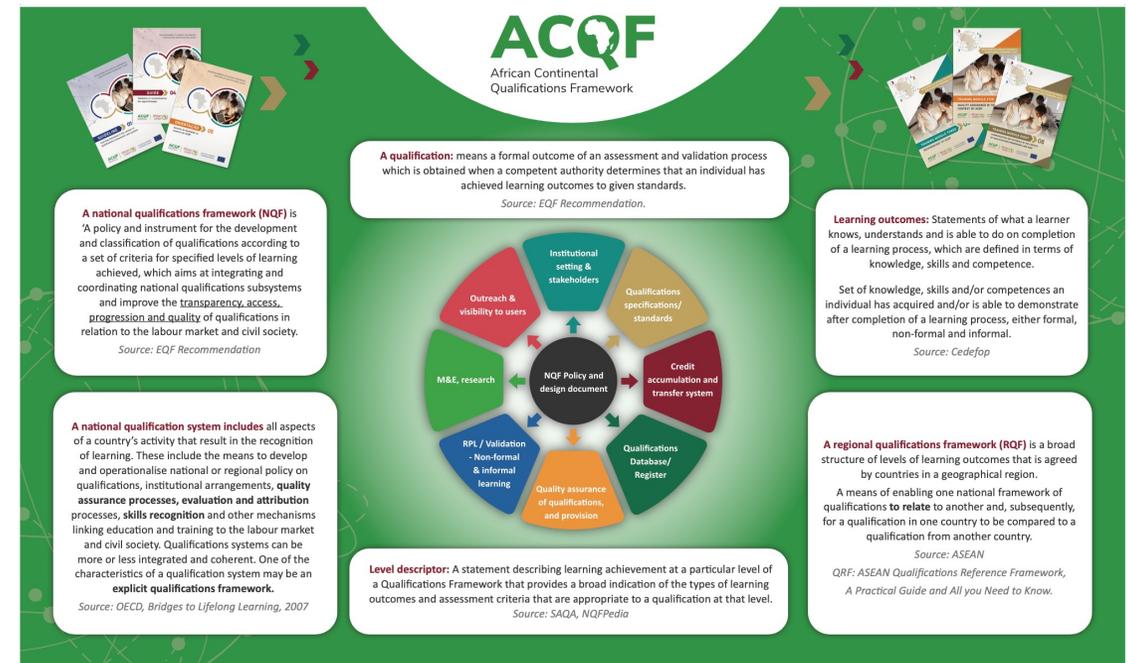
- Multicountry
- Regional
- National

➤ Thematic areas:

- NQF – NQS: wide area
- RPL, credit systems
- New developments and innovation in the domain of qualifications and credentials
- Digitalisation

2.1 NQFs and related policies and instruments: support to development and implementation – country level, regions

- Methodology - common approach
- Baseline analysis - Activity Plan
- Implementation at country level / supported by the regional level
- Action-oriented output: policies, guidelines, methods, technical proposals
- Inventory: information gathering, analysis: NQF, RPL, micro-credentials
- Monitor, collect feedback, analysis disseminate lessons at ACQF conferences



**More information in
session 12**

3.1 Governance: 3 areas

Governance partnership

- ACQF AG
- Support establishment Network NQF agencies
- Focal points

Qualifications and credentials Platform

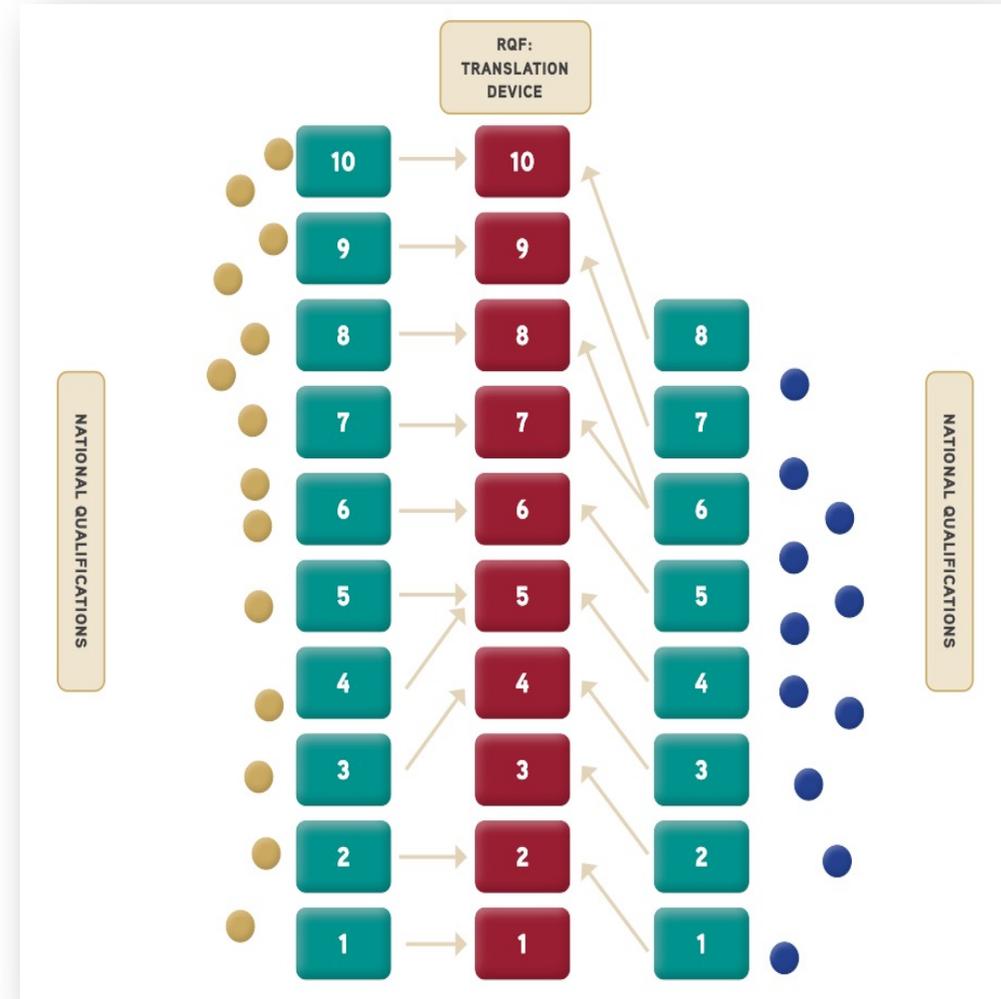
- National databases (common type tool)
- Integrated database
- Platform for end-users

Cooperation with Conventions and Frameworks

- Addis Recognition Convention: links NQFs and recognition of qualifications
- EQF and other regional frameworks

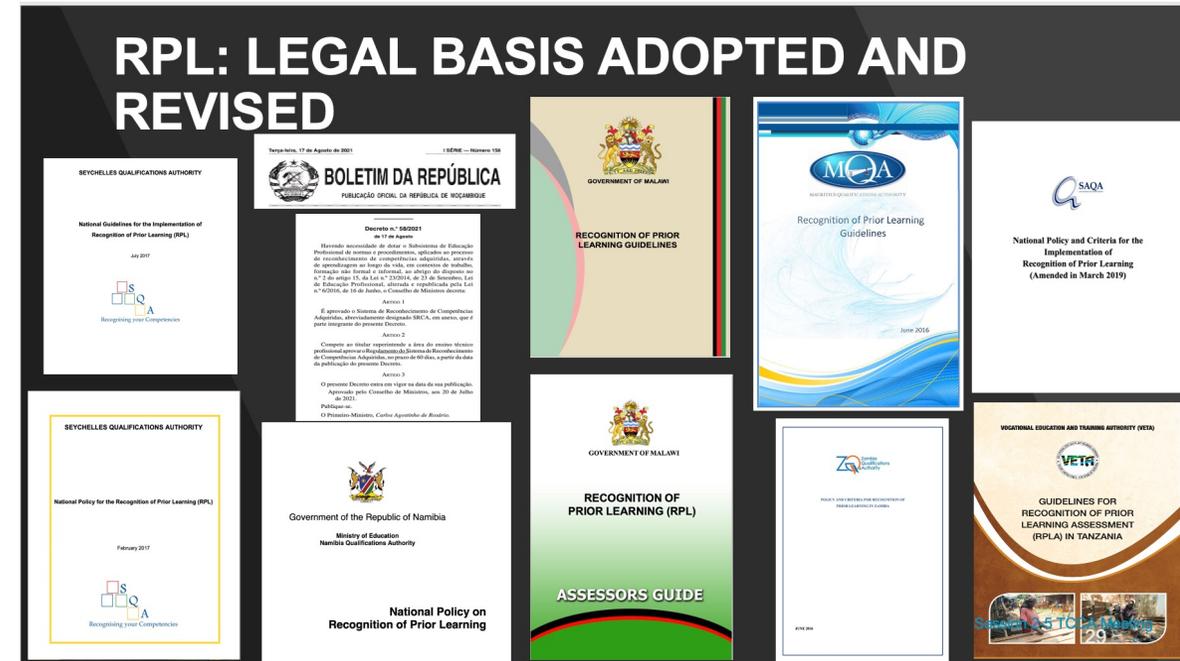
3.2 Referencing NQF(S) - ACQF

- A process of comparison, mutual understanding and trust: good for countries, regions, continent
- Referencing Group
- Finetune current technical basis (Guideline & TM3, Self-assessment tool)
- Plan referencing with countries, support and start
- Follow-up steps



3.3 RPL Campaign

- Making visible learning outputs from all contexts; support people's LLL and social inclusion; integration of migrants and refugees
- Campaign:
 - Information and encouragement
 - New Handbook RPL Practitioners
 - Training of practitioners
 - Call: good practices
 - New developments and innovation
 - Pilot projects



More information:
session 13

3.4 Common profiles of qualifications



Commonalities of work tasks / job roles or functions of the corresponding occupations across borders, mainly due to technological standards and the organisation of business processes.

The typical (existing and emerging) skills and competences to carry out these tasks are consequently also similar; as are the learning outcomes to be acquired by learners for these common work tasks.

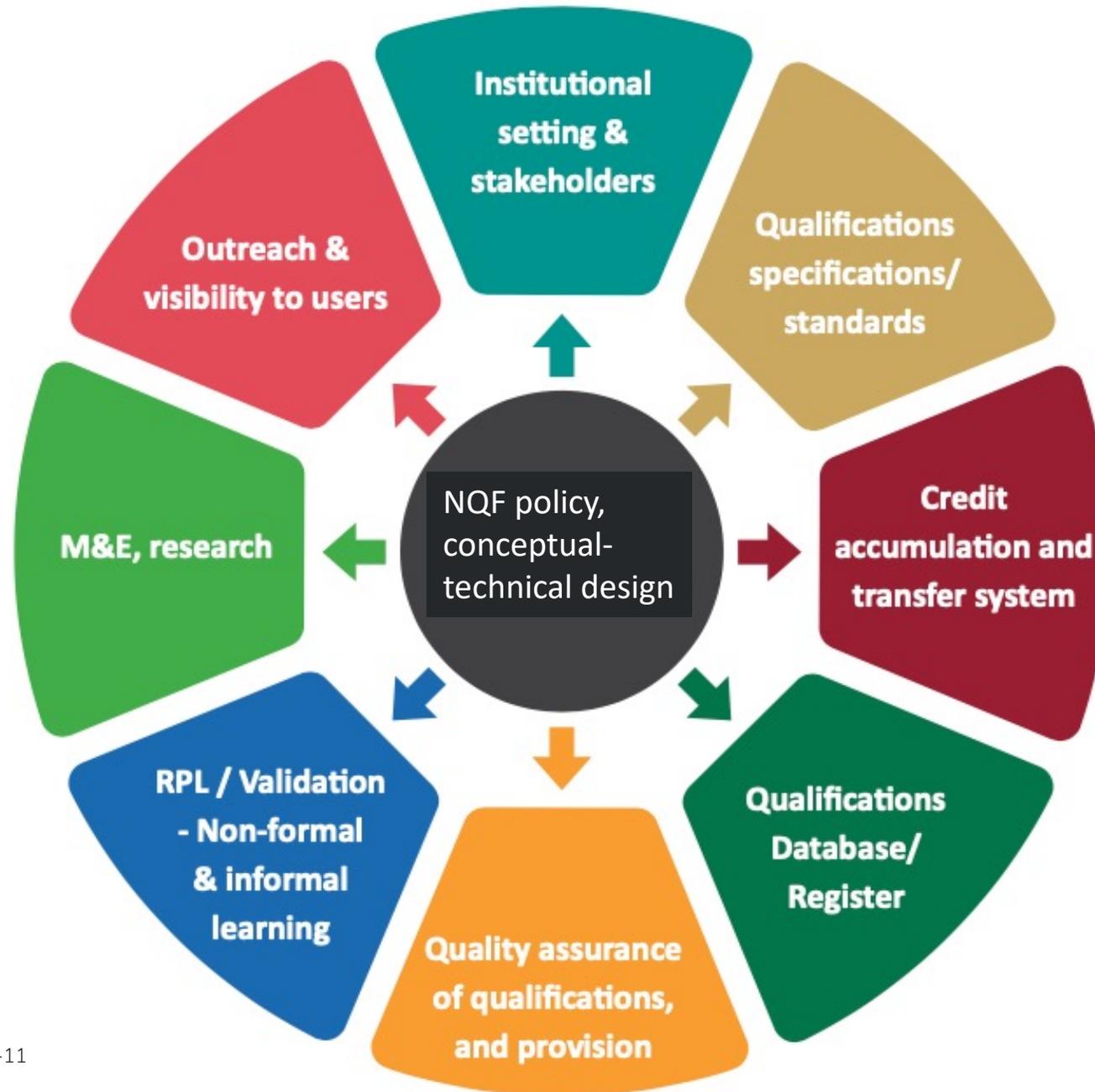
Common profiles are a way of making visible the commonalities of learning outcomes across borders that prepare learners for similar work tasks and processes.

They can be developed based on the combination of comparing learning outcomes of national qualifications and the identification of emerging skills.

Comparability – not standardisation

The learning outcomes do not necessarily need to relate exclusively to **occupational skills and competences but should also relate to transversal skills relevant to work and society in general.**

Common references: occupational and skills classifications; regional qualifications frameworks



- NQF: a systemic view or an eco-system
- NQFs do not work in isolation
- NQF must adapt to change and meet new demands from the transformation of work, technology, learning, climate, demography
- NQFs and RQFs belong to all stakeholders

ACQF-II Implementation team

- High value mix of thematic expertise, professional experiences, in-depth knowledge of contexts in Africa (countries and regions), knowledge of AU and EU policies
 - NQF and qualifications
 - RPL
 - Credit systems
 - Quality assurance of NQFs and qualifications
 - TVET, Higher education, LLL
 - Recognition of qualifications
 - Qualifications management: registration, registers and databases / catalogues of qualifications
 - Governance of NQF institutions
 - Training of trainers

ACQF-II technical implementation team

- **Eduarda Castel-Branco** (coordinator; NQF, RPL, training, website)
- **Coleen Jaftha** (NQF, training, newsletter)
- **James Mwewa** (NQF, CATS, Recognition, training, newsletter - NL)
- **Michael Graham** (NQF, training, NL)
- **Olavo Correia** (NQF, RPL, training, NL)
- **Patrick Werquin** (NQF, RPL, training, NL)



- Qualifications and Credential Platform and database (upcoming)
- ACQF Website: design, hosting, maintenance, pilot projects

Questions, ideas, suggestions?



Poll

What outputs of ACQF-II do you consider most useful and pertinent for your country or region?

Is your country interested to co-host an ACQF workshop or conference in 2024-2026 (if yes, please write your country name)?

08-09

Dynamics of NQF development in Africa

Speakers:

Session 8: Ana Claudia Andrade (Angola), Maxwell Kissi (Ghana), Elísio Fernandes (Guinea-Bissau), Maria Luísa Chicote (Moçambique), Morlai Mansaray (Sierra Leone)

Session 9: Amílcar Mendes (Cabo Verde), Stanley Maindi (Kenya), Robin Phoolchand (Mauritius), Fiona Ernesta (Seychelles), Nadia Starr (South Africa), Mercy Ngoma (Zambia)

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Registers of qualifications: global experiences

Speaker: technical team

Day 2 / revised agenda

- 09:30-09:35 – opening
- 09:35-10:10 – Session 11: Capacity Development Programme ACQF-II
- 10:10-10:45 – Session 12: Support to countries' NQF developments and implementation. Overview, plans. Discussion
- 10:45-11:00 – Tea break
- 11:00-11:30 – RPL Campaign
- 11:30-11:45 – African Credit Transfer Scheme (ACTS): overview. Prof. Olusola Oyewole (AAU)
- 11:45-12:00 – Wrap-up, next steps.
- 12:00-13:00 – Lunch break

Agenda – ACQF AG, 13/July 2023

- 13:00-13:15 – opening, welcome – AUC ESTI, Education
- 13:15-13:45 – Session 16 – role, activities of ACQF AG. Chair and co-chair.
- 13:45-14:30 – Session 17: Governance of ACQF - new perspectives. Towards a network of African NQFs. Discussion
- 14:30-15:15 – Session 18: Referencing NQF-ACQF. Overview, plan. Discussion
- 15:15-15:30 – Tea break
- 15:30-16:00 – Communication, advocacy
- 16:00-16:15 – Wrap-up, next steps.
- 16:15-16:30 – Summary of main conclusions. Closure



Session 11: Capacity development programme (16.00-16.45h)

Speakers: Michael Graham, James Mwewa, Olavo Correia

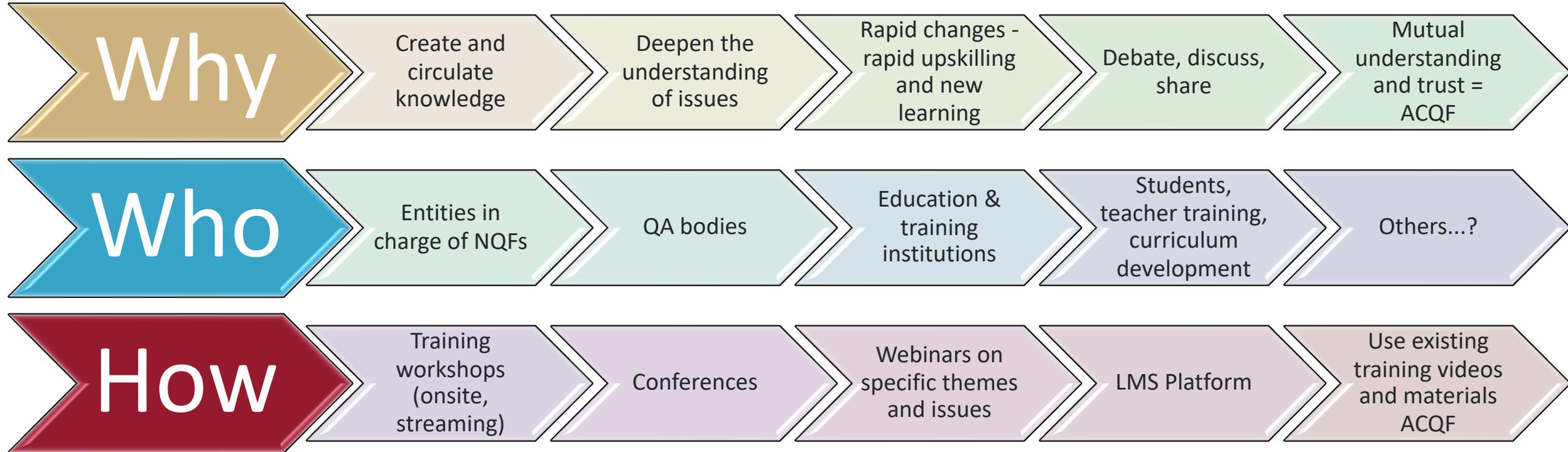
Capacity development: project plan



- **Outcome 1:** Strengthen capacities at continental, national and regional levels enabling the implementation of ACQF functions and services
 - **Output 1.1:** ACQF capacity development, awareness raising, advocacy and partnership activities expanded to all countries and regions, including all stakeholders' groups (public, private, civil society)

Michael

Why, who, how?



Michael

What do we have from ACQF-I for you?

• ACQF website:

❖ Capacity development space

- 10 Guidelines and related 10 Training Modules
- Handbook on CBT
- Short ACQF Handbook
- 1 Short Guide: development of professional qualifications
- 11 Thematic Briefs
- 15 Peer Learning Webinars: over 45 real cases presented (Africa, Europe, Middle East, Asia). Videos, PPT.
- 5 Peer Learning Webinars with AQVN – on recognition of qualifications (14 cases)
- Over 50 training videos (country cases, themes)
- 2 Training Weeks: all materials, PPTs, booklets, videos

❖ 10 main themes: Learning outcomes; Level descriptors; Referencing; Validation of Learning (RPL, Credit systems); QA; Registration of qualifications; M&E; Communication; Innovation and technology; NQF: systemic view



Research:

- ACQF Mapping Study: 14 country reports; 3 regional; 1 comprehensive
- School Curriculum Survey
- Orientation Note on RQFs
- Feasibility study
- NQF Inventory: Snapshot

James

Capacity Development: Improvements and innovations ACQF-II



New Handbook: RPL for practitioners

Training Week: on RPL

Review and update existing training modules

Enhance and expand use of Moodle LMS

Pool of trained participants: involve in facilitation and training

Combine capacity development at national level with multi-country cap dev activities – for synergy & contextualisation

Expand use of ACQF digital certificates (LMS)

Cooperation with teacher training institutes, other education institutions - towards a Training Module on NQF and related policies?

ACQF Model of Capacity development activities

Multi-country: Annually

- 3 training workshops
- 2 conferences (1 online)
- Up to 3 webinars



Country specific plan

- Training workshops
- Meetings and debates
- Webinars

Themes and hosting cities 2023

Wider theme: Making NQF operational in a changing world

- Nairobi, September
- Accra, November
- Maputo, December

- NQFs are changing
- Conceptualising, building NQF
- Social dialogue for responsive NQFs
- Monitoring outcomes, reviewing NQFs
- Digitalisation
- Qualifications are changing
- Validation of learning outcomes
- Common profiles of qualifications
- New skills for double transition: green and digital
- What about AI in education?
- LLL and the role of NQFs
- Credit systems
- Articulation: hopes and realities
- Recognition of qualifications: linkages with recognition of qualifications
- Skills and qualifications for a changing economy and society
- ACQF-II: contributing to better qualifications frameworks, and recognition of skills and competences

1. On Capacity development: what main themes and issues do you propose for the training workshops? (Multiple choice)

- Establish a functional NQF governance
- Improve social dialogue on NQF
- Develop and provide relevant qualifications
- Comparing NQFs
- RPL in practice
- Improve lifelong-learning
- Micro-credentials: a new opportunity for NQFs?
- Digital credentials: opportunities and challenges
- Quality assurance
- Credit accumulation and transfer systems
- Databases and registers of qualifications
- Green and digital skills
- Transversal skills and competences
- Learning outcomes: what's new?
- Others

2. The 10 ACQF Training Modules address most themes related with NQFs. How can they be disseminated and used in your country? (ex.: in teacher training programmes, or others)

(Open)

Questions?

