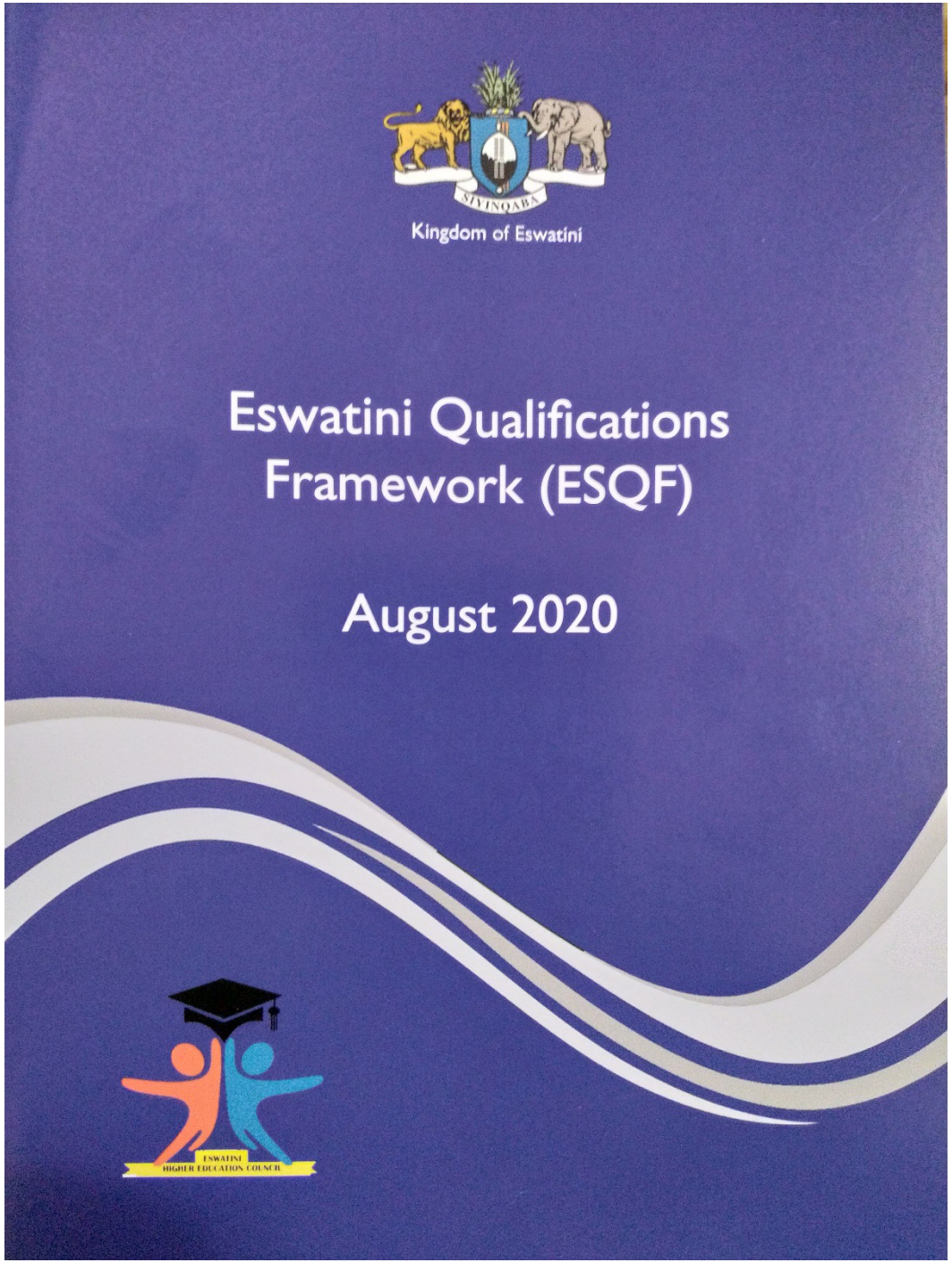


Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA)

Mboni Dlamini
Executive Secretary
Eswatini Qualifications Authority (EQA)

11th May 2023

Presentation Outline

- ESQF Governance
- Rationale for the Eswatini Qualifications Framework (ESQF)
- ESQF Architecture
- Tools for implementation of ESQF
- Challenges

ESQF Governance

From 2016 to 2022, development and implementation of the Eswatini Qualifications Framework (ESQF) was under the **Eswatini Higher Education Council (ESHEC)**, established under the HE Act of 2013.

In 2022, responsibilities were streamlined. This saw the establishment of the **Eswatini Qualification Authority (EQA)** to ensure generation of credible qualifications across the entire Education and Skills Development system, not only in HE.

ESQF development and approval

- ESQF **approved and adopted** in 2020
- Serves as a blueprint for **programme development** – institutions
- Facilitates **evaluation of foreign qualifications**

Rationale - ESQF

Comprehensive education sector analysis conducted from 2008-2010, and established the following weaknesses; recommended correction through a National Qualifications Framework

Lack of Transparency

Transparency

Non Compatible

Compatibility

Rationale - ESQF

Non Portable

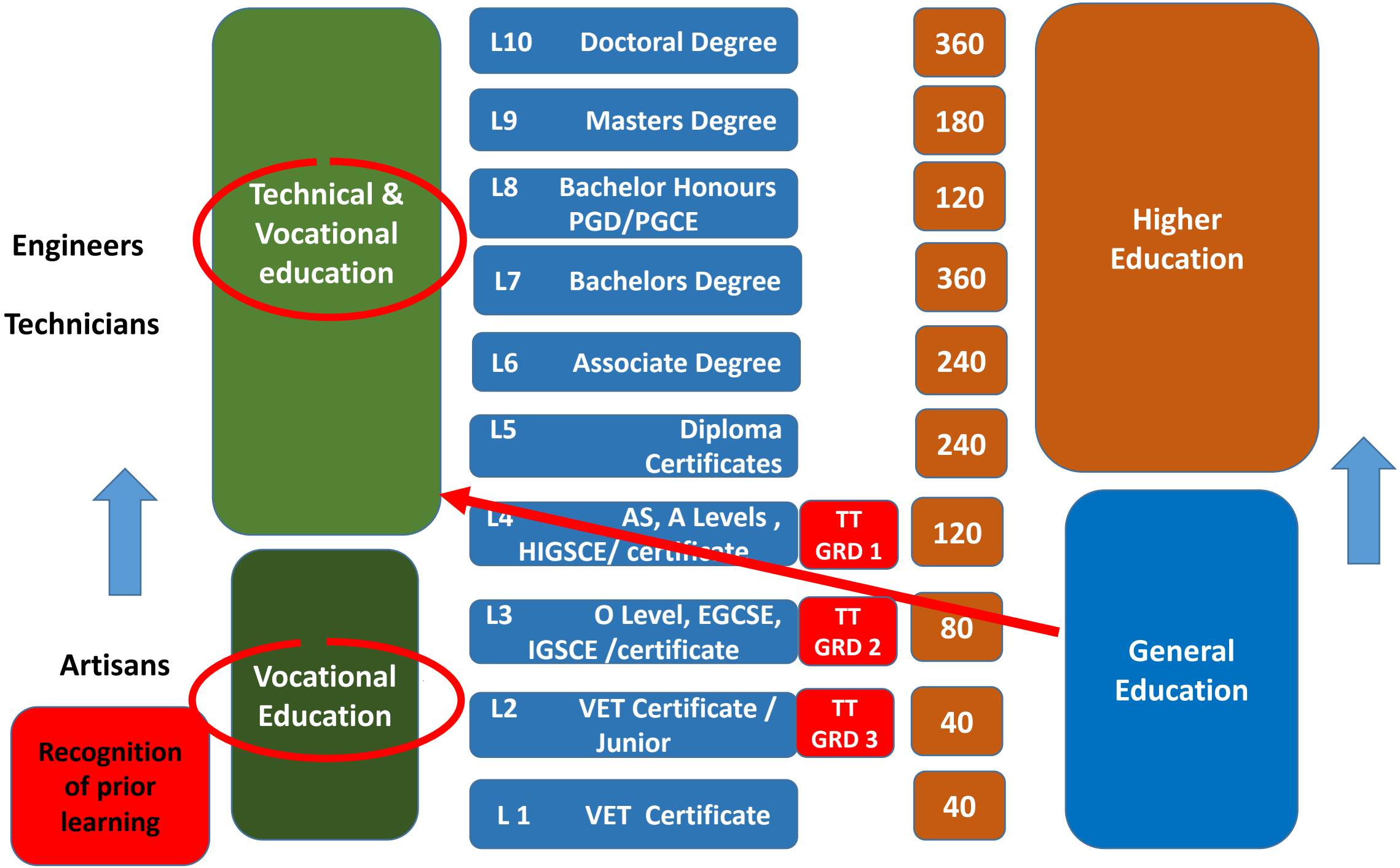
Portability

Non Comparable

Comparability

Recognition of Qualifications
(Building Trust)

Promote mobility and produce
credible graduates


Engineers
Technicians
Artisans
Recognition of prior learning
Technical & Vocational education
Vocational Education
L10 Doctoral Degree
L9 Masters Degree
L8 Bachelor Honours PGD/PGCE
L7 Bachelors Degree
L6 Associate Degree
L5 Diploma Certificates
L4 AS, A Levels , HIGSCE/ certificate
L3 O Level, EGCSE, IGSCE /certificate
L2 VET Certificate / Junior
L 1 VET Certificate
TT GRD 1
TT GRD 2
TT GRD 3
360
180
120
360
240
240
120
80
40
40
Higher Education
General Education

ESQF Implementation tools

- Credit Accumulation and Transfer Policy and guidelines – developed and adopted in 2021 (design of new programmes align with **CATS policy**)
- Guidelines on **registration of qualifications** on the ESQF and related tools – developed (registration of qualifications started – TVET qualification)
- Classification of study **Fields and sub fields** established based on UNESCO ISCED 2013 (International Standard Classification of Education Statistics)
- Recognition of Prior Learning **(RPL)** – information gathering stage – benchmarking and establishing baseline in readiness to establish policy and guidelines

ESQF Review

Review of the ESQF is planned in the short term to:

- **update architecture** to adequately address articulation
- **Align** some sections in view of changes in ESQF Governance
- **integrate contemporary** issues such as micro-credentials and nano-qualifications

Challenges

1. Understanding new programme design & implementation

- Comprehension and implementation of learning outcomes – alignment with level descriptors - content
- Calculation and allocation of credits
- Accumulation of credits vs content
- Articulation
- Assessment of learning outcomes
- Pedagogy – institutions cut corners (need for vigilance in QA)

2. Recognition of prior learning – lack of institutional guidelines & diversity in implementation)

Kingdom of Eswatini

Eswatini Qualifications Framework (ESQF)

August 2020

ESWATINI HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL