



Project ACQF-II

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Sierra Leone - ACQF-II cooperation on the National Qualifications Framework

Capacity development Program (Part II) - Agenda

22-24 May 2024

Venue: Foreign Affairs Academy Hall, Tower Hill - Freetown



Visit the [event webpage](#) to get the agenda, training materials and presentations



1. Context

The government of Sierra Leone and the key stakeholders are determined to develop a contextualized and effective National Qualifications Framework (NQF), comprehensive and inclusive of all levels and types of qualifications and able to deliver on the objectives of quality, transparency and portability of skills and qualifications for lifelong learning, employability, social justice, and contributing to the green and digital transformation.

The NQF development process, carried out by parallel projects in Higher education and in TVET, has reached in 2023-2024 a fundamental crossroad, when all institutions and partners are ready to rethink the way forward and take the required steps to agree the scope, principles, structure, and governance of this important policy instrument.

To this end the new NQF concept document was drafted in 2024, with support of international consultants in the context of the World Bank project. This draft document will guide the development of the legal basis and implementation steps of the NQF. NCTVA and the stakeholders conduct consultations meetings with key stakeholders across the country.

The national institutions agree to the importance of capacity development on NQF-related content, seen as an indispensable premise for national ownership and leadership of the NQF development process. This new phase builds on the lessons learned from the first NQF reflection phase, on the African experiences shared in the ACQF context, and the new national debate around the revised roadmap for the NQF Technical Commission.

This organisation of this Capacity Development Programme with a country-specific focus and objectives is a result of this growing collaboration. ACQF-II project contributes with the expertise, (trainers and experts), the knowledge base (ACQF Training Modules, Technical Notes and Thematic Briefs) and the networking possibilities with other countries and institutions. Sierra Leone organises the two workshops according to national orientations and with support of GIZ and the World Bank. This combination of resources for a common objective is a token of mutual trust between ACQF-II and the national NQF institutions and stakeholders.

2. Capacity development program 2023-2024

The combination of themes on the agenda of the program reflects the preliminary exchanges of ACQF-II coordination with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education and the NCTVA. The themes are proposed in the technical note “Draft SLNQF Stages and Activities”, shared in October 2023 by NCTVA.

Main features of the SLNQF Capacity Development Program

1. Objectives and outcomes

- a. Introduction and deepening on the concepts, implementation methods and instruments and practices related to NQF in a systemic view. The themes of this Program are listed below.
- b. Application and debate: brainstorming and strategic reflection on the NQF for Sierra Leone.
- c. The agenda combines key thematic presentations with discussion, practical exercises, and contextualised application. Participation certificates will be awarded to participants who complete the program.

2. Duration and schedule

- a. Duration: two weeks
 - Part I: week of 27/Nov 2023. This workshop was shortened to 3 days, in adaptation to the special political situation.
 - Part II: 22-24 May 2024

3. Training modules and literature:

Accessible on ACQF website at the following pages:

- [ACQF Training Modules and Handbooks](#)
- [Thematic Briefs](#)

- [Capacity Development Programme](#): all materials, videos, case studies.
- Other useful resources: [International literature](#)

4. Team of trainers and experts

- ACQF project coordinator and key expert: Eduarda Castel-Branco (onsite)
- Expert on NQF, Credit Accumulation and Transfer Systems, Recognition: James Mwewa (online)

5. Themes and issues on the agenda

Part II - Focus: NQF and related policies

Day 1: NQF trends and instruments

- Short descriptions of learning outcomes for electronic publication and comparability – a practical guide.
- Learning outcomes – a key building block of the qualifications system.
- Recognition of prior learning – from A to Z: concepts, goals, principles, process, operations, requirements. Examples from Europe and Africa.
- Digitalisation in the context of education and qualifications

Day 2: Digitalisation, micro-credentials. Referencing to ACQF.

- Micro-credentials for employability and lifelong learning. Concepts, approaches, linkages with NQF. Key principles of micro-credentials – trends, applications, examples.
- Green and digital skills and the role of NQF.
- ACQF: Referencing.
- ACQF Database of qualifications – national and continental layers, interoperability.
- ACQF common profiles of qualifications.

Day 1: The NQF concept document

- Presentation of the draft document, discussion, and recommendations. By the team of consultants of the World Bank project.
- Working group discussions.
- Next steps towards official validation and adoption in legislation.
- Key steps and mechanisms towards operationalization.

Working Agenda of Workshop 2

Dates: 22 to 24 May 2024

Day 1		
22 May 2024		
Time	Main theme – issues; working method	Speaker / moderators
09.00-09.45	Opening. Prayers. Welcome remarks. Objectives of the workshop. Introduction of participants.	NCTVA; GIZ-EPP; World Bank Group; ACQF-II; NAYCOM; Ministry of Labour; NCTVA; MTHE
09.45-10.45 Session 1	Qualifications Frameworks – main trends in Africa, Europe. Reforms and adaptation to new demands and transformation. Transparency tools. <i>Presentation</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco (ACQF-II) Abdul Rahman Sesay (NCTVA)
10.45-11.15	Coffee break	
11.15-13.00 Session 2	Short descriptions of learning outcomes for electronic publication and comparability – a practical guide education and qualifications.	Eduarda Castel-Branco

	Defining, writing, and renewing learning outcomes. <i>Presentation. Discussion. Practical exercise</i>	
13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-15.30 Session 3	Recognition of prior learning – from A to Z: concepts, goals, principles, process, operations, requirements. Examples from Europe and Africa. Practical cases. <i>Presentation. Discussion</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco
15.30-16.30 Session 4	Digitalisation in the context of education and qualifications. <i>Presentation. Discussion</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco
16.30-17.00	Coffee break	

Day 2 23 May 2024		
Time	Main theme – issues; working method	Speaker / moderators
09.00-09.30	Agenda. Recap of main themes and conclusions of day 1	Abdul Rahman Sesay, NCTVA
09.30-10.30 Session 5	Micro-credentials for employability and lifelong learning. Concepts, approaches, linkages with NQF. Key principles of micro-credentials – trends, applications, examples. <i>Presentation. Discussion</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
10.30-11.30	Micro-credentials: continuation and conclusion	Eduarda Castel-Branco
11.30-13.00 Session 6	Green and digital skills and the role of NQF. <i>Presentation.</i> <i>Cases in Sierra Leone. Debate</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco, participants
13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-15.30 Session 7	Comparing NQFs. Referencing to ACQF <i>Presentation, discussion.</i> <i>Practical exercise</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco, participants
15.30-16.30 Session 8	ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform Common profiles of qualifications. International taxonomies for skills and occupations. <i>Presentation. Examples</i>	Eduarda Castel-Branco

Day 3 24 May 2024		
Time	Main theme – issues. Working method	Speaker / moderators
09.30-10.00	Recap: main lessons and conclusions from day 2	Abdul-Rahman Sesay, NCTVA
10.00-11.00 Session 9	The Sierra Leone National Qualifications Framework: presentation. Issues	NCTVA. NQF Consultants World Bank
11.00-11.30		
11.30-12.30 Session 10	Debate on the NQF document - in working groups. <i>Guiding questions: objectives, scope, structure, main components of the NQF.</i>	Working Groups

12.30-13.00 Session 11 - continuation	Presentations of conclusions and proposals from working groups	NCTVA. Team of consultants.
13.00-14.00	Final conclusions, next steps. Closure	Albert Sheku, NCTVA
14.00	Lunch break	

List of ACQF Training Modules, Thematic Briefs and Policy Document

ACQF resources and collections

ACQF website: <https://acqf.africa/>

ACQF Guidelines: <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-guidelines>

ACQF Training Modules: <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules>

ACQF Peer Learning Webinars: <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/webinars>

ACQF Thematic Briefs: <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs>

ACQF Mapping study collection: <https://acqf.africa/resources/mapping-study>

ACQF on Recognition of Prior Learning: <https://acqf.africa/resources/recognition-of-prior-learning>

ACQF News articles: <https://acqf.africa/news>

ACQF Training Modules

ACQF. 2022. Training module 1: Learning Outcomes in Qualifications Frameworks and Systems. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Author: C. Jaftha. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-1-learning-outcomes>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 2: Levels and level descriptors. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Author: C. Jaftha. Contributors: A. Bateman, E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-2-levels-and-level-descriptors-in-the-context-of-acqf>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 3: Referencing to ACQF. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Authors: C. Jaftha, E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-3-referencing-to-acqf>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 4: Validation and recognition of learning. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Authors: M. Chiyaba, M. Hamalabbi, F. Cheelo and J. Mwewa. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-4-validation-and-recognition-of-learning>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 5: Quality Assurance in the context of ACQF. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Authors: E. Castel-Branco, K. Allgoo. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-5-quality-assurance-in-the-context-of-the-acqf>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 6: Registration and databases of qualifications. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Authors: M. Chiyaba, M. Hamalabbi, F. Cheelo and J. Mwewa. Contributor: E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-6-registers-databases-of-qualifications>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 7: Monitoring and evaluation in the context of qualifications frameworks or systems. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Authors: Eleanor Hazell, Zahraa McDonald et al. Contributor: E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-7-monitoring-and-evaluation-the-context-of-nqfs-and-acqf>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 8: Communication and outreach in the context of NQF and ACQF. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Author: C. Jaftha. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-8-communication-and-outreach-in-the-context-of-nqf-and-acqf>

[development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-8-communication-and-outreach-in-the-context-of-nqf-acqf](https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-8-communication-and-outreach-in-the-context-of-nqf-acqf)

ACQF. 2022. Training module 9: Innovation and technology in the context of qualifications systems. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Authors: K. Shiohira, P. Molokwane.

<https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-9-innovation-and-technology-in-the-context-of-qualifications-and-nqfs>

ACQF. 2022. Training module 10: Qualifications and qualifications frameworks: the systemic view. AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme – SIFA Technical Cooperation. Author: A. Bateman. Contributor: E. Castel-Branco.

<https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-10-qualifications-and-qualifications-frameworks-a-systemic-view>

ACQF. 2021. Thematic Brief 1: concepts and definitions. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-1-concepts-and-definitions>

ACQF. 2021. Thematic Brief 2: Competences frameworks. Author: E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-2-competences-frameworks>

ACQF. 2021. Thematic Brief 3.1: Level descriptors. Author: E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-3-1-level-descriptors>

ACQF. 2021. Thematic Brief 4.1: Regional Qualifications Frameworks. Author: E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-4-1-regional-qualifications-frameworks-rqf>

ACQF. 2021. Thematic Brief 6.1: TVET Quality Assurance. Author: E. Castel-Branco. [https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-6-1-tvet-quality-assurance/@@display-file/file/ACQF Thematic%20Brief 6.1 TVET%20Quality%20Assurance WEB.pdf](https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-6-1-tvet-quality-assurance/@@display-file/file/ACQF%20Thematic%20Brief%206.1%20TVET%20Quality%20Assurance%20WEB.pdf)

ACQF. 2022. Thematic Brief 8: Qualifications Frameworks in a changing world. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-8-qualifications-frameworks-in-a-changing-world>

ACQF. 2022. Thematic Brief 9. Competence-based training – a brief overview Author: E. Castel-Branco. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-9-competence-based-training-cbt-a-brief-overview>

ACQF. 2022. Thematic Brief 10. ACQF level descriptors, the story of the development journey. Author: C. Jaftha. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-10-acqf-level-descriptors-the-story-of-the-development-journey>

ACQF. 2021. Thematic Brief 11. Governance and management of NQFs. Author: E. J. Mukhwana. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-11-governance-of-nqfs-nqs>

ACQF. 2023. Thematic Brief 13: Micro-credentials: concepts, debates, experiences – towards a common understanding in different parts of the world. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-13-micro-credentials-concepts-debates-experiences-2013-towards-a-common-understanding-in-different-parts-of-the-world>

ACQF. 2023. Thematic Brief 14: Recognition of Prior Learning gives us wings for transitions to decent work, learning and social activity. <https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/thematic-briefs/acqf-thematic-brief-14-recognition-of-prior-learning-gives-us-wings-for-transitions-to-decent-work-learning-and-social-activity>

ACQF. 2022. A Brief Handbook on the ACQF. <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-guidelines>

ACQF Policy Document (validated by African Union Member States). 2023. <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-policy-document-upon-validation-by-au-member-states-en-fr-pt/acqf-policy-document-en>

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