Factsheet - African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF-II)

Updated: 20/11/2024

www.acqf.africa

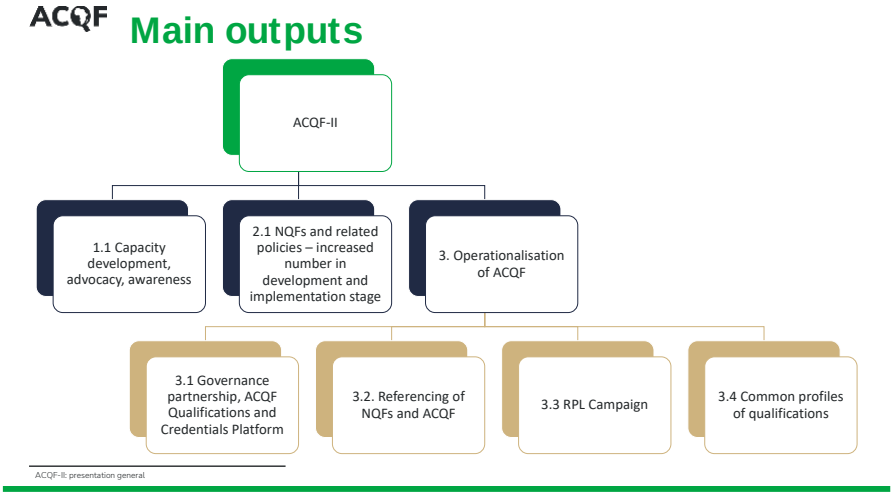
Title:	**Support to the implementation of the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF II)**
Main policy:	**ACQF Policy Document validated in July 2023, Addis Ababa (in English, Français, Português)**
Implementing partner:	European Training Foundation (ETF), in cooperation with African Union Commission, the regional communities and member states
Basic Act:	Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe), European Union
Timeframe:	Started on 01/04/2023 – till end 2026

Objectives

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:

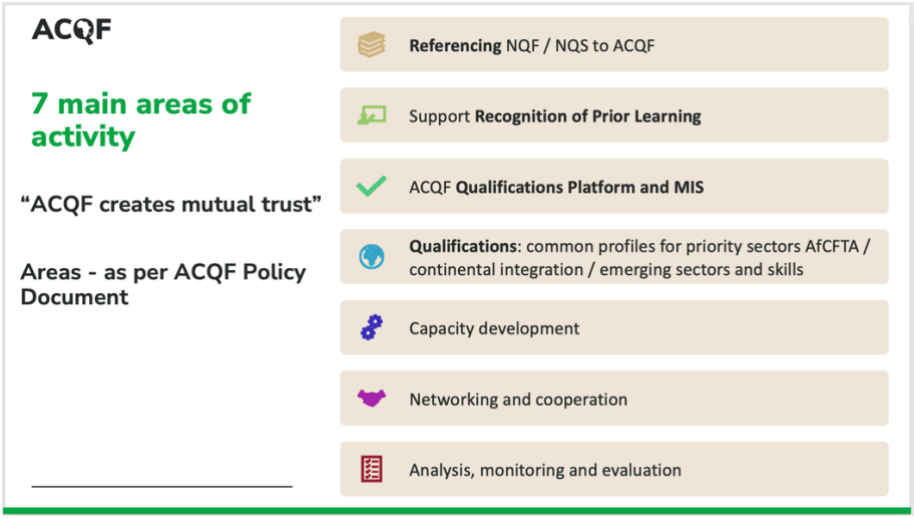
1. Strengthen capacities at continental (AU), national and regional levels enabling the implementation of the ACQF functions and services.
2. Support the development and implementation of national qualifications frameworks and systems, and cooperation with regional qualifications frameworks.
3. Set-up 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 and emerging occupations.



Synthesis on ACQF-II – information accessible on ACQF website:

- The ACQF website has been updated regularly, and includes a revamped Home page, new thematic pages on the main menu and wider spaces for New and Publications. News on ACQF-II activities are shared via a new X account (former Twitted) - @acqf - accessible also via the revamped Home page of ACQF website.
- ACQF News: read the Report 2023, the Planned activities 2024, and the ACQF Factsheet.
- ACQF website – new webpage "Skills Data Focus": get acquainted with 3 innovative interactive dashboards: a) Common profiles of occupations; b) Online Job Vacancy analysis for Skills Intelligence – Africa Dashboard; and c) Green Skills Dashboard Africa
- ACQF website – new webpage "Qualifications and Credentials Platform" (QCP) – read and download the QCP leaflet and the report on the Software and data architecture of the QCP and the Report of stakeholders' baseline analysis. View and download the short Training Handbooks of the 8 QCP Training Units and QCP presentations.
- New webpage "Resources": results of ACQF continental surveys 2023-2024: on NQFs, on RPL and on Micro-credentials.

ACQF AREAS OF ACTIVITY – FROM ACQF POLICY DOCUMENT



ACQF Countries

Focus 1 - Output 1.1: Participation in ACQF-II workshops and conferences (May/2023 to Nov/2024 - presential and hybrid

Place	Theme	Dates	Level of implementation	Nr participants
Johannesburg	SADC TVET Symposium	8-9 May 2023	Regional (SADC)	45
Johannesburg	TCCA SADCQF: new roadmap, referencing, cooperation ACQF.	11-12 May 2023	Regional (SADC)	35
Addis	Validation ACQF Policy document and launch ACQF-II	11-13 July 2023	Continental	80
Bissau	NQF training and policy document	31 July to 4 Aug 2023	Country	40
Freetown	NQF training and policy document (Part I)	27 Nov-1 Dec 2023	Country	40
Nairobi	Making NQFs operational / part I	09-11 Oct 2023	Continental	50
Accra	Making NQFs operational / part II	7-8 Nov 2023	Continental	50
Maputo	Making NQFs operational / part III	5-7 Dec 2023	Continental	60
Accra	Developing Ghana eco-system NQF-RPL-CATS	26 Feb to 1 Mar 2024	Country	30
Kinshasa	NQF training and policy document	5-6 March 2024	Country	55
Webinar	QCP Steering Group: launch activities	08-Mar-24	Country	35
Seychelles	Training, technical visits - policy and Guidelines CATS, Micro-credentials	11-15 Mar 2024	Country	50
Senegal	Training, NQF strategic planning	02-04 May 2024	Country	35
Johannesburg	TCCA SADCQF meeting	09-10 May 2024	Regional	30
Eswatini	RPL Policy document – consultation	13 May 2024	Country	40
Mozambique	NQF implementation: Monitoring and evaluation system; training on new frontiers of the NQF	15-17 May 2024	Country	20
Sierra Leone	Training on NQF and related policies and innovation. Green skills. Micro-credentials. NQF stakeholders' consultation	22-24 May 2024	Country	45
Kinshasa	1st ACQF Forum NQF institutions	18-20 June 2024	Continental	80
Luanda	National capacity development programme	Sept-Oct 2024	Country	60
Luanda	2nd ACQF Forum NQF institutions	05-06 Sept 2024	Continental	50
Nairobi	3rd ACQF Forum NQF institutions – RPL for Practitioners	01-14 Oct 2024	Continental	58 onsite, 200 online
Nairobi	Somalia NQF-CATS-RPL policy development workshop	08-10 Nov 2024	Country	18
Seychelles	Launch of SNCATS Policy and Guidelines. Training	12 Nov 2024	Country	35
Seychelles	1st ACQF Forum NQF institutions – Micro-credentials for Better Opportunities	13-14 Nov 2024	Continental	55
Total nr of participants onsite				**1096**

Visit the individual workshops webpages to get all training materials, presentations, other docs

ACQF Capacity Development – workshops and webinars

Focus 1: Output 1.1 – Capacity development workshops 2023

Programme of 7 capacity development and policy dialogue multi-country workshops on the wider theme "Making NQFs operational in a time of change". Agenda and all workshop materials and presentations are accessible at the indicated webpages:

1. 08-09/May and 11-12/May: Johannesburg
2. 11-13/July: Addis Ababa
3. 31/July to 04/August: Bissau national NQF workshop
4. 9-11/Oct: Nairobi
5. 07-08/Nov: Accra
6. 05-06/Dec: Maputo

Photos and memories by workshop: available at the Gallery on ACQF website.

Focus 2: Output 1.1 – Capacity development workshops 2024

Go to the workshops' webpages 2024:

1. **Accra NQF workshop 2024: 26/02 to 01/03/2024**
2. **Kinshasa NQF workshop 2024: 5-6/03/2024**
3. **Seychelles CATS workshops 2024: 11-15/03/2024**
4. **Dakar NQF workshop: 02-04/05/2024**
5. **SADC TCCA meeting 2024: 09-10/05/2024**
6. **Eswatini RPL workshop 2024: 13/05/2024**
7. **Maputo NQF workshop 2024: 15-17/05/2024**
8. **Sierra Leone NQF workshop 2024 (part II): 22-24/05/2024**
9. **Kinshasa First ACQF Forum: 18-20/06/2024**
10. **Luanda 2nd ACQF Forum: 05-06/09/2024**
11. **Nairobi 3rd ACQF Forum (RPL for Practitioners): 01-04/10/2024**
12. **Nairobi – Policy development workshop Somalia (NQF-RPL-CATS): 8-10(11/2024**
13. **Seychelles, 4th ACQF Forum (Micro-credentials for better opportunities): 13-14/11/2024**

Focus 3: Photos of ACQF-II country workshops 2023

Focus 4: Photos of ACQF-II country and continental workshops 2024

Focus 5: International conferences and events

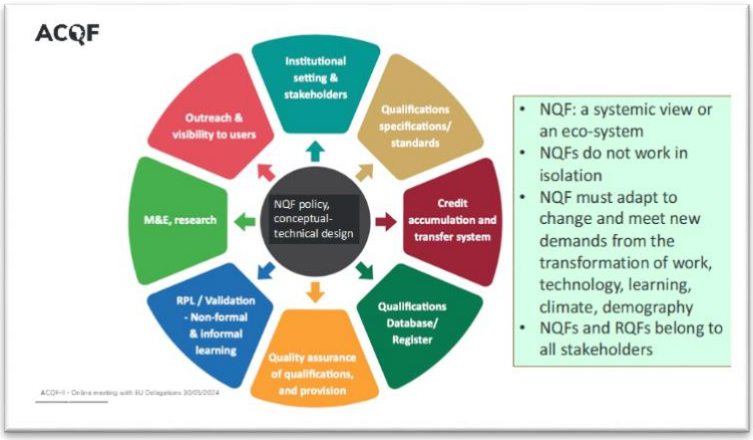
ACQF-II coordinator and experts were invited to numerous events promoted by governmental and non-governmental organisations in different countries and regions, to speak and share information on ACQF and the project activities. African Union Commission's (ESTI – Division for Education) staff also actively contribute to share and discuss ACQF information at regional and continental meetings and events. The list of ACQF-II presentations at main conferences and webinars provides an overview:

- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kinshasa: 4 days TVET Round Table, 10 to 14 November 2023, organised and funded by the government of the DRC. ACQF-II provided ample expertise support to the sessions, through elaboration of the concept note, thematic presentations, facilitation and drafting and consultation of the 17 Recommendations of the Round Table.
- AfriQAN annual conference, 25/11/2023, Dar-Es-Salam
- Uganda: hybrid workshop starting the process of NQF development: 14/12/2023
- Global Quality Assurance Association: 2 days webinars on ACQF themes. February 2024
- COMESA regional meeting: presentation on ACQF, by AUC representative. March 2024
- Kenya: RPL Conference, 22 March 2024, Nairobi. Invitation by KNQA
- Kenya: TVET Centenary celebration, 26 March 2024, Nyeri. Invitation by KNQA.

- Ghana: National Tertiary Education Conference 2024, 05-07 November. Invitation by GTEC. ACQF-II team (coordinator, expert) presented the final drafts of the Ghana Comprehensive NQF Policy Document and Ghana CATS).

Focus 6: Output 2.1 – Cooperation on development and implementation of NQFs and related policies

The NQF is an eco-system and works together with policies and tools enabling lifelong learning: transparency, comparability, progression, social inclusion, mobility, employability.



ACQF-II supports 12 countries: NQF, RPL, CATS, Micro-credentials, QCP

ACQF **ACQF-II and country-specific work**

Country	Scope (ongoing, planned)	Micro-credentials specific (ongoing, planned)
Angola	NQF implementation, NQF Register, CATS, RPL; QCP	Micro-credentials policy, practice; QCP
RD Congo	NQF concept; NQF development planning; NQF Authority – inputs on organisation; QCP	Micro-credentials in NQF; QCP
Eswatini	RPL Policy; QCP	QCP
Ghana	Eco-system 3 Policies: Compreh. GhNQF + RPL + CATS: developed; advanced stakeholder consultation; QCP	Micro-credentials in NQF; QCP
Guiné-Bissau	NQF Concept; NQF Policy document approved. QCP	Micro-credentials in NQF; QCP
Mozambique	NQF M&E; NQF capacity development; QCP	QCP
Senegal	NQF Concept Document - in consultation. QCP	Micro-credentials in NQF; QCP
Sierra Leone	NQF Cap dev; RPL, CATS Policy; QCP	Micro-credentials in NQF; QCP
Seychelles	SNCATS Policy and Guidelines – completed; Micro-credentials; QCP	Micro-credentials: syrvey and analysis; QCP
Somalia	Eco-system: NQF-RPL-CATS – to start development	Micro-credentials in NQF; QCP
Zambia	NQF review – in planning	QCP
Zimbabwe	QCP	QCP

Focus 7: Output 2.1 – Developments and dialogue on micro-credentials

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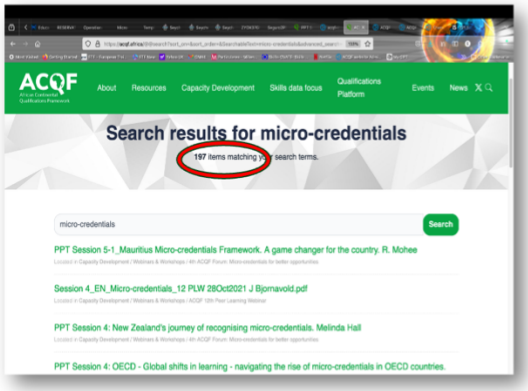
Micro-credentials activities 2024

Micro-credentials Survey and analysis: published.



New Handbook on Microdentials validated – comments gathered via a survey and working groups discussion at 4th Forum, 13-14/Nov

Continental Micro-credentials Forum (13-14/Nov in Seychelles)

Micro-credentials in NQF development – with countries: Angola, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Seychelles.

Micro-credentials survey – Seychelles. Report published, validated by SQA. Roadmap for further developments: policy and implementation.

Micro-credentials capacity development activities – workshops national and continental.

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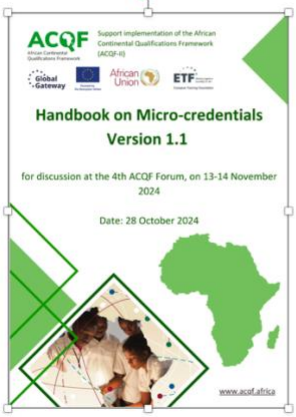
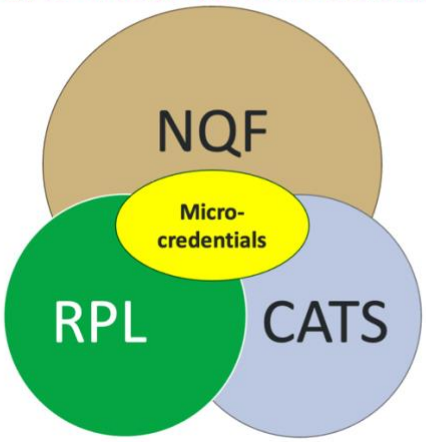
NQF-RPL-CATS-Microcredentials





Page 13

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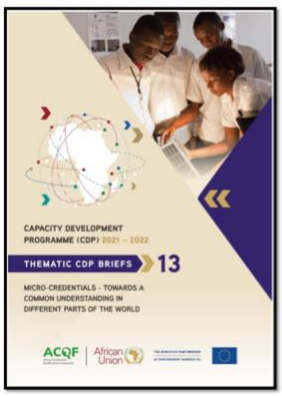
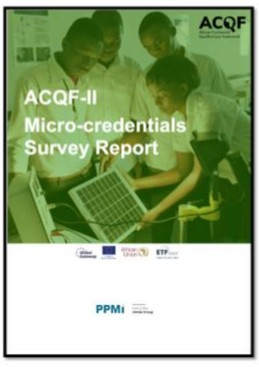
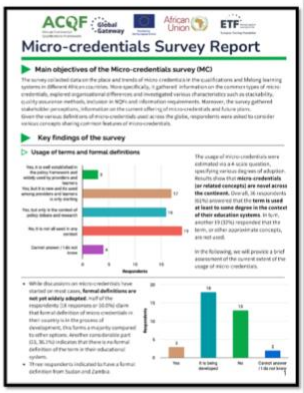
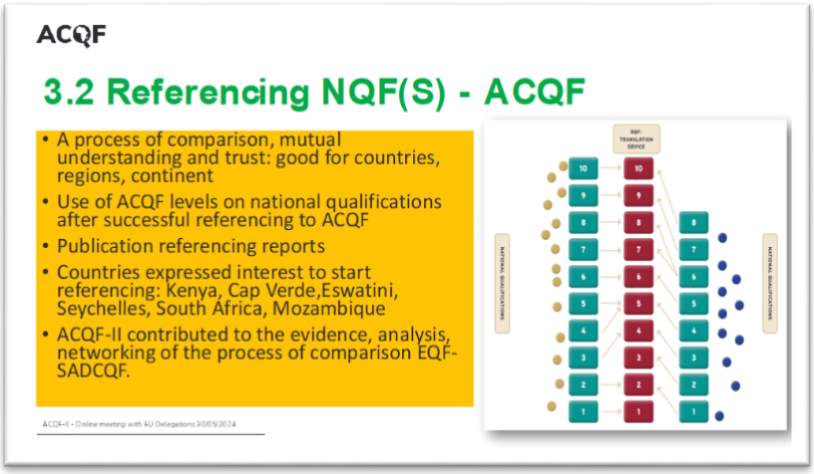
Continental: Research, analysis, dissemination



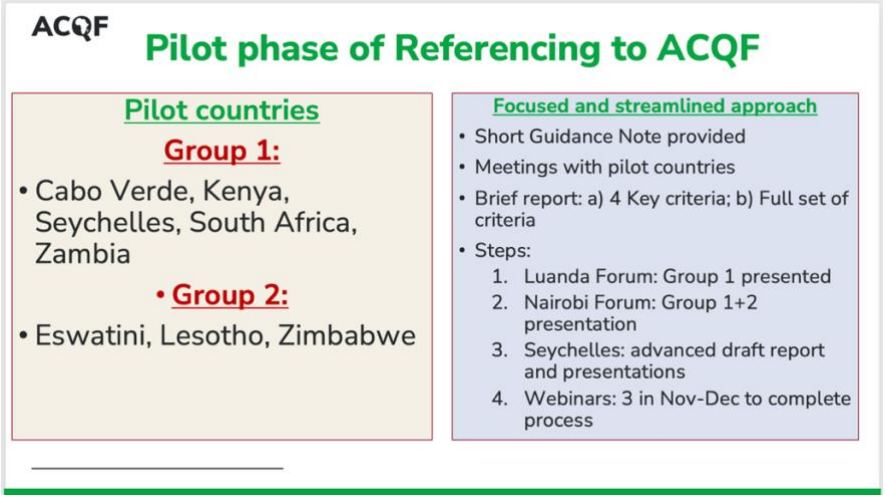




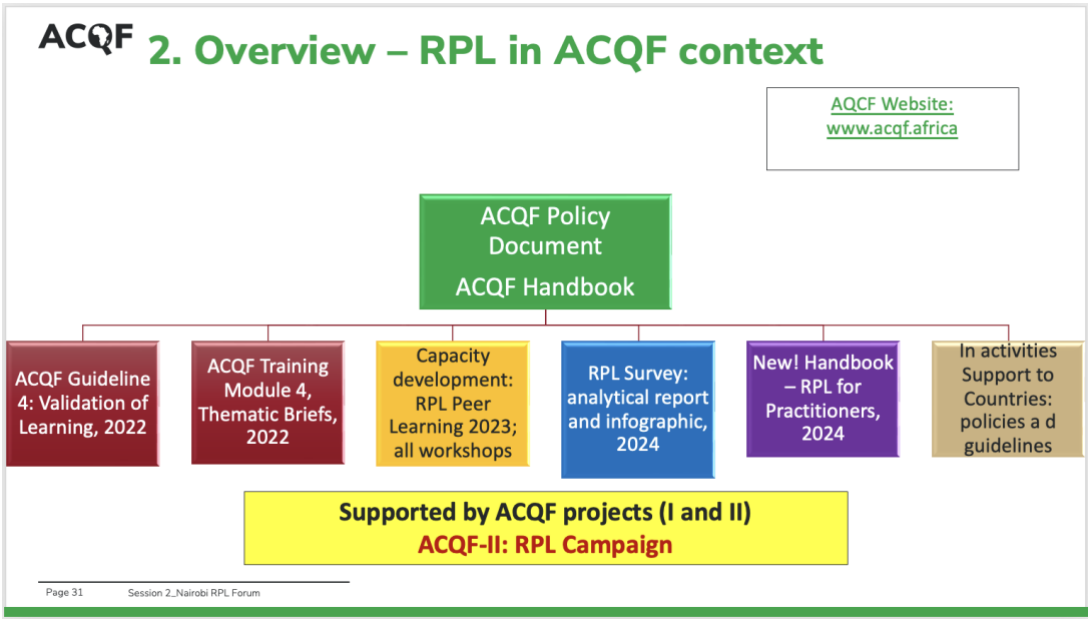
Focus 8: Referencing NQF to ACQF and other comparisons between qualifications frameworks

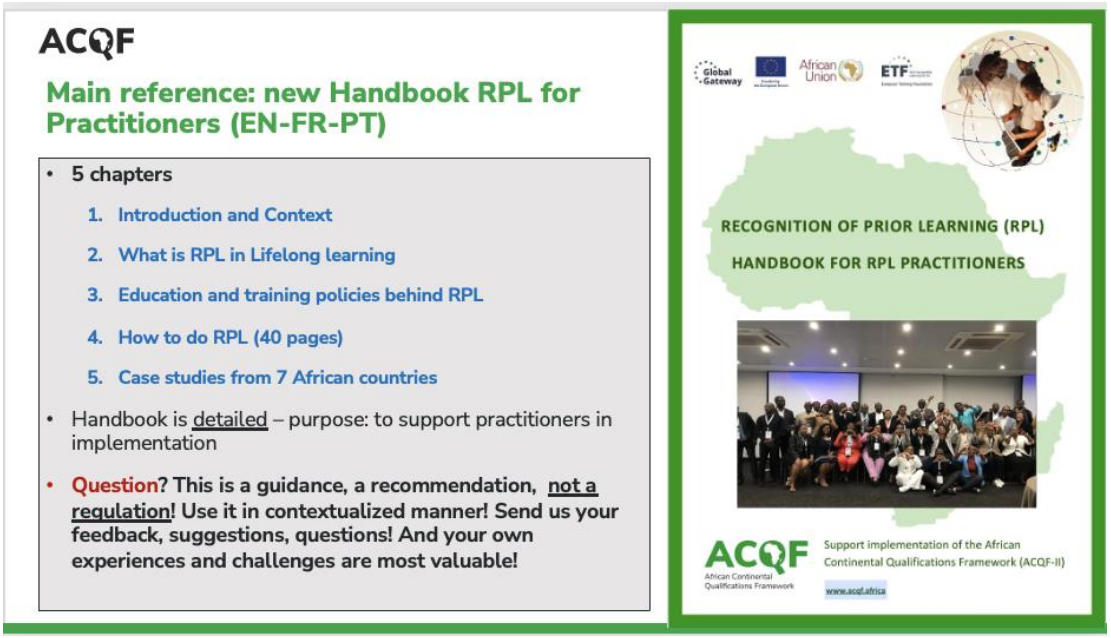


Pilot Referencing started!



Focus 9: RPL Campaign

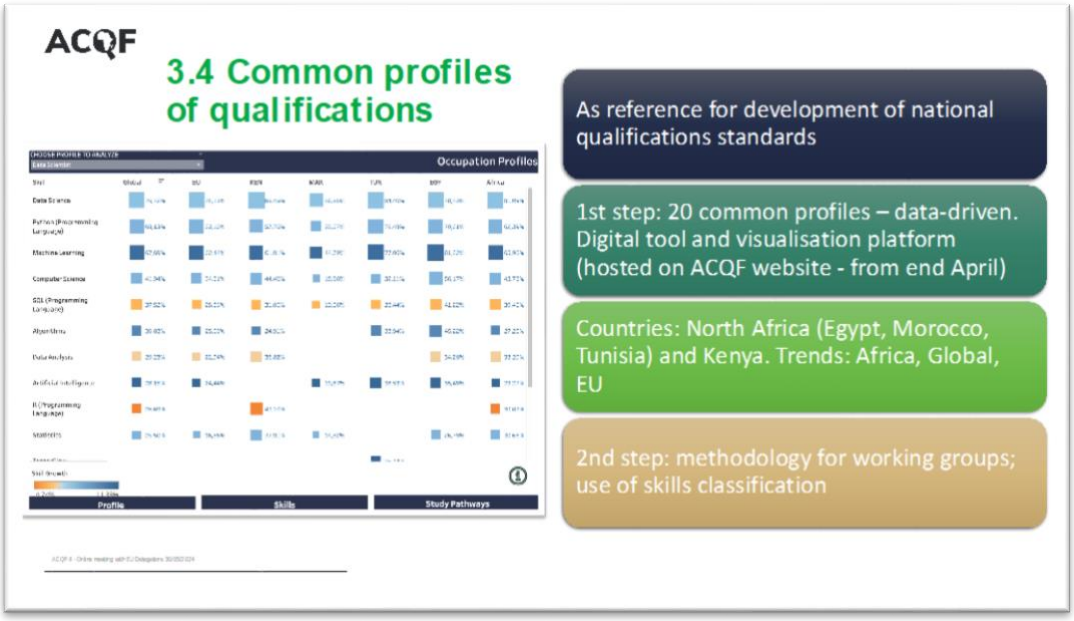




RPL COUNTRY WORK

COUNTRY	ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS
ANGOLA	RPL-CATS: provided technical notes – INQ drafted the legal basis. RPL: in approval process
ESWATINI	RPL Policy Document: finalised; stakeholder consultation done; in approval process
GHANA	NQF-RPL-CATS: 3 Policy Documents completed; presented and consulted with stakeholders; in approval process
SIERRA LEONE	RPL-CATS: Policy documents - process started in October.
SOMALIA	NQF-RPL-CATS: process started. Draft 1: 15/Dec 2024

Focus 10: Common profiles of occupations – qualifications



Focus 11: Qualifications and Credentials Platform

ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP)

https://acqf.africa/qualifications-platform

Dedicated webpage on ACQF website: leaflet, all reports, training units, presentations.

The ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP) is a major component of the ACQF as a policy instrument for African qualifications. This comprehensive system of databases aligns with the objectives of the African Union and its member states, contributing to modernize and digitalise management of qualifications at national level, and share information at continental level.

The QCP is being designed to process, classify, compare, and visualise information on various qualifications across education and training sectors. It will consist of interconnected databases, offering at minimum tools for analysis, classification, and visualisation.

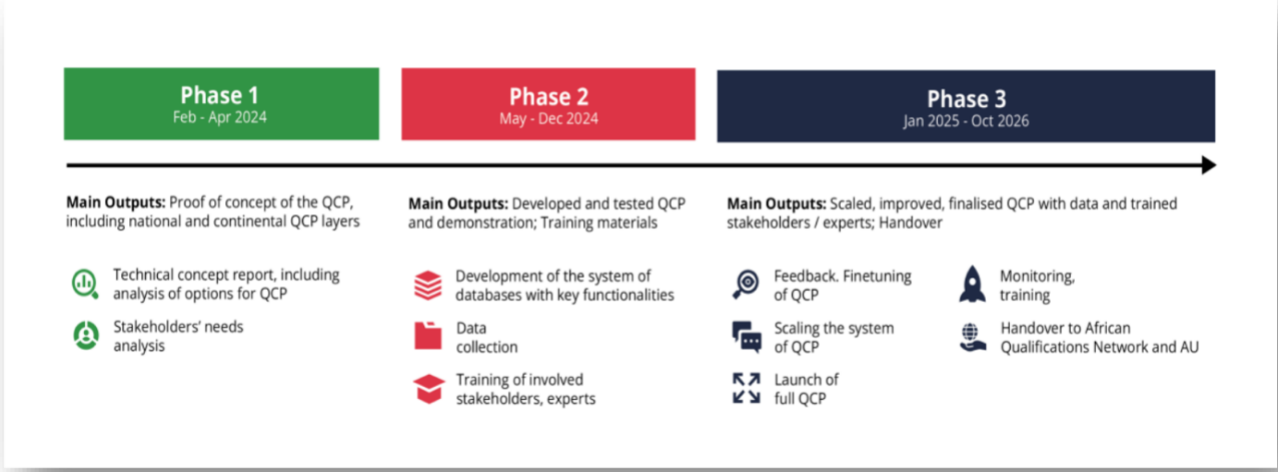
QCP is a system of databases at 2 levels: national (managed by the national qualifications authorities) and continental (interoperability. Software architecture and Data Model build on international good practice, notably the EUROPASS, but contextualised and streamlined.

In December 2024 the first version of the QCP will be ready for demonstration and start of data collection.

Training and capacity development of the involved countries:

- QCP Steering Group: ACQF-II coordination, AUC, Technical consortium, countries
- QCP Contact Persons nominated by countries: to implement the QCP at national level, disseminate information, support interoperability.
- 6 main training sessions in 2024: 4 were delivered.
- Next training: for QCF Contact Persons: visit website.
- Data collection training and start of activities.

Plan of QCP development and implementation



Focus 12: Sustainability – African Qualifications Network

From ACQF-II project Implementation Plan (annex I)

- **Outcome 3. – Output 3.1 (Governance and QCP)**

Output 3.1: ACQF governance partnership and operational setting established to implement and monitor the ACQF Action Plan (2022-2026).

- A) Governance and implementation setting
  - **Activity 3**: Support establishment of the Network of NQF Agencies with legal entity.
  - **Indicators:** I3. Package of establishment documents for registration of the Network of NQF Agencies. Q1-Q2 2024.

Theme 2 ACQF: Policy overview, activities, tools

African Qualifications Network

- **Objective: sustainability of the implementation and further development of the ACQF**
- **Scope:**
  - ACQF Policy Document, notably:
    - ✓Purposes, principles
    - ✓Main areas of activity of ACQF
    - ✓Inclusiveness, participation – all countries, institutions of regional economic communities, other national, regional and wider organisations
  - Other areas relevant for ACQF
- **Governance:**
  - Advisory Group – chair and co-chairs
  - Technical groups (clusters) – with chairs and contributors
  - Political support and participation of AUC at key instances – Memorandum
  - Monitoring an evaluation: regular reporting, annual plans
- **Funding:**
  - ACQF-II project: technical expertise, QCP, events, training, pilot projects
  - Contributions countries and regions: in kind, financial, technical
- **Name of Network:** important to distinguish and provide visibility.

Theme 2 ACQF: Policy overview, activities, tools

Technical Clusters – an option (example)

- Cluster 1: Referencing to ACQF
- Cluster 2: QCP
- Cluster 3: Development and implementation of NQF, RPL, CATS, other aspects of NQF eco-system
- Cluster 4: collaboration and sharing

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20 November 2024