

ARMENQA Project Newsletter

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Implementation of National and Sectorial Qualifications Frameworks in Armenia

ARMENQA - Implementation of National and Sectorial Qualifications Frameworks in Armenia is a three-year national project under the 6th Call for Proposals EACEA 35/2012 and Higher Education and Society, Structural Measures action. ARMENQA's wider objective is to enhance the employability of Armenian HEIs' graduates and facilitate the recognition of Armenian qualifications in the labor market nationally and internationally. The specific objectives of the project are the operationalization of the Armenian National Qualification Framework (ANQF) by creating and utilizing a set of methodological and legislative documents and tools, as well as the development of the national model and methodological basis for establishment of Sectorial Qualifications Frameworks (SQFs) in Armenia, etc. Involved partner countries' institutions are as follows:

Coordinators: *Linköping University/ Sweden*

Yerevan State University/ Armenia

Armenian State Pedagogical University after Khachatur Abovyan

Other partners:

Ghent University/ Belgium

Aarhus University/Denmark

National Qualifications Authority/ Romania

Hochschule Osnabrück, University of Applied Sciences/ Germany

Yerevan State University/ RA

Armenian National Agrarian University/ RA

Gyumri State Pedagogical Institute after M. Nalbandyan/ RA

Yerevan State Linguistic University after V. Brusov/ RA

Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction/ RA

Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University/RA

Gavar State University/ RA

The Ministry of Education and Science of the RA/ AM

National Information Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility / RA

National Center for Strategic Research in Higher Education/ RA

The Republican Union of Employers of Armenia/RA

Yerevan "European Students' Forum" Association/RA

WP1: Practical tools for implementing the National Qualifications Framework of Armenia

WP 2: Built on capacity of relevant stakeholders

WP 3: Sectorial Qualification Frameworks for 5 selected subject areas

WP 4: Implemented Qualifications Frameworks at Institutional Level (UGent-Belgium)

WP 5: Dissemination (YSU-Armenia)

WP 6: Quality Control and Monitoring (AU-Denmark)

WP 7: Sustainability (ASPU-Armenia)

WP 8: Project management (LiU-Sweden)

The meeting gathered around 20 representatives from partner countries to discuss issues of developing Armenian National and five sectorial qualifications frameworks on national and institutional levels. Moreover, the structure of the “ARMENQA” project, goals and objectives, the functions of the involved institutions, the project work packages, activities and schedule were presented and discussed.



During the meeting each partner had a short presentation of its institution, the role within the project and potential contribution to the project. Later, European partners introduced the Overarching Qualifications Frameworks of EHEA and European QF on LLL, shared their experience in implementation of QF at national and institutional levels. In the end of the meeting participants presented their suggestions and remarks on further activities, deadlines, deliverables and the suggested format for working.



Study Tour, 5–8 May 2014, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

During the 4-day study tour in Aarhus University the participants got familiar

with the Denmark education system, self-certification process and implementation of NQF, Danish approach to learning outcomes describing the endpoints of the knowledge, skills and competences, as well as the Danish Accreditation and Quality Assurance System.



The project EU partners presented the implementation of NQF in their respective countries, particularly self-certification process, implementation strategy and challenges/issues faced, as well as the implementation of SQF, etc.

Later Armenian partners discussed the Descriptors of Armenian NQF for higher education taking into account the remarks of the European Partners on this issue: the main problems were highlighted which paved the way for further actions related to the further steps on revision of ANQF.

In the end of the study-tour “ARMENQA” project’s next steps were introduced clarifying further details for the upcoming work within the work package 2, particularly formulated several working groups for the development of the necessary documentation, as well as the details for the upcoming workshop to be

held in June, in Yerevan.



Workshop, 24-25 June 2014 Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia

Yerevan State University hosted a two-day workshop on “Armenian National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (ANQF) and its Level Descriptors” gathering about 60 participants from Higher Education Institutions, Student Associations and Alumnus, Employers, etc. The aim of the Workshop was to raise the awareness of stakeholders on ANQF and “ARMENQA” project by sharing information, as well as to get their feedbacks on ANQF and its Level Descriptors for its further integration.



The project’s European and Armenian co-coordinators introduced the goals and objectives of the “ARMENQA” project and perspectives of ANQF with the eyes of

labor market’s needs. During the workshop two parallel group discussions were held: one was dedicated to discuss the ANQF 6th and 7th levels –Bachelor and Master, and the other one the ANQF 8th and 9th levels - Candidate of Science and Doctor of Science. At the end of the workshop suggestions and feedbacks from both discussions were collected and summed up by the facilitators.

Later only “ARMENQA” project’s partners and few stakeholders thoroughly discussed the first day’s results and feedbacks from the participants. Afterwards, the necessary amendments to the ANQF and its Descriptors were made and later the finalized version was introduced to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia for its final approval.

Work package 1 activities:

- 1.4.1 Establishment of a work group to create basis for ANQF implementation
- 1.4.2 Organization of study tour & information seminar for the WG to EU country
- 1.2.1 Procurement of necessary equipment for ANQF operationalization
- 1.3.1 Organization of workshop to get feedback on ANQF from stakeholders
- 1.4.3 Development of ANQF implementation strategy and plan with time scale & clear deliverables
- 1.5.1 Development of tools & transparent procedures for aligning and placing qualifications
- 1.5.2 Development of ANQF Implementation Manual for stakeholders
- 1.6.1 Preparing ANQF for self-certification against QF-EHEA & referencing to EQF-LLL
- 1.7.1 Creation of a consistent Glossary defining key terms, notions & concepts of the ANQF
- 1.7.2 Development of Guides & Kits for stakeholders to facilitate understanding of qualifications

1st Coordination Meeting and Information Seminar, 30-31 of October, 2014 Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Osnabrück, Germany

The 1st Coordination Meeting and Information Seminar of the “ARMENQA” project was aimed to introduce the progress and results of the project up to now, to introduce and coordinate the upcoming work on the project, to get familiar with the German Qualifications Frameworks, to provide a platform for discussions and exchange of ideas, etc.

During the meeting the general introduction into the German Qualifications Framework, its implications for German HE, allocation of qualifications in the framework, Quality Assurance System and German Sectorial Qualifications Frameworks were made.



Later 1st and 2nd work package activities (schedule, progress made, working groups, challenges etc.) were introduced by the Armenian Coordinators. The ARMENQA project’s website and logo was presented to the participants as well.

Later the organisational and contextual issues were discussed regarding the preparation for the upcoming trainings in

Sweden (Formulation and writing of LO-based qualifications/level descriptors) and sector-specific trainings with their schedules in Yerevan in five sectors (Law, Physics, Education, Civil Engineering and Agriculture).

Also the key strategic goals and objectives of the Implementation Strategy of the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Armenia during 2015-2020 were introduced.

Twinning Project, 17-19 March and 14-16 April, 2015 Yerevan, Armenian

In the framework of Twinning project “Carrying out a review of the current institutional arrangement for the development and support of the NQF”, which was organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA, also “ARMENQA” project members had the opportunity to participate in the discussions and arise some topics concerning ARMENQA project.



During 3-day discussions-meetings with international experts from Germany and Finland the following topics were touched: the current stage of development of Armenian National Qualifications Frameworks, self- certification process,

