

# Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

## A view from a National Authority.

Brussels, December 2008

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Malta Qualifications Council



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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

1. A FRAMEWORK IS A CLASSIFICATION DEVICE.
2. A FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS IS NOT A SYSTEM OF QUALIFICATIONS.
3. IT IS THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF QUALIFICATIONS THAT MUST FIT INTO A NATIONAL and SECTORAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS AND INTO AN EQF

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

### POLITICAL MANDATE LISBON 2000

The EU aims to become *the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustaining economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.*

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

In educational terms:

- Knowledge-based economy = education as a priority in national policy
- Economic growth = political stability
- More and better jobs = early visibility of labour market
- Social cohesion = value all learning

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

Implications for qualifications.

- **ALL** Qualifications must have a **clear currency** in the labour market
- Systems of accreditation, evaluation, recognition of qualifications and training institutions must be **transparent** and accessible to all electronically.
- **Everyone** is entitled to access some form of qualification!

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

THE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **KNOWLEDGE** described as theoretical and factual
- **SKILLS** described as cognitive and practical
- **COMPETENCES** described as autonomy and responsibility.

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

### WHY AN EQF?

- To value all learning;
- To dismantle artificial barriers created by bureaucracy and excessive legal contexts governing qualifications;
- To encourage transparency, transferability and progression (TTP).

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

- A **QUALIFICATION** is achieved when a **competent body determines** that an individual's learning has reached a specified **standard** of knowledge, skills and wider competences. This is verified through an **assessment** process or the successful completion of a course, programme of study or workplace experience.

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

### The main elements of the EQF:

- **NATIONAL AND SECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS**
- **RPL**
- **DIPLOMA & CERTIFICATE SUPPLEMENT**
- **KEY COMPETENCES**
- **CREDIT TRANSFER**

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

The EQF describes every level of qualification by the **EXIT POINT** of knowledge, skills and competence.

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

THE EQF OFFERS A COMMON REFERENCE POINT FOR SECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS (8.3)

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

Maastricht 2004: the EQF  
“...should facilitate the voluntary development of **competence based solutions** at the European level enabling sectors to address the new education and training challenges caused by the internationalization of trade and technology.”

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

## SECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EQF.

1. FOCUS ON OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCE BASED APPROACH
2. QUALITY ASSURANCE
3. SPECIFIC ACCREDITATION CRITERIA
4. PARITY OF ESTEEM

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## EQF and Sectoral Qualifications

**INVITE SECTORS TO LINK  
SECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS  
TO EQF/NQF**

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

**Sectoral Qualifications must be  
maintained through  
Sector Skills Authorities  
and  
Competence/Occupational  
Standards.**

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

In conclusion:

Sectors have a central role to play in the EQF that of ensuring that **every individual's bag of knowledge, skills and competences** is valued and based on the principles of

- Transparency
- Transferability
- Progression:
- Employability

**A framework that should fit ALL!**

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Do sectors have a role in the EQF?

**Thank you for your attention**

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