

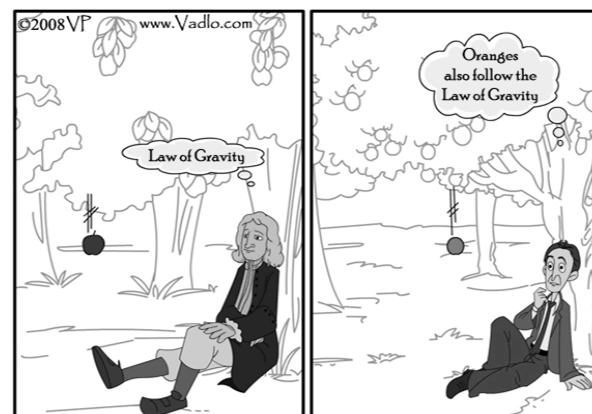
The European Qualifications Framework

EQF

May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

1



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

2

Overview of this Presentation

- **Purpose** and functions of the EQF
- The EQF: Some **Facts**
- EU **Recommendations**
- EQF **Benefits**
- **Implementation**
- Role of **National Qualification Frameworks**
- Processes for **cross-referencing** to the EQF
- **Consulting** on the findings



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

3

EQF : Purpose

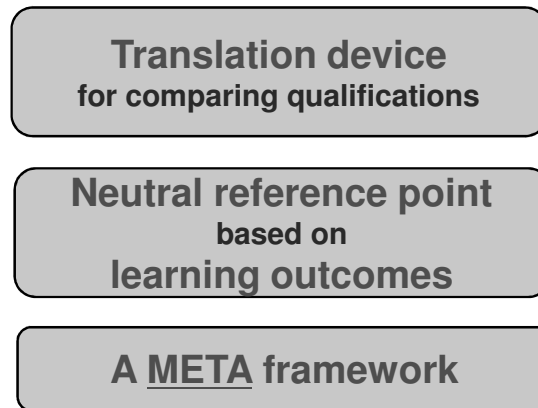
- The **EQF** for lifelong learning is a **common European reference framework** which enables European countries to **link** their **qualifications systems** to one another
- It is a **translation device** making qualifications more **readable** and **understandable** across **different countries** and systems in **Europe**
- This will help all **learners** (*students*) and **workers** wishing to **move** between countries, and to **change** jobs or to move between **educational institutions**
- **contribute** to creating a European **workforce** that is **mobile** and **flexible**.

May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

4

Functions of the EQF

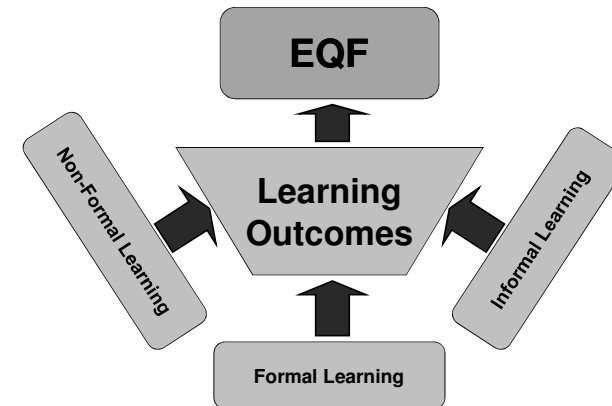


May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

5

Focus on Learning Outcomes

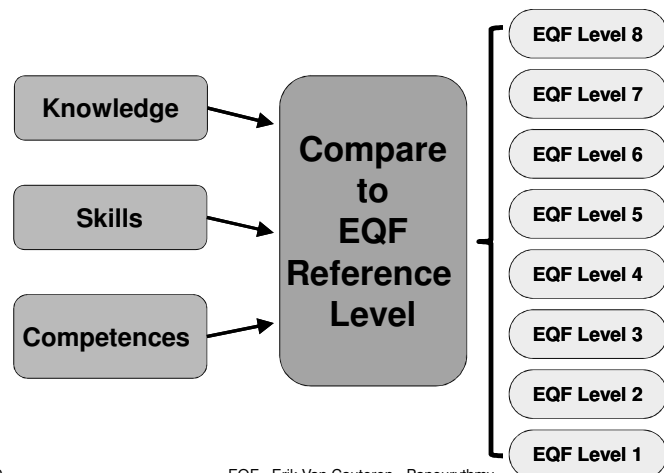


May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

6

The Eight EQF Levels



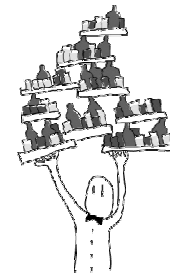
May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

7

EQF concepts

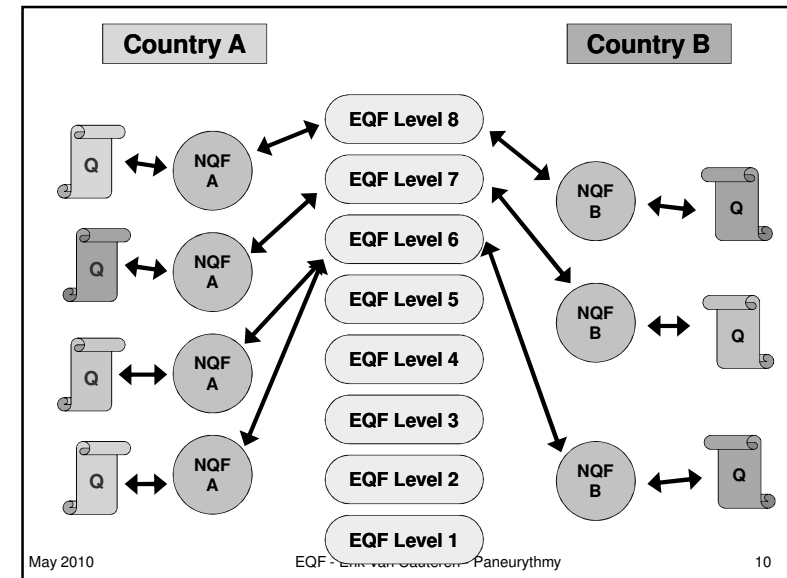
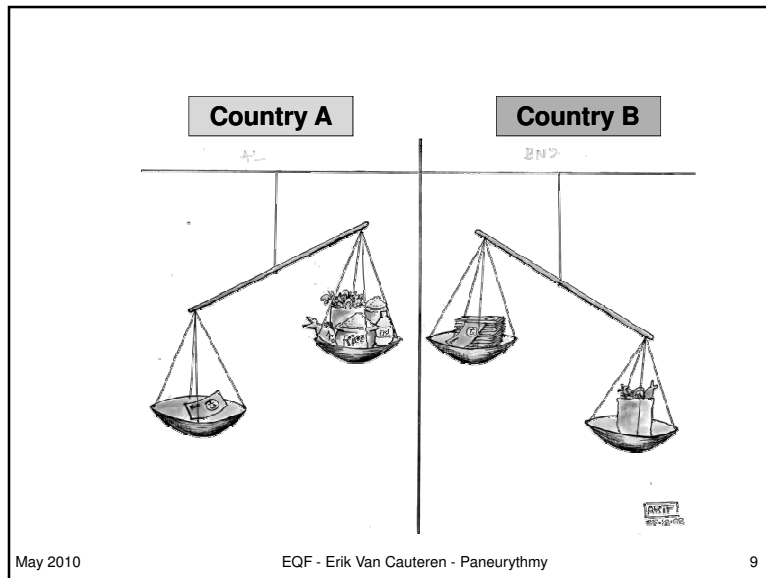
- **Knowledge** is theoretical or factual
- **Skills** are cognitive and/or practical
- **Competence** is about responsibility and autonomy
- Each level assumes learning at the lower levels
- Each new higher level introduces a new dimension of learning



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

8



The EQF: Some Facts

- It does **not** replace existing national qualifications systems or require them to be adjusted in any way
- EQF is **not** about **harmonisation**
- Implementation of the EQF is a completely **voluntary** process
- The EQF has **no** regulatory function
- It is **not** the intention that individual qualifications be referenced to the EQF; it is intended that the levels of a **National Qualifications Framework** will be referenced to the levels of the EQF.



EU Recommendations (1)

Governments can **sign up** the establishment of the EQF for lifelong learning. The **recommendation** proposes that member states:

- **Relate** their **National Qualifications Systems** to the EQF by **2010**, in particular by **referencing**, in a **transparent** manner, their National Qualification Levels to the levels of the EQF
- **Adopt** measures, as appropriate, so that, by **2012**, all **new** qualification **certificates**, **diplomas** and **'Europass'** documents issued by the **competent** authorities contain a **clear reference**, by way of National Qualifications Systems, to the appropriate EQF level

EU Recommendations (2)

Member States should:

- **Use** an approach based on **learning outcomes** (*knowledge, skills, competences*) when defining and describing qualifications
- **Promote** the validation of **non-formal** and **informal** learning
- **Promote** and apply the principles of **quality** assurance in education and training set out in EQF
- **Designate National Qualification Frameworks** to support /guide the **relationship** between NQF and the EQF with a view to promoting the quality and transparency of that relationship.

May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

13

EQF: General Benefits

- EQF Supports **recognition** of learning and qualifications across European countries
- **Common understanding** will **help** to increase the international recognition of the learning and the qualifications completed
- **Once** systems and national qualifications frameworks have been related to the EQF, **individuals, employers and education and training providers** will be in a better position to **compare** achievements represented by **individual** qualifications from different countries and their education and training systems !

May 2010

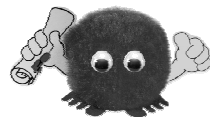
EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

14

EQF: Benefits for Individuals

For **individuals**, it is hoped that the EQF will:

- make it **easier** to describe their broad level of **competence** to recruiters in **other countries**
- make it **simpler** to read across from one qualification system to another, e.g. when looking for **further** education and training opportunities !



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

15

EQF: Benefits for Employers

For **employers**, it is hoped that the EQF will:

- make it **easier** to make the **interpretation** of the qualifications of applicants from other countries
- **support** labour market **mobility** in Europe by simplifying comparisons between qualifications and enabling a better **match** between supply and demand for knowledge, skills and competences



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

16

Role of an NQS *(National Qualification Structure)*

- **Referencing** different levels within the National Qualifications Frameworks to the European Qualifications Framework levels
- **Ensuring** that the **methodology** used to refer national qualifications framework levels to the EQF is **transparent** and that the resulting decisions are **published**
- **Providing** guidance to stakeholders on how national qualifications **relate** to the EQF through the NQF, and
- **Encouraging** the participation of all relevant national stakeholders on the comparison and use of qualifications at the European level.

May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

17

How the EQF is being implemented

Each **NQS** will **report** on how, in their own country, it has **met** ;

- the **criteria** and **processes** for
- **referencing** to the **EQF** as set out by the **European Commission**



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

18

Trusting the findings

Each NQS must go through a series of **processes** to ensure **transparent** and **robust cross-referencing** of national framework levels to levels of the EQF.

They have **included**:

- the **establishment** of a steering group of stakeholders and experts to advise on and oversee the tasks
- **Commissioning** independent consultants to undertake the cross-referencing
- the use of **multiple methods** in the cross-referencing to ensure reliable findings
- The **involvement** of international observers to provide externality to the process !

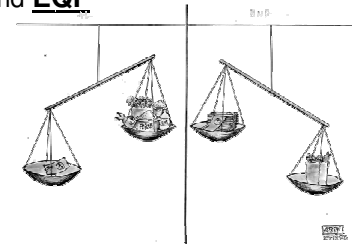
May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

19

Consulting on the findings

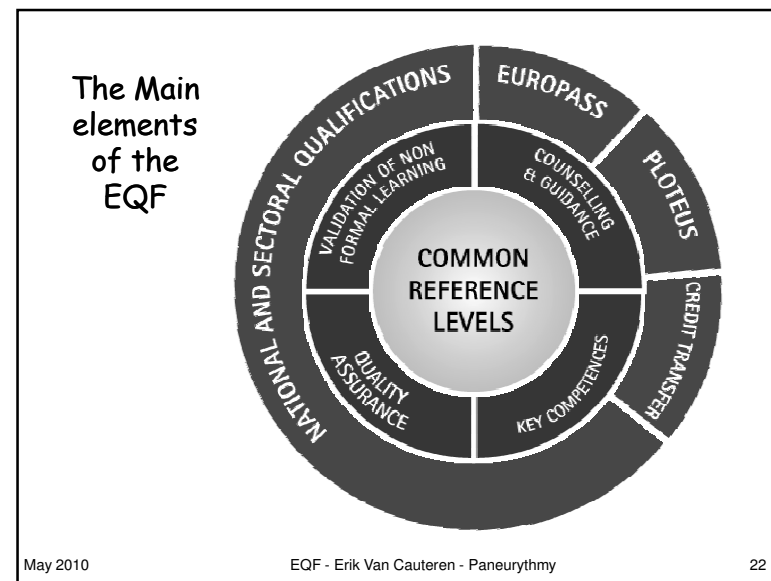
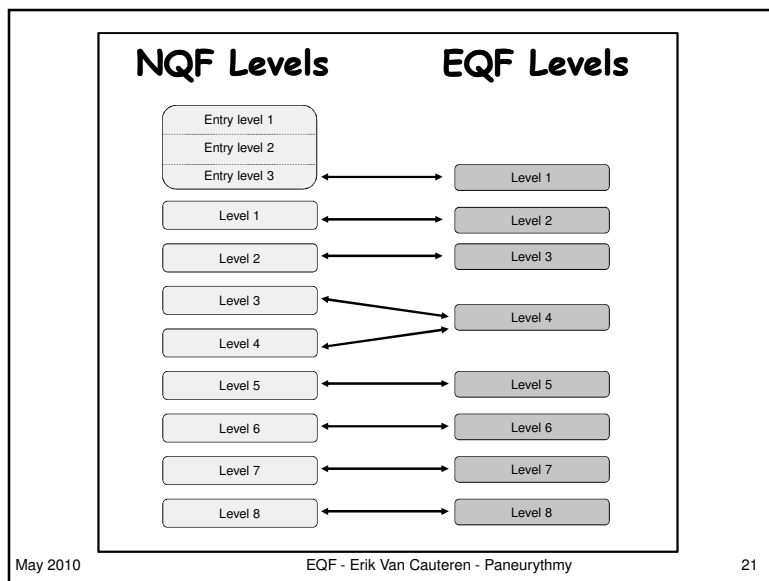
Each NQS will be **consulting** stakeholders on the **findings** of the **cross-referencing** between **national frameworks** and **EQF**
($\approx$ Accreditation)



May 2010

EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy

20



- **EQF :**
 - http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc44_en.htm
 - **Europass :**
 - <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>
 - **Ploteus :**
 - <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/home.jsp?language=en>
 - **ECTS :**
 - http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc48_en.htm
 - **Information :**
 - *Michel Feutry (EUCEN 2007) & Mike Coles (2006)*
- May 2010 EQF - Erik Van Cauteren - Paneurythmy 23

