

Session 19: Digital registers of qualifications

Digital Registers of qualifications are essential for transparency and information-sharing

Qualifications are a public good for the benefit of individuals, enterprises and the society.

Qualifications authorities, awarding bodies, education and training institutions shall all contribute to systematise and deliver updated and reliable information on all qualifications in readable and digital format, secured and accessible for the public.



Speaker: Eduarda Castel-Branco

Qualifications registers, databases: a key component of NQF-NQS

Qualifications registers, databases: added-value

Trends and developments

Functions and services of online qualifications registers

Final notes

Main topics



The image is a promotional graphic for ACQF Training Module 6. It features a globe with a map of Africa in the center, surrounded by colorful lines and arrows. Below the globe, a banner reads "DEVELOPING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (ACQF)". The main part of the image shows four people (three men and one woman) in white shirts looking at a laptop. At the bottom, there is a green banner with "TRAINING MODULE SIX" and a large "06". Below that, it says "REGISTRATION AND DATABASES OF QUALIFICATIONS". At the very bottom, there are logos for ACQF, African Union, and The Africa-EU Partnership.

DEVELOPING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (ACQF)

TRAINING MODULE SIX 06

REGISTRATION AND DATABASES OF QUALIFICATIONS

ACQF African Continental Qualifications Framework

African Union

THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

- ACQF Training Module 6:
Registers of qualifications

Available from:

<https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules/training-modules-1-to-10-english/training-module-6-registers-databases-of-qualifications>

01

Qualifications management and information-sharing

Registers, répertoires, catálogos

– a key component of the NQF-NQS

Training Module and Guideline 6: learn more...

DEVELOPING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (ACQF)

TRAINING MODULE SIX **06**

REGISTRATION AND DATABASES OF QUALIFICATIONS

ACQF African Continental Qualifications Framework | African Union | THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

DEVELOPPEMENT DU CADRE CONTINENTAL AFRICAIN DES CERTIFICATIONS (ACQF)

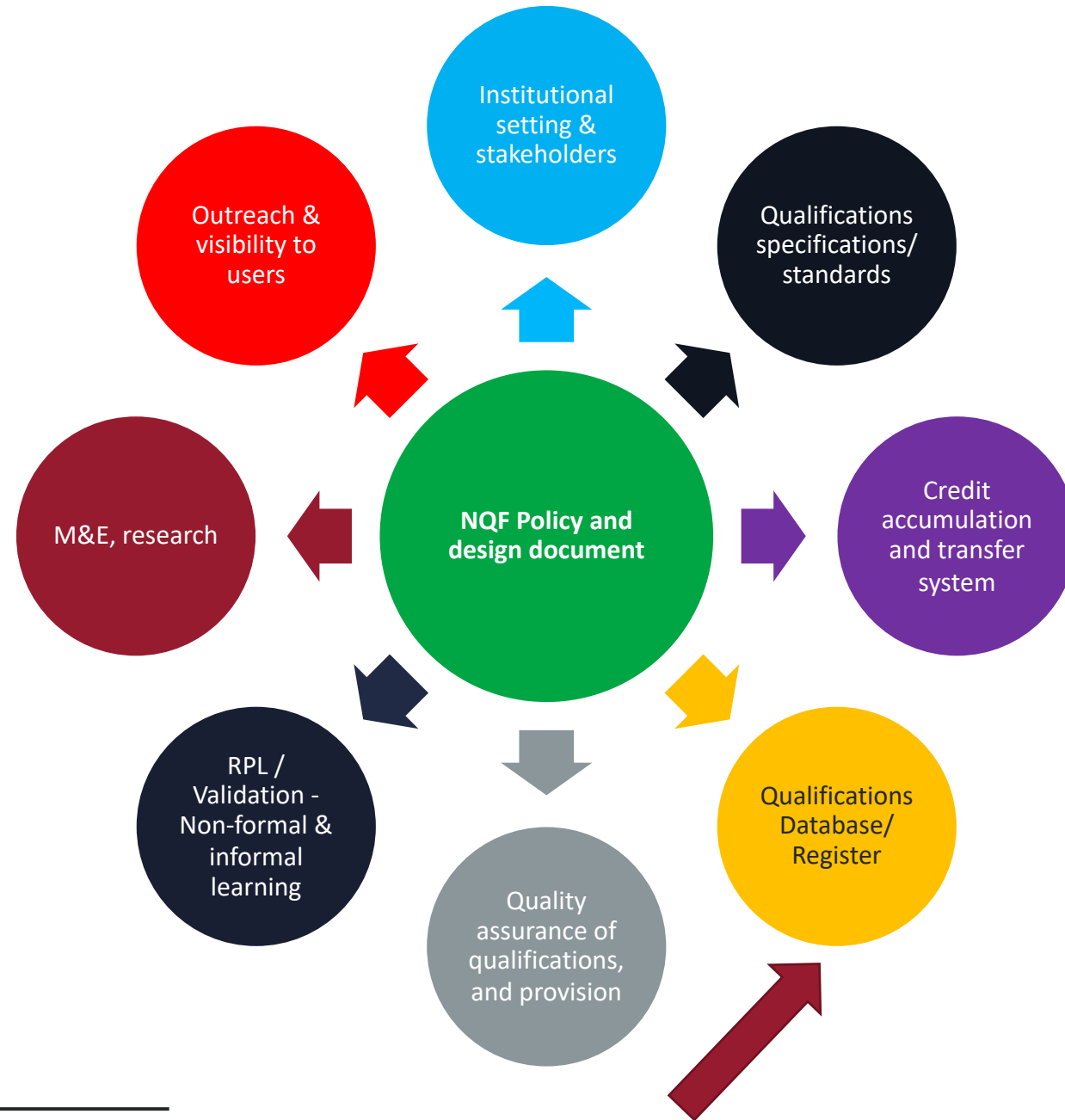
GUIDE 06

Enregistrement et bases de données de certifications

ACQF African Continental Qualifications Framework | African Union | THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

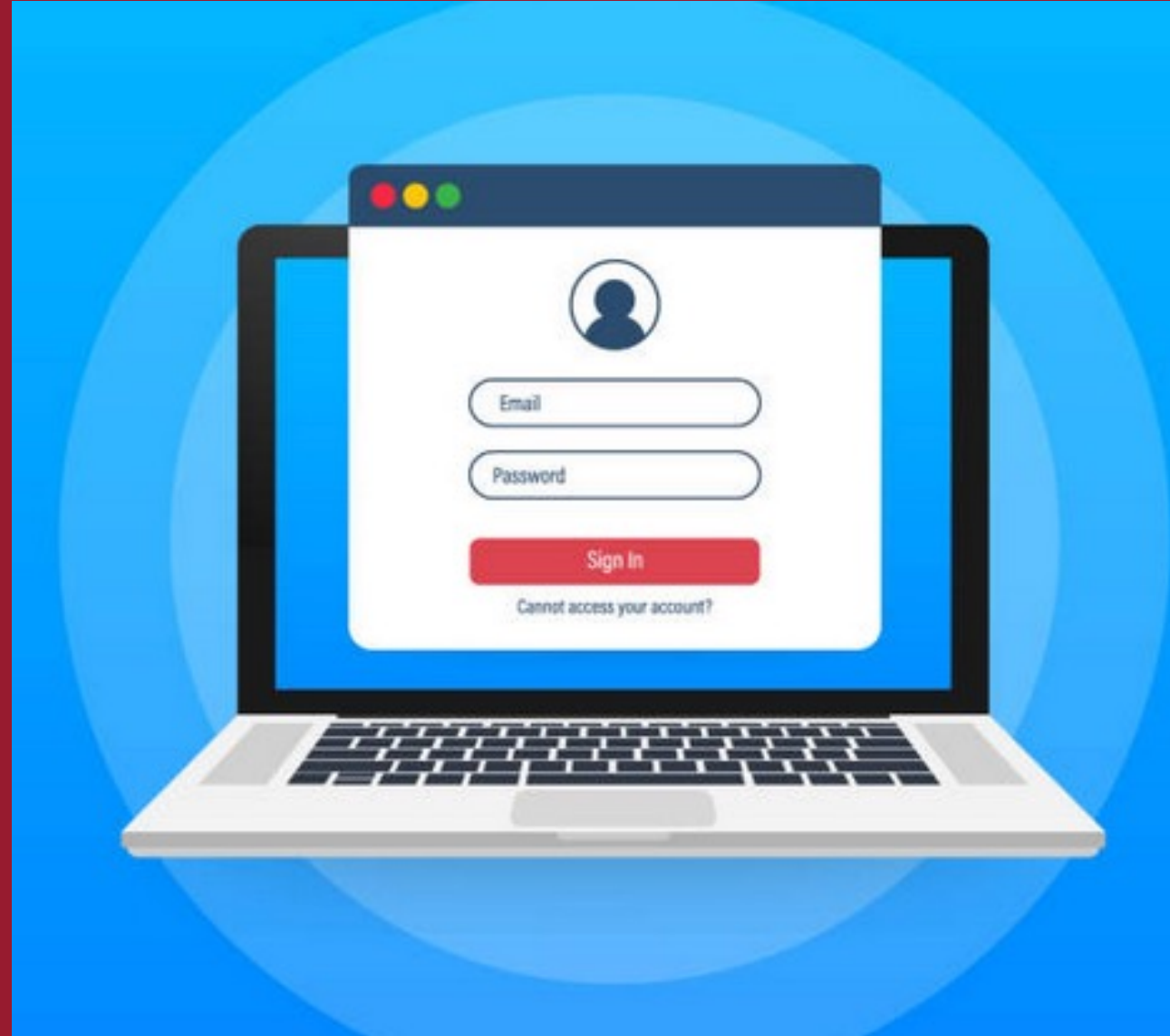
<https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules>

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



02

Registers, catalogues
and qualifications
databases: added-
value, advantages



What courses and qualifications do we have and do we need? How can I find this information?

- ✓ What courses and qualifications do we have in the country (region) able to satisfy the demand for labour in emerging occupations in the sectors of agriculture, IT, energy, transport, manufacturing, healthcare...?
- ✓ What competences do learners acquire in course A or B?
- ✓ How can our construction companies quickly train and upskill their workers on skills for the greener construction? Can we compare the existing courses to select the most adequate for our needs?
- ✓ How many new qualifications have been registered in the last year?
- ✓ In which fields of education?
- ✓ Which existing qualifications need renewal and revision)?



Role of digital databases / registers of qualifications

- Databases / registers of qualifications are important instruments for **transparency** across the panorama of qualifications of different countries.
- The **quality, completeness and accessibility** to this information is an important service for the end-users (learners, training providers, employers, and workers) and policy makers and institutions.
- Databases / registers of qualifications also offer a view on the actual status of **implementation of NQFs**.
- The population has the right to know what courses and qualifications are available and quality-assured for easier study and career choices.



ACQF Benefits of online qualifications registers

Registration of qualifications is an important measure that enhances quality and regulation of qualifications.

It provides greater protection for the public and employers as key information required for recognition purposes is made available on the platform/database.

Benefits:

- Transparency of information on qualifications for different uses (comparison, career information for learners, study choices);
- Enhances quality and recognition of qualifications;
- Facilitates mobility of learners and workers from one country to another as well as across regions and continents;
- Protecting learners, employers and the public from misrepresented qualifications;
- Deepens integration and harmonisation of qualifications among states;
- Eases recognition and transfer of credits; and
- Facilitates for smooth verification and evaluation of qualifications.

What is the Qualifications Register / Répertoire / Catalogue?

- A process and tool for transparency, update and quality assurance of qualifications and the NQF.
- From country to country there is variation of the features of qualifications registers:
 - Procedures to place qualifications and credentials in registers
 - Data and content
 - Functions
 - Digital features, access



03

**Trends and
developments**

Trends and developments

SEARCH THE REGISTER OF REGISTERED QUALIFICATIONS **585** Qualifications

Download National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF) registered qualifications. Registered and accredited Education an Training Providers(ETPs) are encouraged to develop learning programmes, based on the registered qualifications, for accreditation in Botswana.

Please note that you may search the list of registered qualification by field of learning.

Search Qualification Title.

No.	Qualification Title	Qualification Type	Level	Field of Learning	Document
1	Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and Management (Q0001)	Post-Graduate Diploma	NCQF Level 8	Education and Training	Download
2	Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Management (Q0002)	Master's Degree	NCQF Level 9	Education and Training	Download
3	Bachelor of Commerce in Hospitality Management (Q0003)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Services	Download
4	Bachelor of Commerce in Financial Management (Q0004)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Business, Commerce and Management Studies	Download
5	Bachelor of Science in Computer Networking (Q0005)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Information & Communication Technology	Download
6	Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting (Q0006)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Business, Commerce and Management Studies	Download
7	Bachelor of Science in Mobile Computing (Q0007)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Information & Communication Technology	Download
8	Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing Management (Q0008)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Business, Commerce and Management Studies	Download
9	Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurship (Q0009)	Bachelor's Degree	NCQF Level 7	Business, Commerce and Management Studies	Download

<https://www.bqa.org.bw/qualifications/>
Botswana Qualifications Register

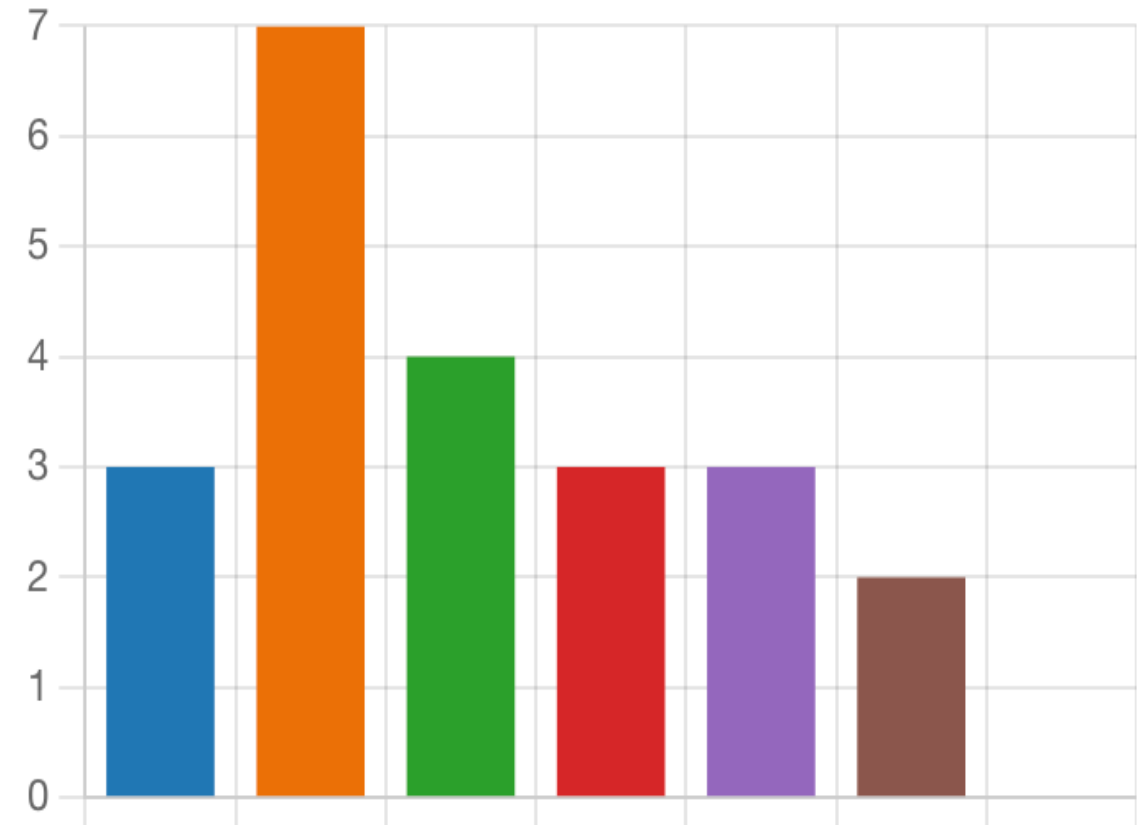
- In many countries around the world, authorities and departments managing qualifications at national level are taking steps to improve and modernise the tools, technology and methods used to structure, manage and visualise information and data on qualifications.
- For greater overall transparency of qualifications - efficient sharing of information between NQFs between continents and regions is crucial.
- **Minimum qualification information fields for electronic publication in digital databases – useful for comparability of qualifications between countries in a region.**

Results from ACQF survey on registers 1

32. State-of-play of database(s) / register(s) of qualifications in your country: please tick all that applies.

[More Details](#)

- Our database includes all qualifi... 3
- Our database includes only qual... 7
- We have different databases of ... 4
- We are developing new databas... 3
- Information from the qualificati... 3
- The qualifications database(s) is ... 2
- I don't know 0

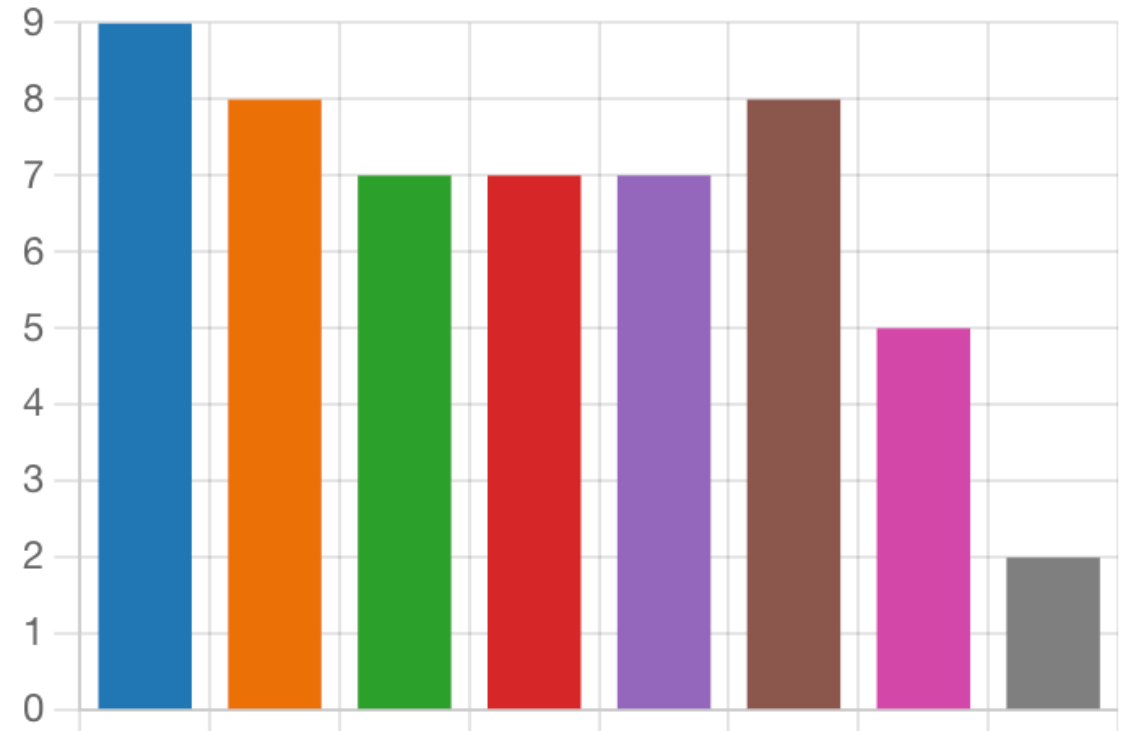


Results from ACQF survey on registers 2

33. What elements of data fields for electronic publication of qualifications does the database consist of. Please tick all that applies.

[More Details](#)

 Title of qualification	9
 Unique identifier code / number	8
 NQF level	7
 Learning outcomes	7
 Sector / classification	7
 Expiry date	8
 Information on quality assurance	5
 Other elements	2



Country	Register/database of qualifications	Number of Qualifications and levels included	Key features
Botswana	Botswana Qualifications Authority — Register of qualifications	585 full qualifications All levels of NCQF	The register is searchable by title of qualification (search by key word tool). Qualifications documents can be viewed and downloaded.
Mauritius	National Qualifications and Unit Standards Maintained and managed by MQA	167 qualifications distributed in 22 sectors. As of 21/03/2022: 98 qualifications are published, 67 under review. Including: qualifications of Levels 1 to 6 of NQF	The digital online database of National Qualifications and Unit Standards is attached as a repository of qualifications files in PDF format. Qualifications at all levels (1-6) are structured in unit standards — in learning outcomes. Harmonised format.
Mozambique	National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications Managed and maintained by ANEP	164 qualifications registered, at levels 2 to 5. 149 published in the online catalogue (21/03/2022) 19 independent modules	The digital online National Catalogue is attached as a repository of qualification files in PDF format. All qualifications — standard format, which include: general information, units of general competencies, units of vocational skills, training modules (general and vocational)
South Africa	SAQA: register of qualifications and part-qualifications Managed and maintained by SAQA	Large number of qualifications All NQF levels	The SAQA online register contains searchable dates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All qualifications and unit standards (no matter their status) Registered qualifications and unit standards (NQF qualifications) Qualifications and unit standards that have been passed their registration end date Professional Bodies and Professional Designations

Country	Register/database of qualifications	Qualifications included	Key features
Cape Verde	National Catalogue of Qualifications UC-SNQ	64 full qualifications (levels 2 to 5 of the NQF)	<p>The digital online Catalogue is attached as a repository of PDFs.</p> <p>All qualifications are structured based on a balanced format, including: professional profile, units of competence (learning outcomes and assessment criteria), training programme (modules) and training module in the real context of work.</p> <p>The qualifications in the Catalogue are distributed in 15 professional families. The Catalogue also includes a new Transversal Training Module of 3 units.</p>
Kenya	New: National Qualifications Information Management System (NAQIMS) Register of qualifications KNQA	1,262 registered qualifications	<p>NAQMIS is a system for automating processes, based on Blockchain technology to register: (a) qualifying institutions (qais), (b) qualifications and (c) learners' records.</p> <p>Managed and maintained by KNQA</p>

- New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) register, formerly known as the Sector Qualifications Register (SQR): designed to be the single, authoritative register of data for qualifications (including awards), programmes and components of programmes.
- The Development of the NZQF register is a key component of the Education Sector Digital Strategy programme of work, and of NZQA's Future State Portfolio. NZQA worked closely with both the Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministry of Education to build the NZQF Register and consider conditions for access, use, and management of this core education data.

Benefits

- removed the need to store qualification and programme information in separate systems across various education agencies
- provide tertiary education organisations and NZQA the opportunity to interact online during the quality assurance process, modernising the way qualifications are approved and updated, and streamlining the process
- enable the real-time publication of information relating to approved qualifications
- provide an adaptable, robust, reliable, cost-effective information system, which is easier to implement and maintain.



Qualification databases — online examples

Portugal

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Portuguese National Catalogue of Qualifications (CNQI). At the top, there are navigation menus for 'Qualificações de Dupla Certificação', 'Referencial Básico e Secundário (Adultos)', 'Percurso de curta e média duração', 'Competências Transversais', 'Conselhos Setoriais para a Qualificação', and 'Documentação'. The main content area features the CNQI logo and the text 'Catálogo Nacional de Qualificações'. Below this, three large teal boxes display statistics: 392 QUALIFICAÇÕES, 3700 UNIDADES DE COMPETÊNCIA, and 8537 UNIDADES DE FORMAÇÃO DE CURTA DURAÇÃO.

<https://catalogo.anqep.gov.pt/>

Netherlands

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Dutch National Qualifications Framework (NLQF) database. It features a search bar at the top right and four search filters: 'Level', 'Field', 'Owner', and 'Database'. Below the filters, there is a section titled 'NLQF Qualifications Database' with a brief description. To the right, there is a circular diagram titled 'CLASSIFICATION OF DUTCH QUALIFICATIONS IN THE NLQF AND EQF' showing the relationship between EQF levels (EQF 1-8) and NLQF levels (NLQF 1-8). The diagram is divided into 'FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS (REGULATED BY DUTCH MINISTRY OF OED)' and 'HIGH FORM & QUALIFICATIONS (NOT REGULATED BY DUTCH MINISTRY OF OED)'. A legend at the bottom explains the abbreviations used in the diagram.

<https://database.nlqf.nl/>

Malta Qualifications Database beta version

Detailed information about all programmes referenced to the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF)

Search

Advanced Search

Malta Qualification Database

The Malta Qualifications Database is a unique database that contains information on study programmes offered in Malta. Detailed information about each programme could be accessed through this database.

All accredited study programme from MQF level 1 until MQF level 8 can be found in this database. These include

<http://qualifications.ncfhe.gov.mt/#/dashboard>

SLOVENSKO OGRODJE KVALIFIKACIJ

SLO MENU

SQF Register

ISCED 2013 FIELD

All

ISCED 2013 SUBFIELD

All

<https://www.nok.si/en/sqf-register>

ACQF Credential Engine - US

Learn more about [Credential Engine](#) and how tools like the Finder help [illuminate paths to a better future](#).

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the ACQF logo and 'Credential Engine' text. Below the navigation, there's a main heading: 'Making ALL Credentials Transparent & Revealing the Marketplace of Credentials'. A large graphic on the right side features a stylized 'E' and a globe with binary code. The text 'The Credential Landscape Today' and 'Vast and Growing' is visible, along with a statistic: '967,734+ unique credentials in the U.S. alone. Read the report'.

This section is titled 'Overview and Navigation Tips' and provides introductory information for new users. It includes three buttons: 'Overview Page', 'Feedback Page', and 'About Credential Engine'. Below this is a section titled 'Who is Credential Finder for?' with a horizontal menu listing various user groups: Individuals, Credential Providers, Government Agencies, Application Developers, Skill and Competency Creators, Employers, and Quality Assurance Organizations. Three main categories are highlighted with icons: 'Job Seekers / Individuals', 'Credential Providers / Issuers', and 'Local, State, and Federal Government Agencies'.

This section is titled 'Reveal Reliable Information' and lists several categories of data available in the Credential Registry. Each category includes a brief description and an icon:

- Credential:** Degrees, certificates, badges, and more that show what an individual knows and can do.
- Learning Opportunities:** Formal opportunities that allow individuals to earn credentials or specific competencies and skills to advance their knowledge and job prospects.
- Assessments:** Activities that evaluate what an individual knows and can do as a result of a specific learning opportunity or a collection of them en route to earning a credential.
- Quality Assurance:** Processes that help ensure credentials, learning opportunities, and individual skills and competencies are trusted, valuable, reliable.
- Skills and Competencies:** Abilities that individuals can acquire and have the capacity to apply in the workplace and real-world situations.
- Pathways:** Direct connections between education opportunities, skills/competencies, and the workforce that help people find clear avenues to meet their needs.
- Transfer Value:** How well an individual credential, learning opportunity, or competency will relate to and apply in other skill development and/or career advancement opportunities.

This section is titled 'Discover Credentials. Explore Opportunities' and features a search interface. The search bar is set to 'Credentials' and 'All Locations'. Below the search bar, there's a section titled 'What's in the Registry?' with a grid of statistics:

1743 Organizations	40141 Credentials	930 Competency Frameworks	5864 Outcomes
9657 Learning Opportunities	630 Assessments	7 Pathways	43 Transfer Values
2 Collections			

04

Functions and services

Varying range of functions / tools in the examples



Overview of functionalities on the SQF portal

Check the comparability of different qualifications. Through the SQF you can also check which level is achieved by your education or qualification in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) or in the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).

[Video on Slovenia Qualifications register](https://youtu.be/Xjt1a0mYhjc)
<https://youtu.be/Xjt1a0mYhjc>

Accessible, systematised public publication of information on qualifications – more or less detail (**Botswana, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Mauritius, Portugal...**)

Benchmarking, comparison of qualifications: nationally, international (**Slovenia**)

Career orientation and progression – horizontal and vertical (**Slovenia**)

Understanding national qualifications framework / system (**NZQR, BQA Register, Portugal, Ireland**)

International cooperation, especially recognition of foreign qualifications (**Ireland...**)

Data analysis (SAQA, US Credential Engine)

Data fields for electronic publication of qualifications (ACQF proposal)

- Title of qualification
- Field of education and training (according to ISCED-2013, fields of education and training – ISCED-F 2013)
- Country code
- NQF level – ACQF level
- Awarding body or competent authority
- Description of the qualification: short statements on the learning outcomes – what the learner is expected to know, understand and be able to do
- Credit points/notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes (if available)
- Expiry date (if available)
- Link to qualifications database (if available)

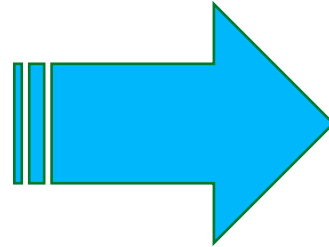
ISCED-F 2013, at: <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/isced-fields-of-education-and-training-2013-en.pdf>

05

Final notes

Qualifications registers

- Clarity and transparency
- Systematisation
- Digital
- Online
- Accessible
- Services for all users



Worth the investment

Thank you

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