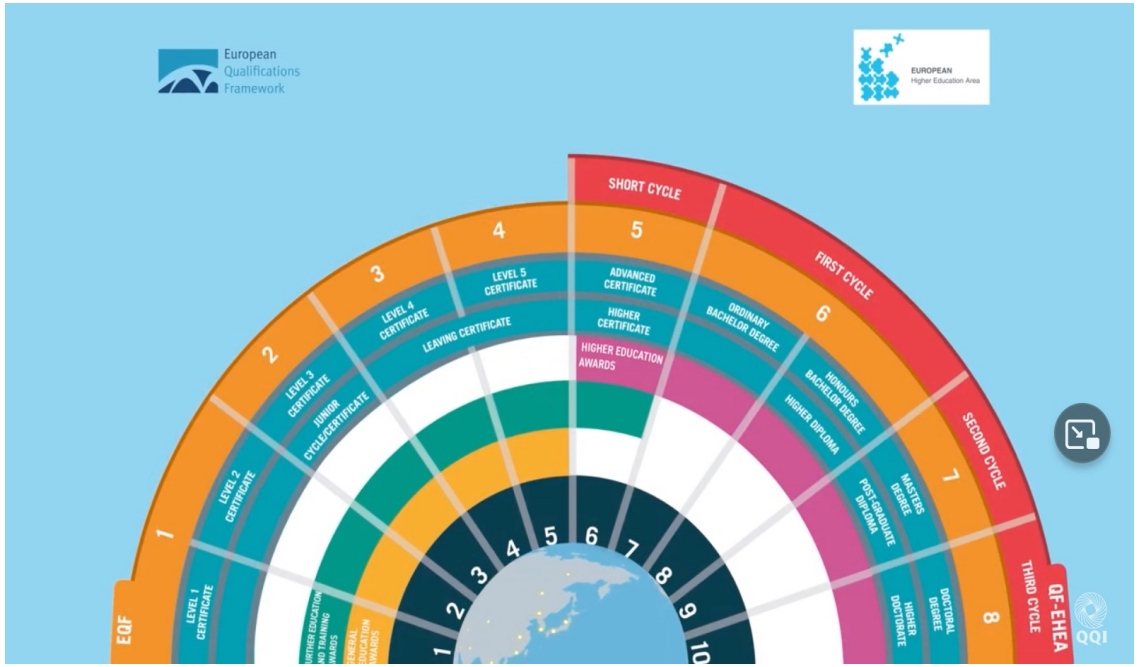
ACQF



ACQF

African Continental
Qualifications Framework

Session 19: Digital registers of qualifications

African Union

THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

This project is co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Supported by giz

ETF Working together Learning for life
European Training Foundation

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

Main topics

- 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

Learn more from...

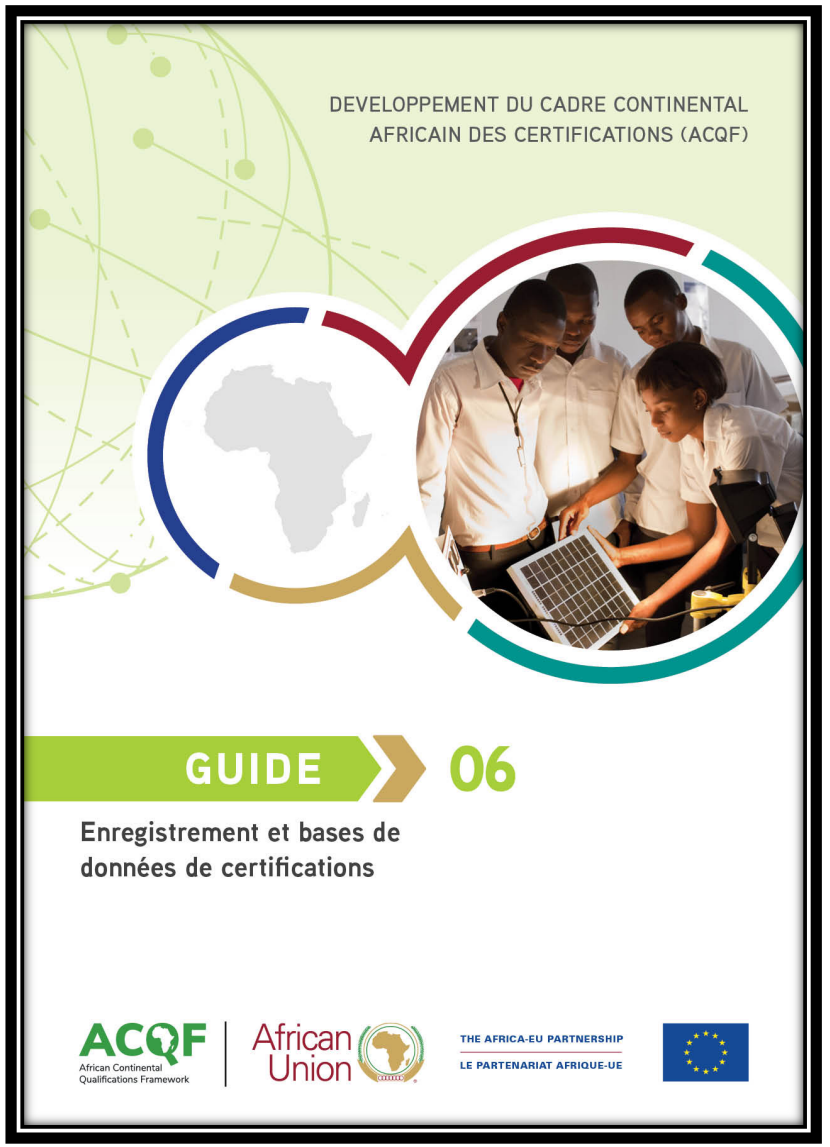
- **ACQF Training Module 6: Registers of qualifications**

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, répértoires, catálogos
– a key component of the NQF-NQS

Training Module and Guideline 6: learn more...



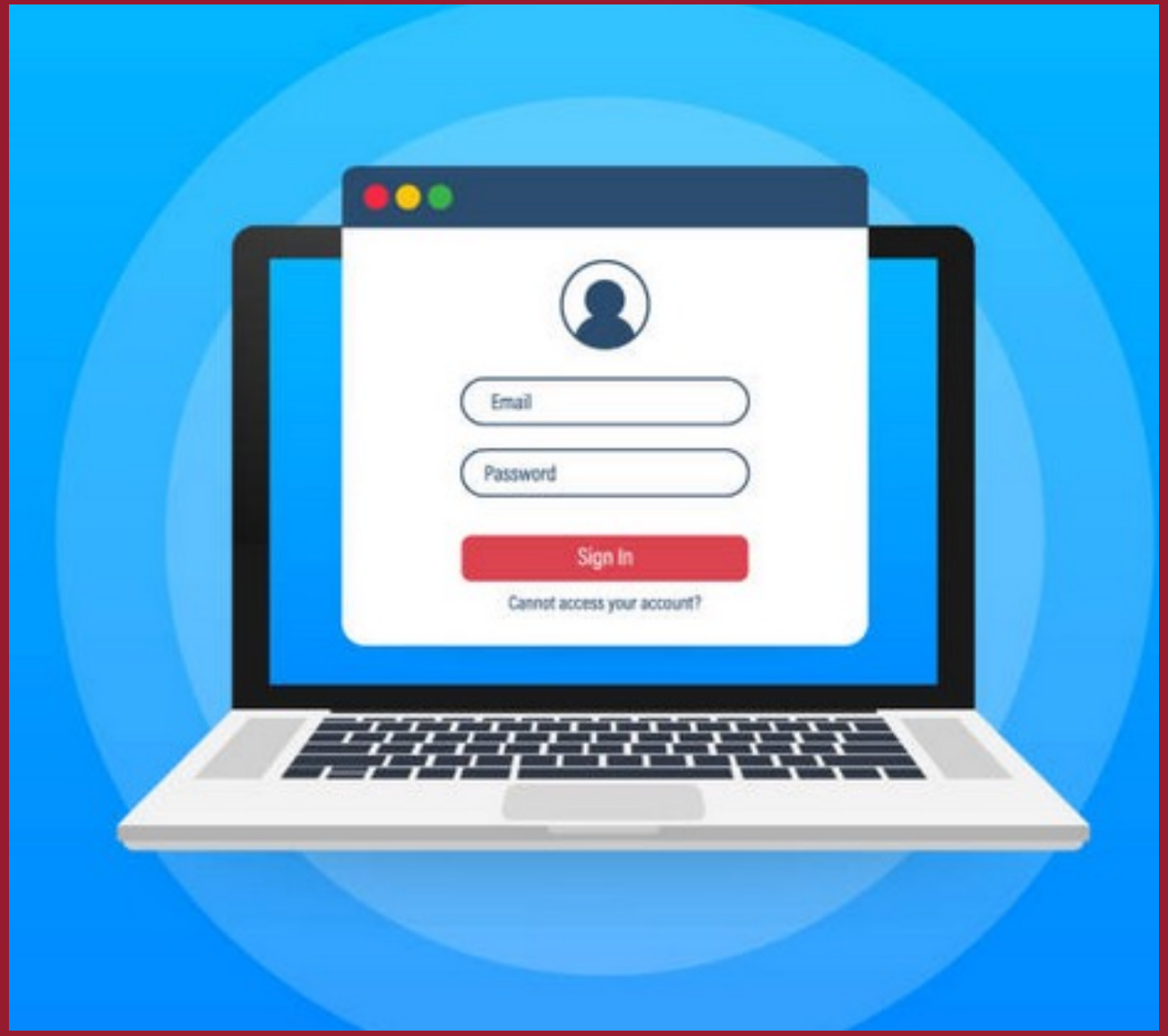
https://acqf.africa/capacity-development-programme/training-modules

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

Institutional setting & stakeholders
Qualifications specifications/ standards
Credit accumulation and transfer system
Qualifications Database/ Register
Quality assurance of qualifications, and provision
RPL / Validation - Non-formal & informal learning
M&E, research
Outreach & visibility to users
NQF Policy and design document

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.

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.

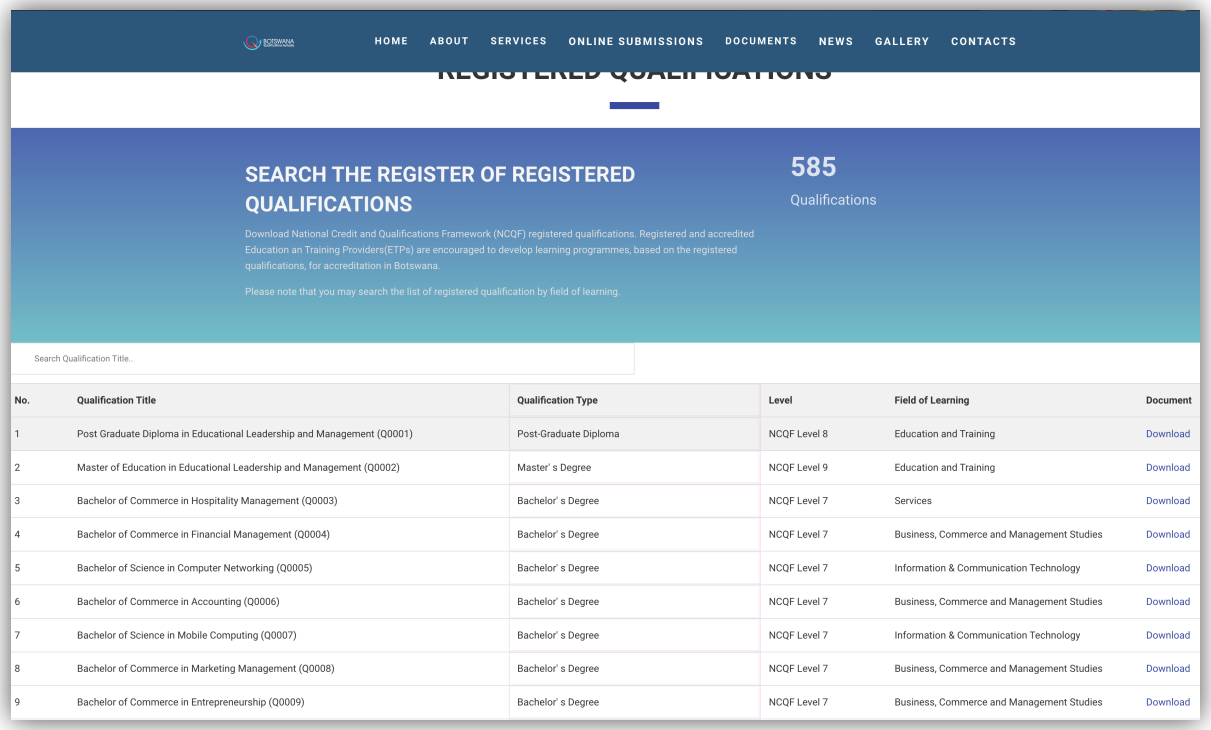
What is the Qualifications Register / Répertoire / Catalogue?

- 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



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

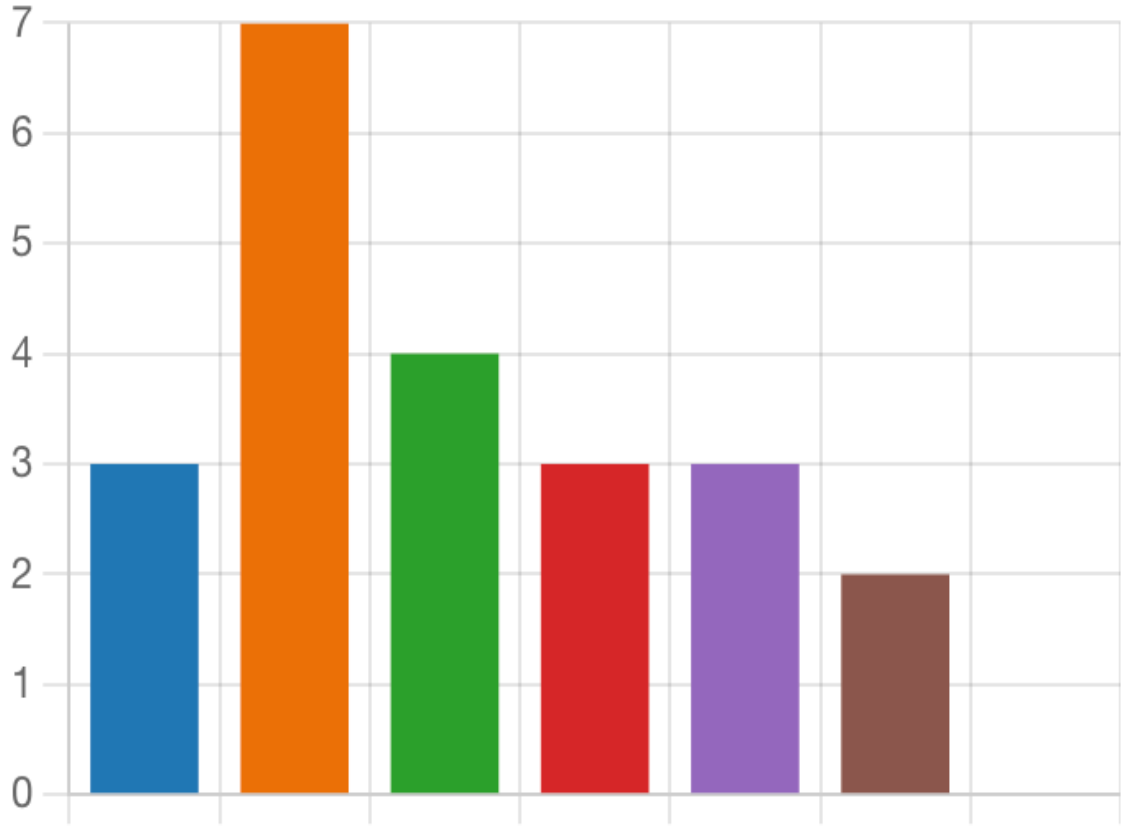
- In many countries around the world, authorities and departments managing qualifications at national level are taking steps to improve and modernise the tools, technology and methods used to structure, manage and visualise information and data on qualifications.
- For greater overall transparency of 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

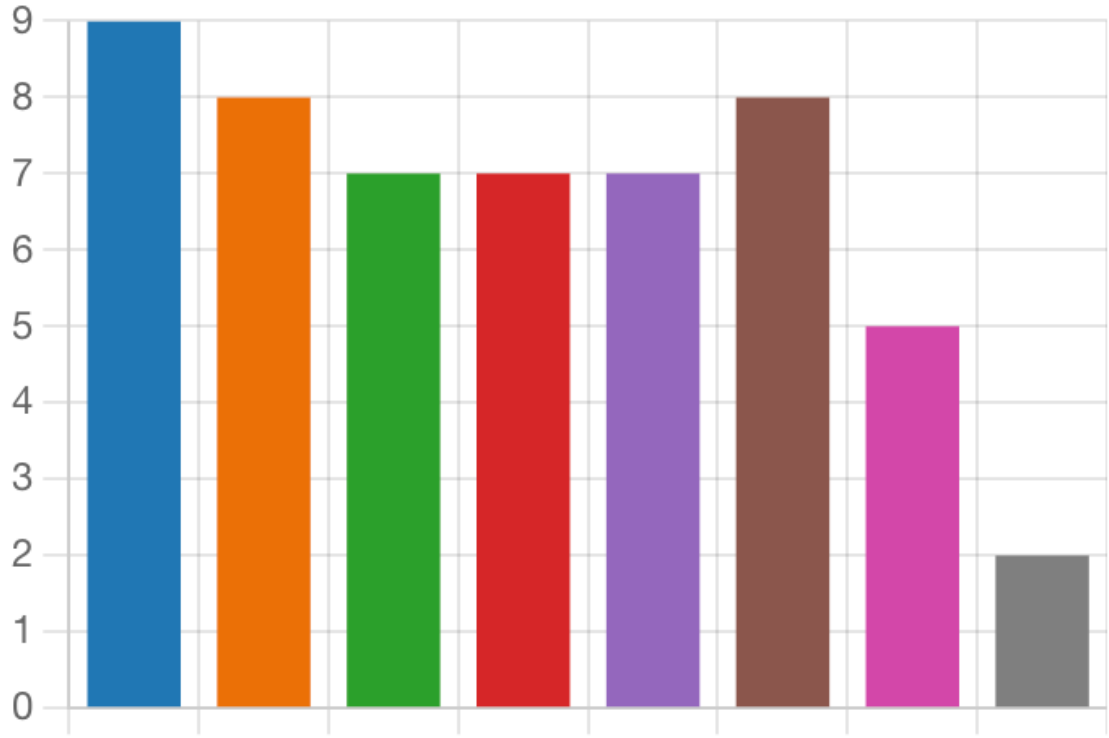


Results from ACQF survey on registers 2

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: 1. All qualifications and unit standards (no matter their status) 2. Registered qualifications and unit standards (NQF qualifications) 3. Qualifications and unit standards that have been passed their registration end date 4. 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)	The digital online Catalogue is attached as a repository of PDFS. 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. The qualifications in the Catalogue are distributed in 15 professional families. The Catalogue also includes a new Transversal Training Module of 3 units.
Kenya	New: National Qualifications Information Management System (NAQIMS) Register of qualifications KNQA	1,262 registered qualifications	NAQMIS is a system for automating processes, based on Blockchain technology to register: (a) qualifying institutions (qais), (b) qualifications and (c) learners' records. Managed and maintained by KNQA

New Zealand Qualifications Framework register

- 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.

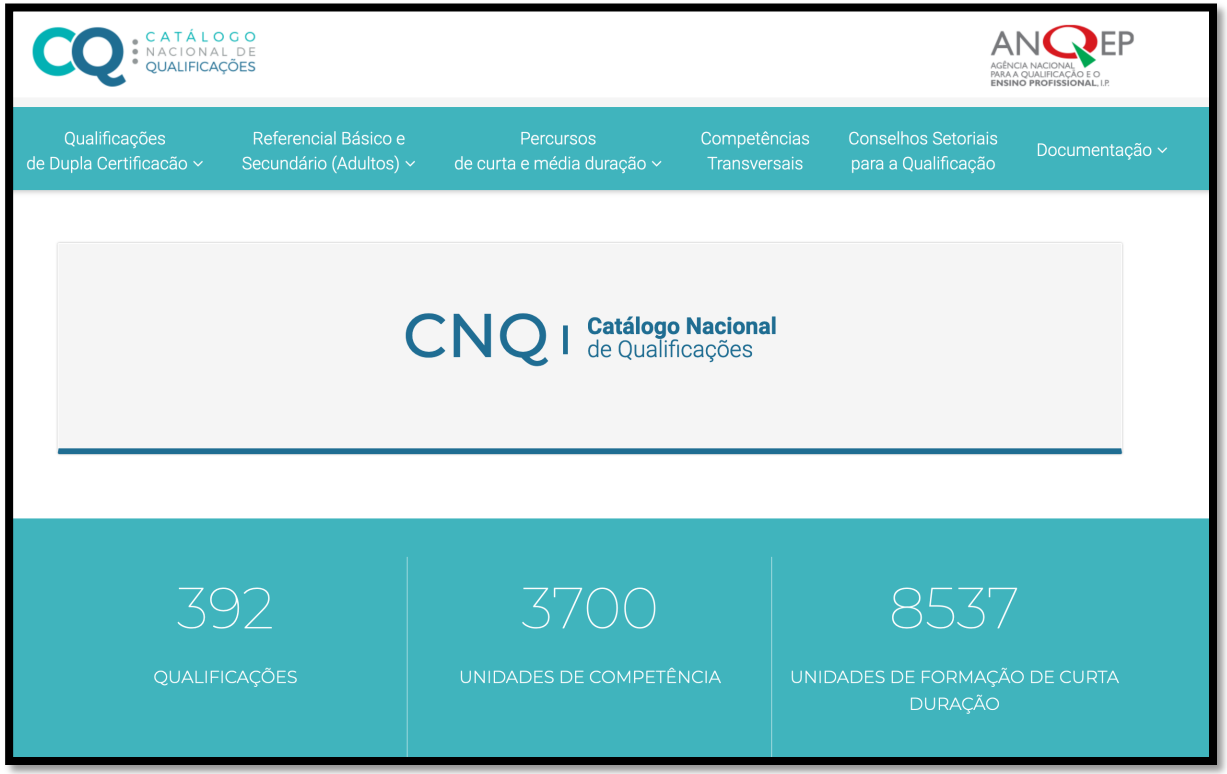
Benefits

- 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.

https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/

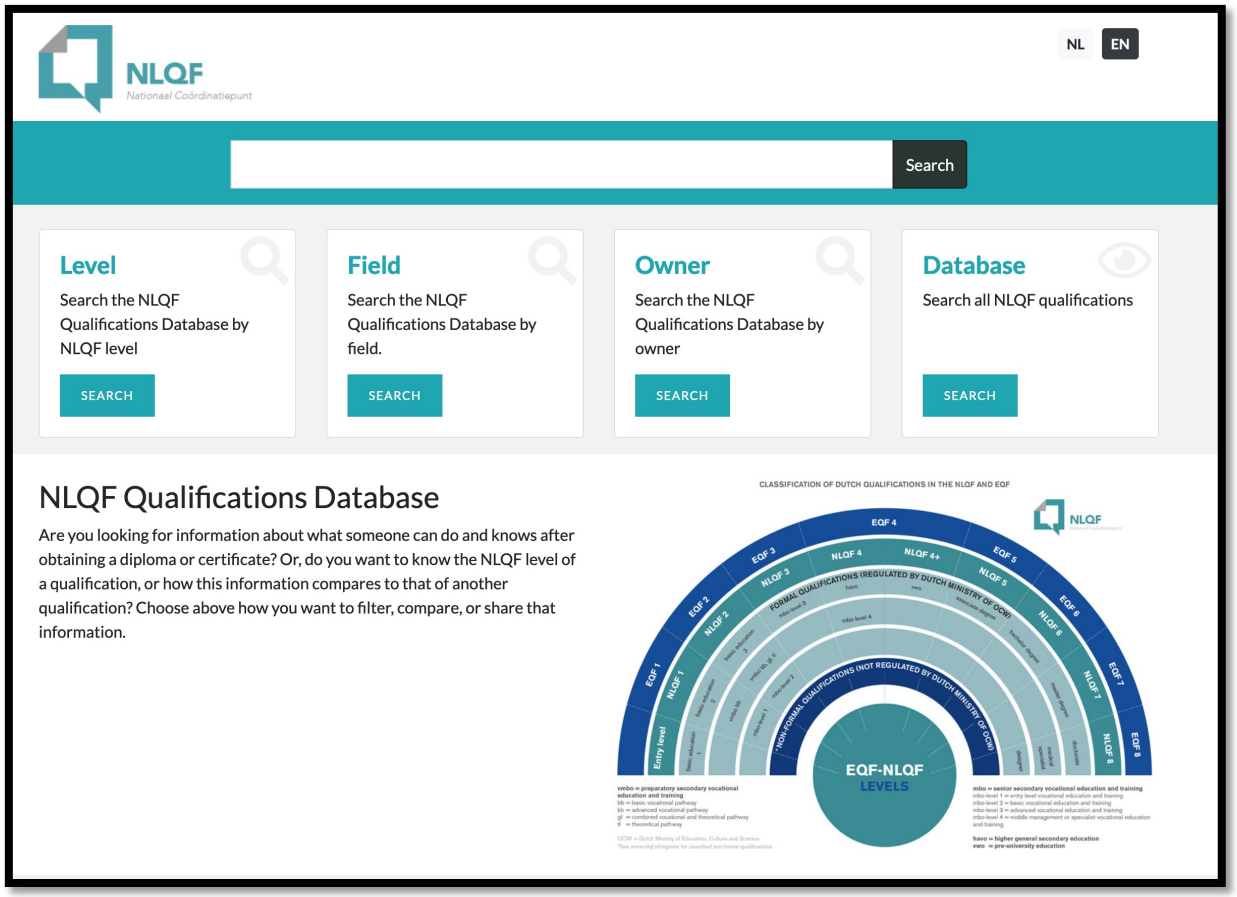
Qualification databases — online examples

Portugal



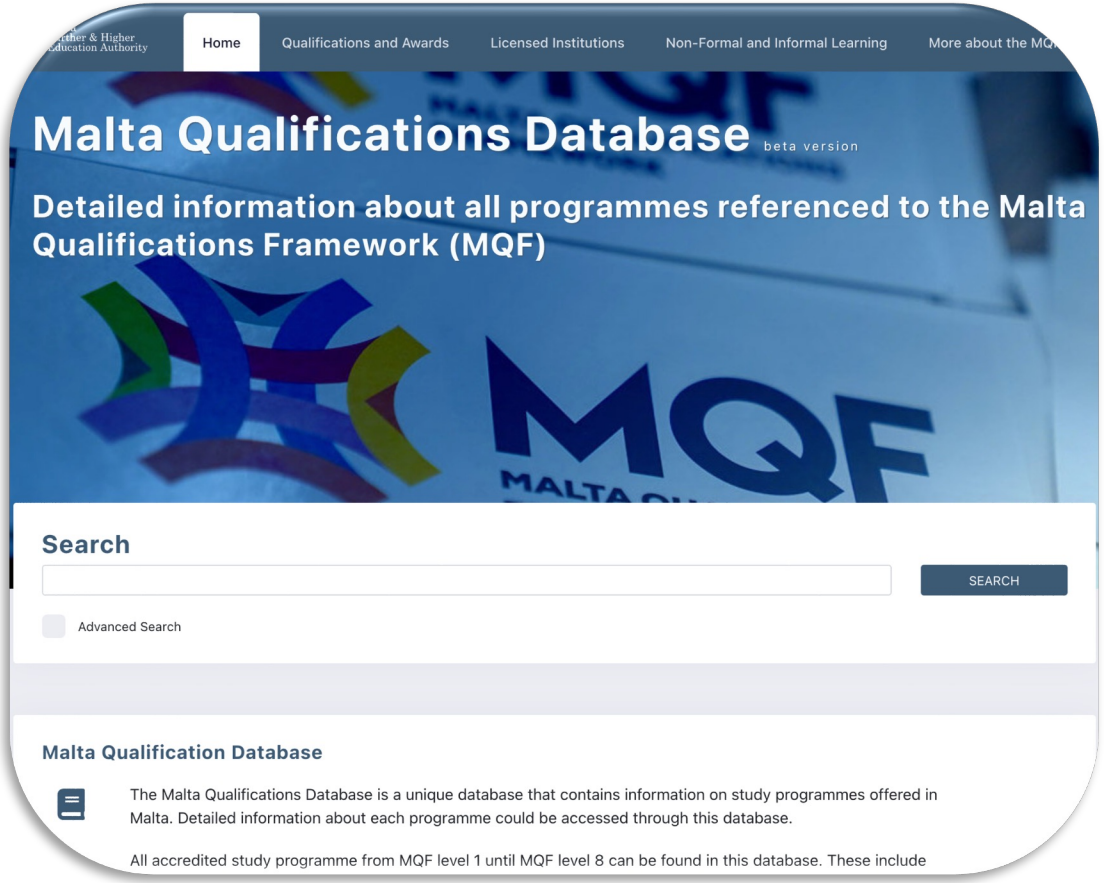
https://catalogo.anqep.gov.pt/

Netherlands



https://database.nlqf.nl/

Digital qualifications databases

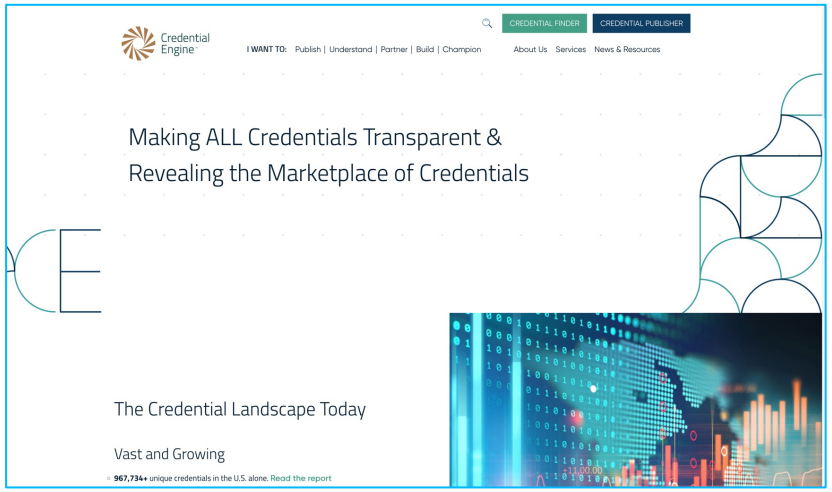


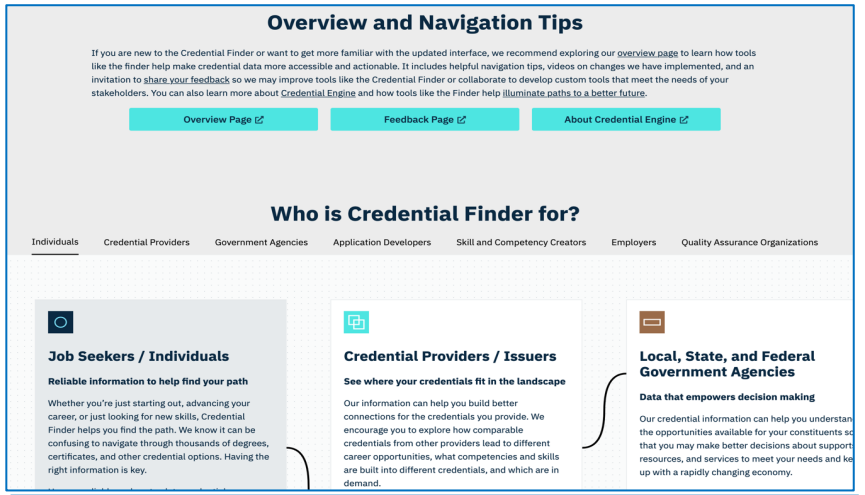
http://qualifications.ncfhe.gov.mt/#/dashboard

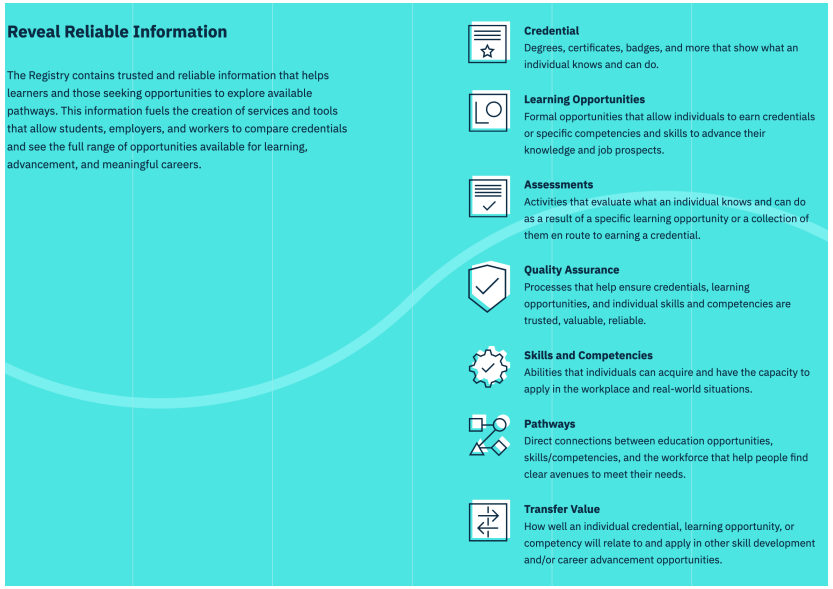
https://www.nok.si/en/sqf-register

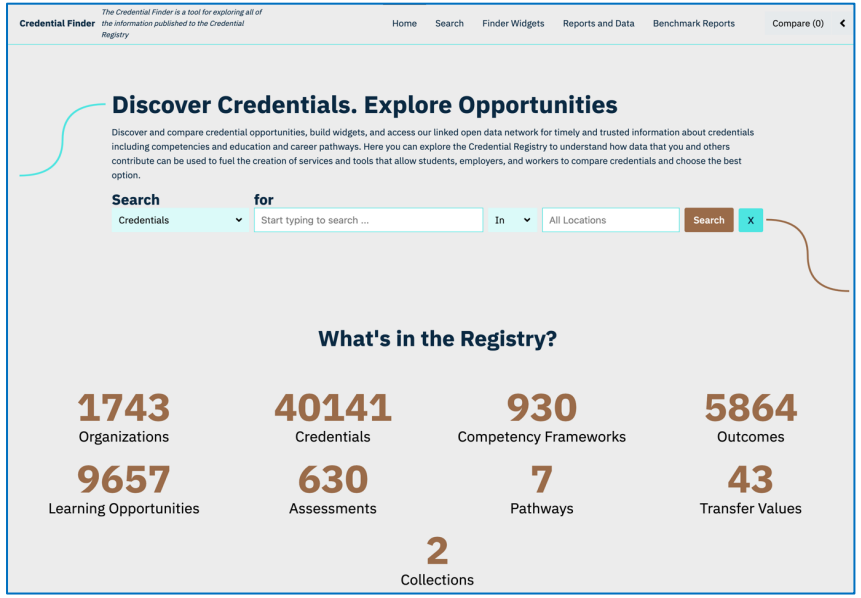
Credential Engine - US

Learn more about Credential Engine and how tools like the Finder help illuminate paths to a better future.





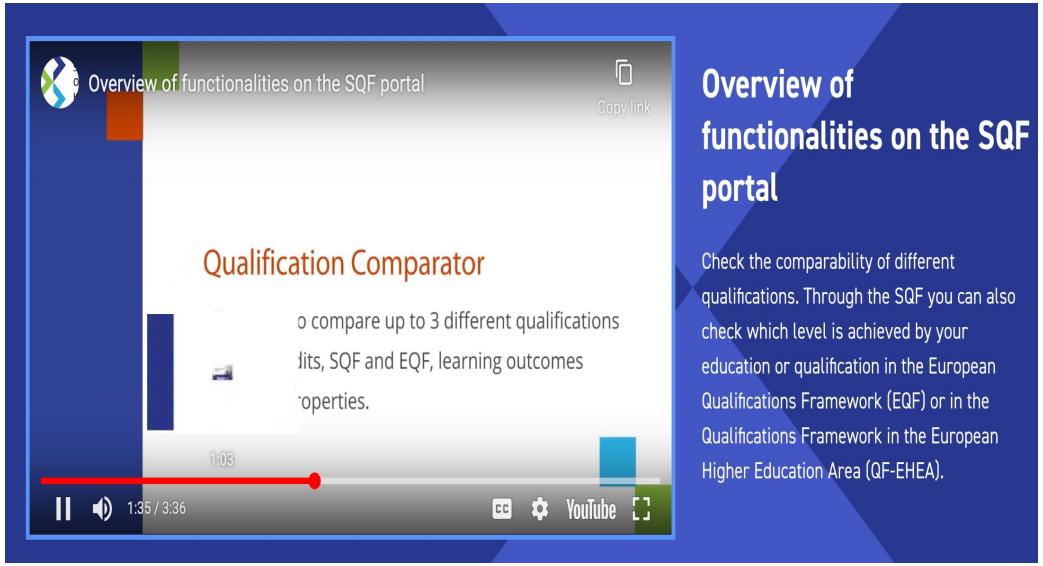




04

Functions and services

Varying range of functions / tools in the examples



Video on Slovenia Qualifications register
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)

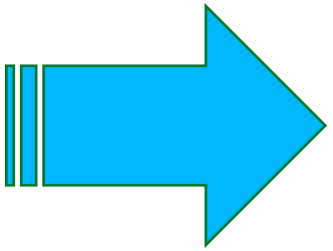
ISCED-F 2013, at: http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/isced-fields-of-education-and-training-2013-en.pdf

05

Final notes

Qualifications registers

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



Worth the investment

Thank you

ACQF project – coordinator

Eduarda Castel-Branco

ecb@etf.europa.eu