



The Mauritius National Qualifications Framework (NQF) & Related Policies and Development



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Overview

- Context and Purpose of the NQF
- The Mauritian Qualifications Framework
- The Structure and Governance of the NQF
- NQF, Related Policies and Development
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- MQA Registers
- Recent Legislative Changes
- Micro-credentials & NCVTS



Context and Purpose of the NQF

- **Established by virtue of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act 2001.**
- **An instrument for the development and classification of qualifications according to a set of criteria for levels of learning achieved**
- **To improve the understanding of an education & training system within a country and in making progression routes and access to different parts of the national system explicit.**
- **To provide for comparability across borders, particularly in regions where there is much mobility of students and workers**



The Mauritian Qualifications Framework



THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

LEVEL	PRIMARY / SECONDARY EDUCATION	TVET / WORKPLACE	TERTIARY EDUCATION	LEVEL
10			Doctorate	10
9			Masters Degrees e.g. MA, MSc, MPhil Post-Graduate Diploma, Post-Graduate Certificate	9
8			Bachelor Degree with Honours	8
7			Bachelor (Ordinary Degree)	7
6			National Diploma Level 6	Diploma
5	HSC / GCE 'A' Level /BAC / IBAC/ HSC Professional	National Certificate Level 5	Certificate	5
4		National Certificate Level 4		4
3	SC / GCE 'O' Level/National School Certificate	National Certificate Level 3		3
2	National Certificate of Education (NCE)	National Certificate Level 2		2
1	Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)	National Certificate Level 1		1

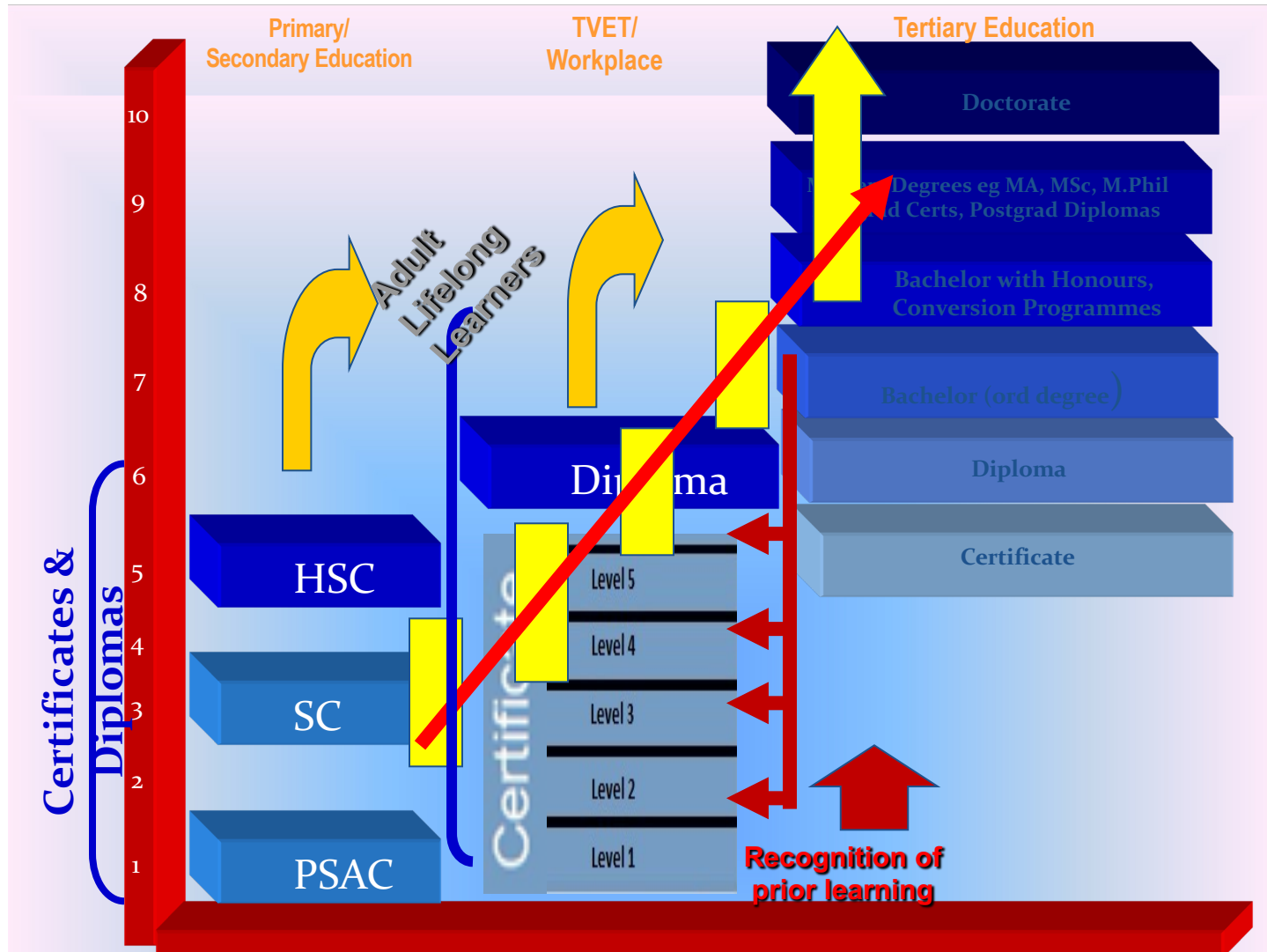


The Structure of the NQF

- **Consists of 10 levels ..level 1 being the Primary School Achievement Certificate to level 10 being Doctorate**
- **Comprises of three strands namely Primary/Secondary Education, TVET/workplace and Tertiary Education**
- **Level descriptors – each defined in terms of progressive stages of achievement/outcomes and complexity skills applicable**



Pathways and Articulation



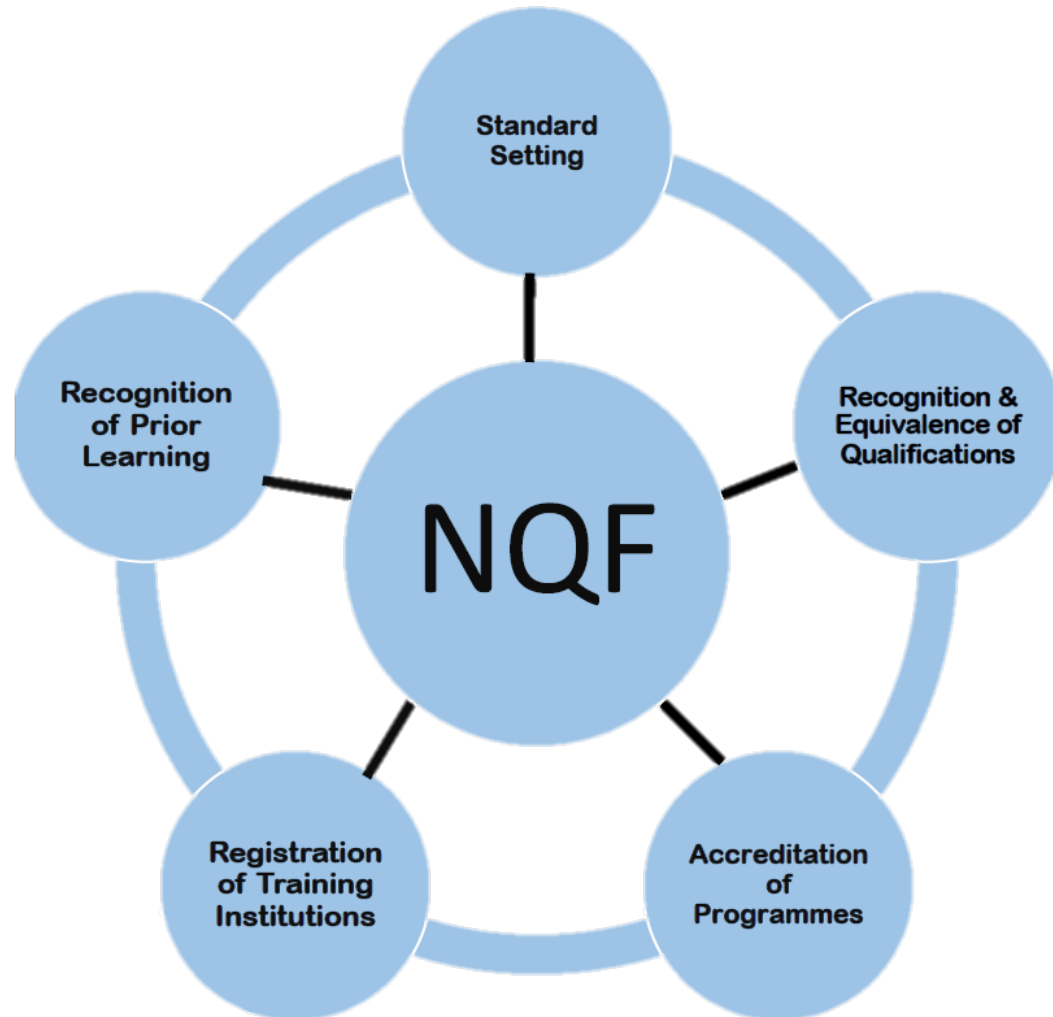


Governance and Driving Forces

- **Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology**
- **The MQA, HEC and QAA Boards and their Sub-Committees**
- **Qualification Validation Committee**
- **Recognition and Equivalence Committee**
- **Registration and Accreditation Committees**
- **Quality Audit Panels**
- **RPL Monitoring Committee**

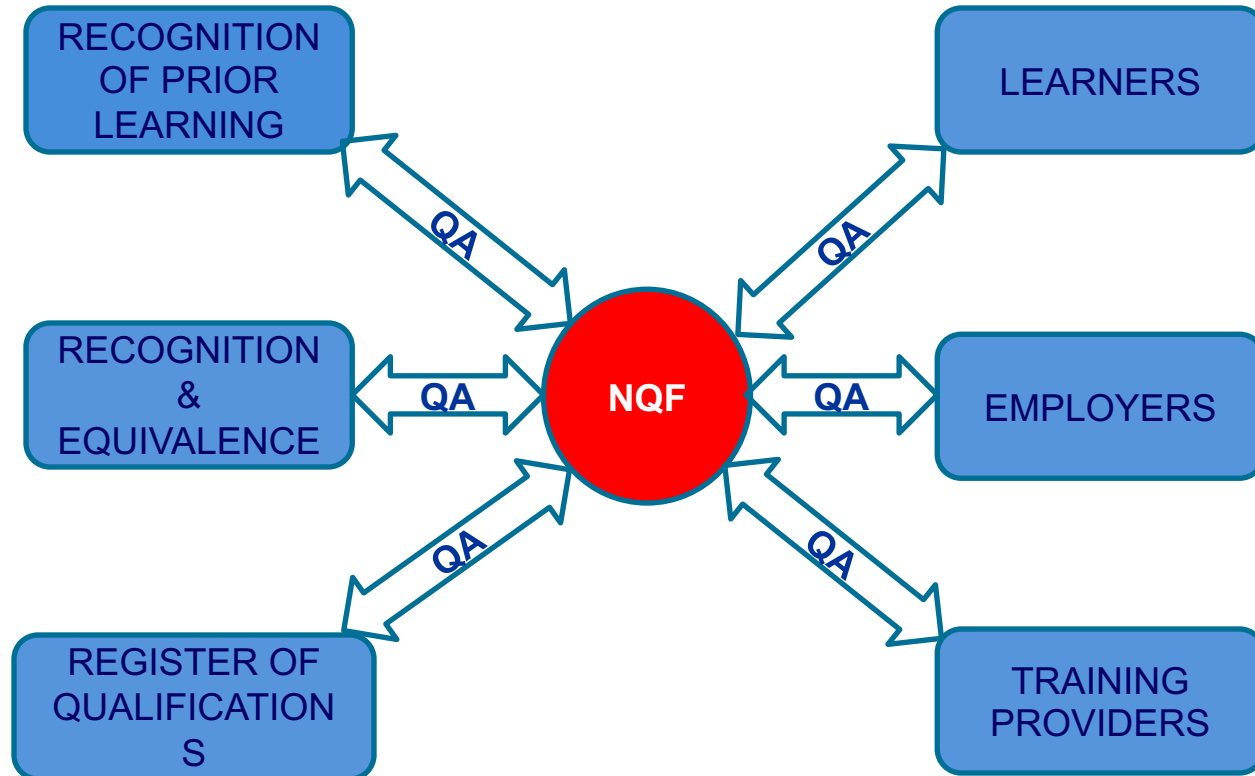


The NQF and Its Sub-Structures





Quality Assurance and the NQF





NQF and Related Policies

- **Quality Assurance Framework for TVET (QAF)**
- **Code of practice for training institutions**
- **Guidelines for accreditation of training programmes**
- **Guidelines for approval of non-award courses**
- **Guidelines for selection of trainers**
- **Policy for recognition and equivalence of qualification**
- **Guidelines for development and validation of national qualifications**



NQF and Related Policies (Cont'd)

- **Guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning(RPL)**
- **Policy orientation on implementation of Micro-credentials in the TVET sector (draft proposal)**
- **National framework on Micro-credentials for TVET and Higher Education (approval stage – under a joint HEC/MQA collaboration)**
- **Framework on the National Credit Value and Transfer System (NCVTS) (approval stage-under a joint HEC/MQA collaboration)**

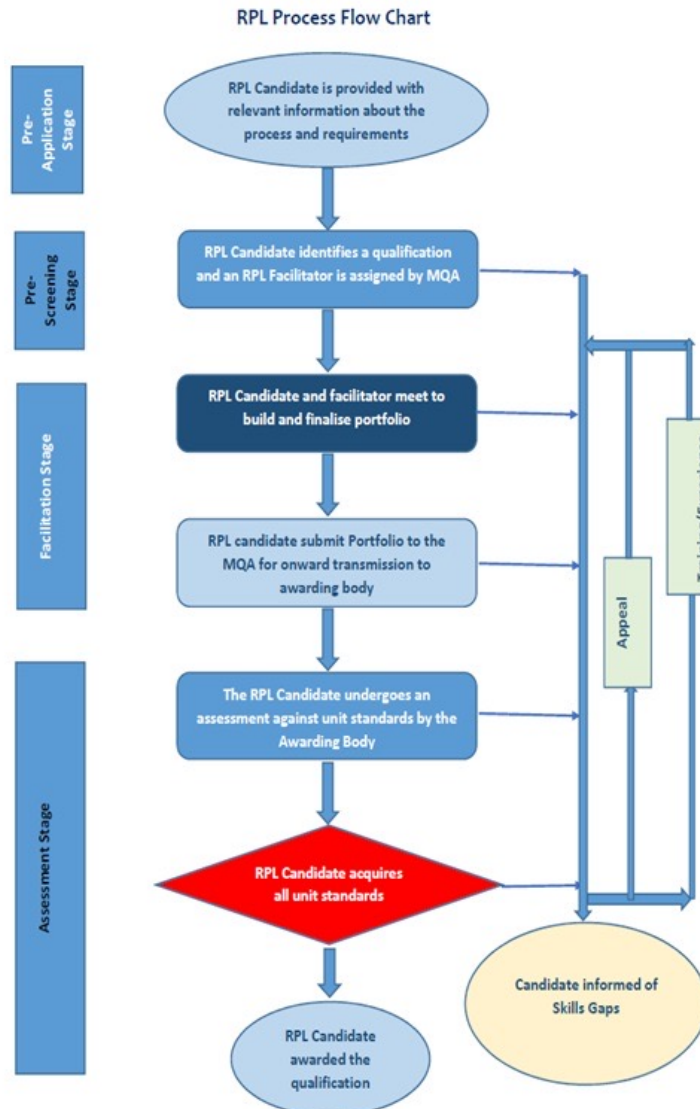


Recognition of Prior Learning

- **Section 5 (e) of the MQA Act 2001** - *to recognize and validate competencies for the purposes of certification obtained outside the formal education and training systems.*



The Recognition of Prior Learning Process





MQA Registers



Mauritius Qualifications Authority Registers

Training Institution



Select

Training Institution

Training Programmes

Non-Award

National Qualifications

Recognised Foreign Qualification

Search....



Search



Reset



Register of National Qualifications



Mauritius Qualifications Authority Registers

National Qualifications

Recognised Foreign Qualification

Name : National Certificate Level 4 in Health Care Assisting
NQF Level: 4
Credit : 179
Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Health
Provider : Mauritius Institute of Health
Sector : Health and Welfare
Review Date : 2023-09-30

Name : National Certificate Level 3 in Industrial Machine Maintenance
NQF Level: 3
Credit : 105
Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Training and Development /Mauritius Examinations Syndicate
Provider : MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
Sector : Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
Review Date : 2026-05-01

Name : National Certificate Level 4 in Automotive Mechanics and Electronics
NQF Level: 4
Credit : 106
Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Training and Development /Mauritius Examinations Syndicate
Provider :
Sector : Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
Review Date : 2025-10-01

Name : National Certificate Level 2 in Masonry
NQF Level: 2
Credit : 93
Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Training and Development /Mauritius Examinations Syndicate
Provider : MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Name : National Certificate Level 2 in Special Education Needs
NQF Level: 2
Credit : 60
Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Training and Development /Mauritius Examinations Syndicate
Provider :

Name : National Certificate Level 3 in Maintenance Fitting
NQF Level: 3
Credit : 105
Awarding Body : MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT jointly with MAURITIUS EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE
Provider : MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT



Register of Recognised Foreign Qualifications



Mauritius Qualifications Authority Registers

National Qualifications

Recognised Foreign Qualification

Name : Level 3 IVQ Technician Diploma in Construction (500/5795/9)

NQF Level: 4

Awarding Body : The City and Guilds of London Institute

Country : United Kingdom

Name : NCC Education Level 4 Diploma in Computing (600/0406/X)

NQF Level: 5

Awarding Body : NCC Education

Country : United Kingdom

Name : TQUK Level 3 Diploma for the Children's Workforce (Early Years Educator) (601/7670/2)

NQF Level: 4

Awarding Body : Training Qualifications UK Ltd

Country : United Kingdom

Name : ABE Level 5 Diploma in Business Management (QCF) 600/6110/8

NQF Level: 6

Awarding Body : The Association of Business Executives

Country : United Kingdom

Name : CIPS Level 4 Diploma in Procurement and Supply (603/3924/X)

NQF Level: 5

Awarding Body : Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply

Country : United Kingdom

Name : Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood Education and Care) CHC50908

NQF Level: 5

Awarding Body : Challenger Institute of Technology

Country : Australia



Register of Accredited Training Programmes



Mauritius Qualifications Authority Registers

National Qualifications Recognised Foreign Qualification

Title : National Certificate Level 2 in Poultry Operations

NQF Level: 2

Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Training and Development /Mauritius Examinations Syndicate

Entry Requirement : Applicant should be at least 16 years old and have basic literacy and numeracy Or Any alternative qualifications acceptable by MITD

Accreditation Date : 2022-03-23

Duration(TQT) : -

Duration(GLH) : -

Expiry Date : 2025-03-15

Training Institution : MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Title : National Certificate Level 3 in Pastry

NQF Level: 3

Awarding Body : Mauritius Institute of Training and Development /Mauritius Examinations Syndicate

Entry Requirement : Form IV

Accreditation Date : 2021-12-07

Duration(TQT) : -

Duration(GLH) : -

Expiry Date : 2024-11-18

Training Institution : MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Title : City & Guilds Level 1 - Diploma for IT Users (ITQ)

NQF Level: 2

Awarding Body : The City and Guilds of London Institute

Entry Requirement : Designed for those with little or no experience in computing for the underpinning knowledge that could aid progress to further education or employment. - Academic Knowledge of English language to understand the the terms and questions related to the modules. - As from Grade 7 - Minimum IT knowledge of how to operate an PC/Laptop (Optional)

Accreditation Date : 2024-01-29

Duration(TQT) : 370

Duration(GLH) : 280

Expiry Date : 2025-01-28

Training Institution : INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPUTER TRAINING CO LTD



Recent Legislative Changes

Additional functions of the MQA under The Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023 as follows:

(Under Section 5 of the MQA Act 2001)

- To approve and recognize micro-credentials in TVET
- To monitor the implementation of the National Credit Value and Transfer System in TVET under the NQF

(Under Section 18 of the MQA Act 2001)

- To make regulations for matters relating to, including procedure for, approval and recognition of micro-credentials in TVET
- To make regulations for the implementation of the National Credit Value and Transfer System in TVET under the NQF

National Credit Value and Transfer System in Mauritius

Prof Romeela Mohee,
Commissioner
Higher Education Commission

The Higher Education Commission

Establishment of the Higher Education Commission in January 2020

HEC Apex Regulatory Body for Higher Education
Oversee 10 public Universities and 40 private Higher Education providers.

Section 18 of the Higher Education Act specifically addresses the development of the NCVTS:

- The (Higher Education) Commission shall develop and issue a National Credit Value and Transfer System to recognise qualifications and units by awarding credits.
- The units referred to in subsection (1) shall have credit value which shall be equal to such hours of learning as the Commission may determine for the purpose of obtaining a qualification by a learner.
- The credits awarded under the National Credit Value and Transfer System shall be transferable in such manner as the Commission may determine.



New developments towards lifelong learning



National Credit Value and Transfer System

The **Principles** associated with the NCVTS Policy in Mauritius:

- ❖ **Access for success** – identifying gaps in knowledge and skills and how to fill these gaps
- ❖ **Student mobility** – the facilitation for learners to move between programmes, institutions and countries within the SADC region
- ❖ **Articulation** – within and between Mauritius and SADC nations
- ❖ **Credible methods** – comparison of qualifications based on credible methods, the extent to which their curriculum properties, content and outcomes match
- ❖ **Supplementary** – learners are required to do supplementary work by HEIs before credits are awarded; deemed to be in fairness, consistency and transparency

Enablers of NCVTS

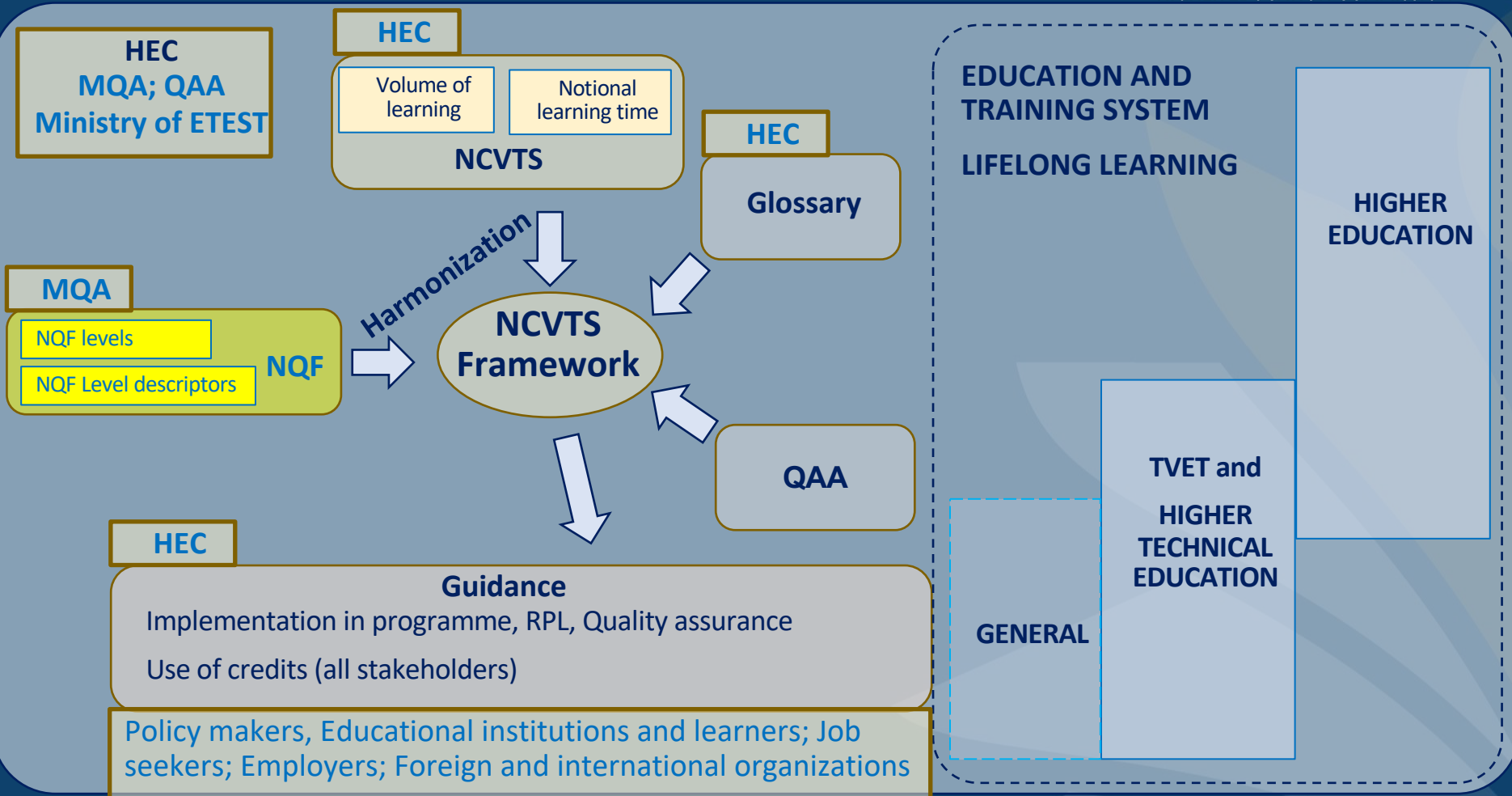
A. HEC

- In the legislative domain - the Higher Education Act 2017 is the major policy basis for development of the NCVTS. The Act establishes the Higher Education Commission (HEC).
- The Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the Higher Education Commission
- In the governance area – a NCVTS Committee (MQA, QAA, Ministry of Education)
- At the technical level: report and recommendations - ‘Proposals for the NCVTS’ and concept note

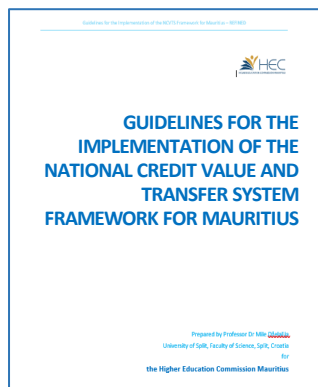
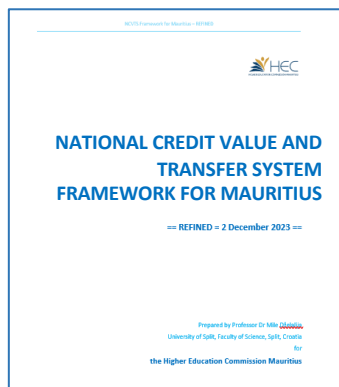
B. MQA

- At the qualifications system level: the Mauritius National Qualifications Framework (MQF) and the alignment report to SADC QF
- MQA committee with technical, vocational and higher education
- MQA – Micro-credentials (budget 2023/2024)

Basic components – NCVTS Framework



National Credit Value and Transfer System Framework



NCVTS

Phase 1

- Prof (Dr.) Mile Dzelalija appointed as Consultant
- **June 2023**: Consultative meetings, Workshops and Surveys conducted with Stakeholders.
- Stakeholders: MoETEST, MQA, QAA, HRDC, and HEIs.

Phase 2

- Submission in July 2023, validation in **August 2023** during the 2nd visit.
- Validation involved a workshop and consultative meetings with stakeholders to validate the system, terminology, and implications for universities in Mauritius.

Phase 3

- Training Session scheduled for June **2024**
- Training sessions essential for institutions to grasp terminology and NCVTS implementation.

Recognition of Prior learning (RPL)- HE and TVET

- Recognition of prior learning forms a key part of flexible learning pathways and stacking.
- Consideration has been given to it by intergovernmental bodies such as the **UNESCO** Global Convention on the Recognition of Studies, and other regional recognition instruments.
- The implementation of **RPL is a matter for both national and institutional stakeholders** as there are key questions with respect to robustness and interoperability of the process amongst key actors, scalability, and sustainability to be addressed.
- 53% of TVET institutions and 77% of HEIs reported as having a policy in place or planning to have such a policy for recognition of learning for access, whilst 44% of TVET and 64% of HEIs reported having or planning to have a policy in place for recognition of access for credit

Guidelines for Credit Transfer in Mauritius (In Progress)

- i) **Core Course Credits:** No credit shall be transferred for core courses of a program.
- ii) **Single Credit Transfer:** Credits shall be transferred only once.
- iii) **Maximum Transferable Credits:** The transfer of credits from one level to another shall not exceed 49%.
- iv) **Time Limit for Credit Transfer:** Credits can only be transferred from courses completed within the last 7 years. However, this rule does not apply to skills and competencies acquired through experiential learning from informal settings.
- v) **Approval Requirement:** The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) shall approve credit transfers in accordance with established regulations (NCVTS).
- vi) **Application Procedure:** Individuals seeking to transfer credits must apply to the HEC/MQA using the designated form. Applicants must meet the requirements of the HEC, MQA, and the admitting qualifications awarding body.
- vii) **Grade Enhancement Prohibition:** Credit transfers resulting in a higher grade than would have been earned in the originating institution will not be approved.
- viii) **Documentation Requirement:** Institutions must establish a mechanism to reflect transferred units in a course to demonstrate the linkage between transferred units and current coursework. This information must be indicated on the student's transcript.
- ix) **Definition of Student Workload:** Student workload encompasses various activities, including attending lectures, seminars, independent study, examination preparation, practical work, field study, field attachment, projects, and teaching practice.
- x) **Postgraduate Credit Transfers:** Credit transfers for postgraduate programs may be approved for coursework only, subject to mutual agreement between the institutions involved.
- xi) **Exceptions to Credit Transfer:** Credit transfer does not apply to common core units, project work, attachments, teaching practice, and research for qualifications offered by accredited education institutions.

Micro-Credentials in Mauritius

Status of Micro-Credential Framework

Implementation

Training and Capacity Building

Submission the document to the cabinet for consideration and approval

Steering Committee for the Development of the Micro-Credential Framework and Mauritian NCVTS; Validation Webinar

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on a Micro-Credential Framework for TVET and Higher Education in Mauritius

National Survey to inform a Micro-credentials Framework for TVET and Higher Education in Mauritius

Collaboration between IIEP-UNESCO, the Higher Education Commission and the Mauritius Qualifications Authority to establish a national micro-credential framework



Questions that need to be tackled in micro-credential framework

Regulation and academic recognition

Countries need to develop clear operational definitions and policies around their expected learning outcomes, credit values, relationship to formal qualifications, and conditions for accepting micro-credentials offered by non-academic entities

Quality Assurance

Defining quality standards and QA procedures for micro-credentials will be necessary to ensure their value across the post-secondary sector and within the labour market.

Linkage to the National Qualification Framework (NQF)

Decision must be taken on whether micro-credentials should be linked to the NQF, this being a necessary condition to enhance transparency, trust, and recognition.

Registration, storage, and portability of micro-credentials

To enhance accessibility and quality assurance for micro-credentials, countries can establish electronic registers, digital storehouses like credit banks, or electronic wallets for storage.



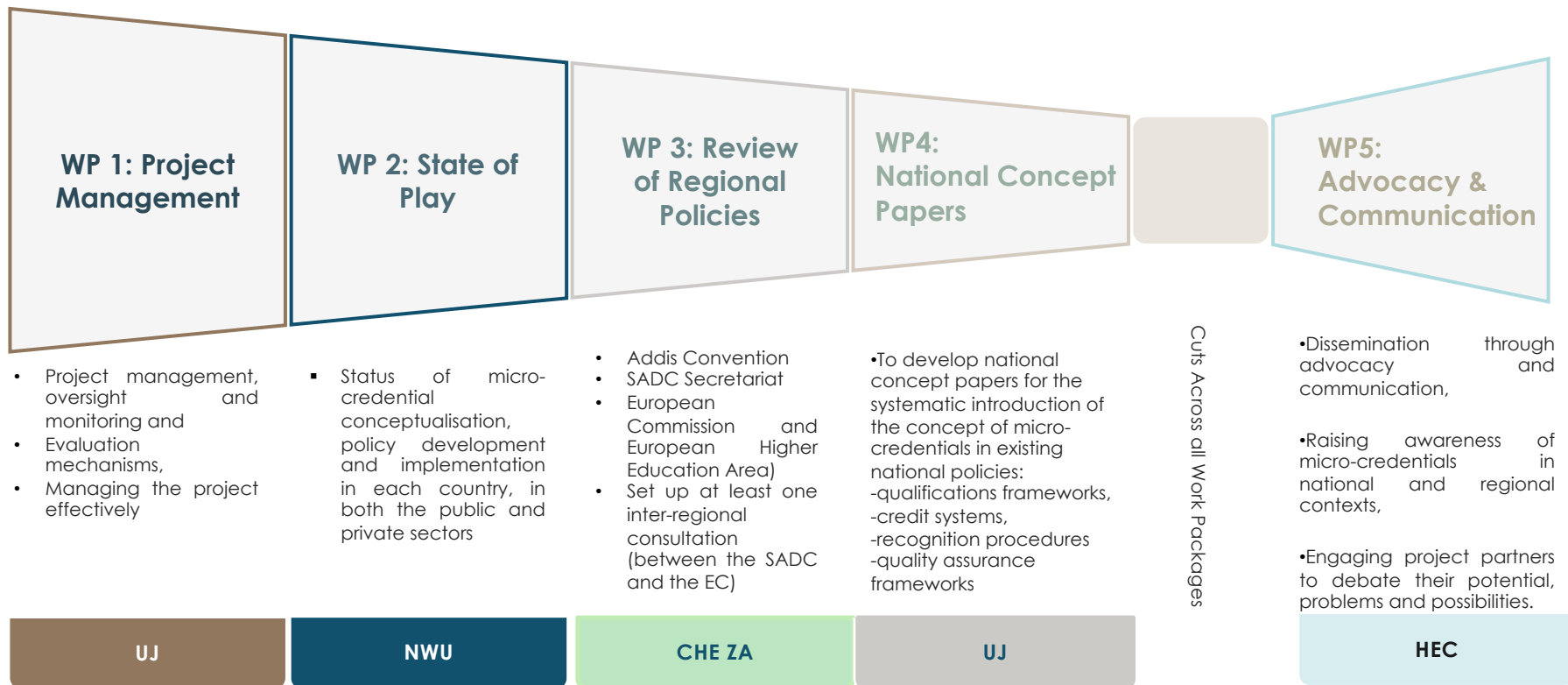
What is PoMiSA?

The PoMiSA project represents a collaborative endeavour among leading African and European universities, national councils, and strategic partners, aimed at exploring and leveraging the transformative potential of micro-credentials within the Southern African region.

Project Partners



PoMiSA Work Packages





THANK YOU



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