



# ACQF

African Continental  
Qualifications Framework

## Theme 7

# Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP)

## Training 2

2nd NQF Forum  
Luanda, Angola

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# Context

In parallel to the technical development of the Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP), we will conduct a **training programme** for stakeholders involved in managing and using qualifications databases



## Means

- Training activities (such as during this meeting)
- Training material for self-paced learning



## Aim

- Addressing foundational knowledge and providing hands-on support to ensure successful adaptation and usage of the QCP
- Several major themes identified until the end of 2024

# Major themes



## Technical Aspects

- Using the QCP, navigating UI, accessing/querying databases
- Data entry, validation, and management



## Interoperability Concepts

- Standards and protocols (e.g., Linked Data, ISCED) for data exchange



## Data Governance and Security

- Data governance principles, ownership, privacy, security
- Compliance with data protection regulations



## Quality Assurance and Validation

- Processes for validating and verifying qualifications data



## Capacity Development

- Building capacity for managing/updating national databases
- Aligning national data with international standards.



## Policy and Strategic Alignment

- Policy frameworks and strategic initiatives in the African context

# Structure of Trainings



# Training Modules (soon) available online

- T0 – Introduction to QCP Training Manual
- T1 – Qualifications Database purpose and users
- T2 – Role of Qualification Databases in an International Context
- **T3 – Mapping and Standardising Qualifications Data**
- T4 – Integrating Learning Outcomes into Qualifications Databases
- T5 – Structured Data, Data Standards and Interoperability
- T6 – Policy Benefits and Use Cases

# Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP) – Training on QCP concepts and tools

 **Objective of today's training**



Understand the ACQF Qualifications Database and set up Organisational Structure to work with it.

# Agenda

**01** Demonstration of Citizen Facing Functionalities of ACQF DB

**02** Introduction to Organisational Processes for Data Management

**03** Demonstration of Qualifications Curator Functionalities of ACQF DB

**04** Data Collection Plans

# Add your Questions while we Present

Go to

[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

Enter the code

4427 8703



Or use QR code



# Demo

Demo of the ACQF  
Database (Citizen View)

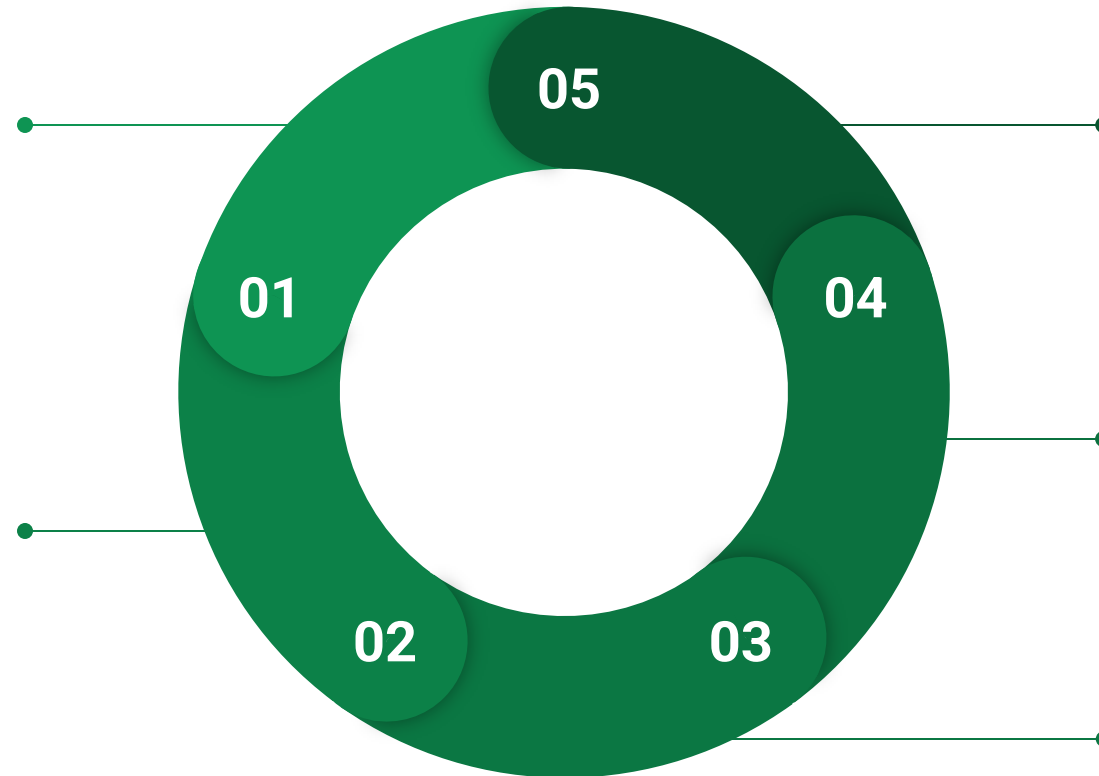


## Locate Data

Find all Qualifications Data in your National Jurisdiction.

## Set up Transformations

Create processes to convert your national data into the ACQF Data Format.



## Publish

Do a final check, and release the data to the public via the ACQF Qualifications Platform

## Upload

Introduce your data to the ACQF Qualifications Platform

## Quality Assure

Check data for clarity, correctness and completeness.

# Locate Data



## Purpose

- Do you already have a single source of data for all qualifications?
- Do you have several databases which are divided:
  - regionally?
  - by sector of education?
  - formal vs non-formal education?

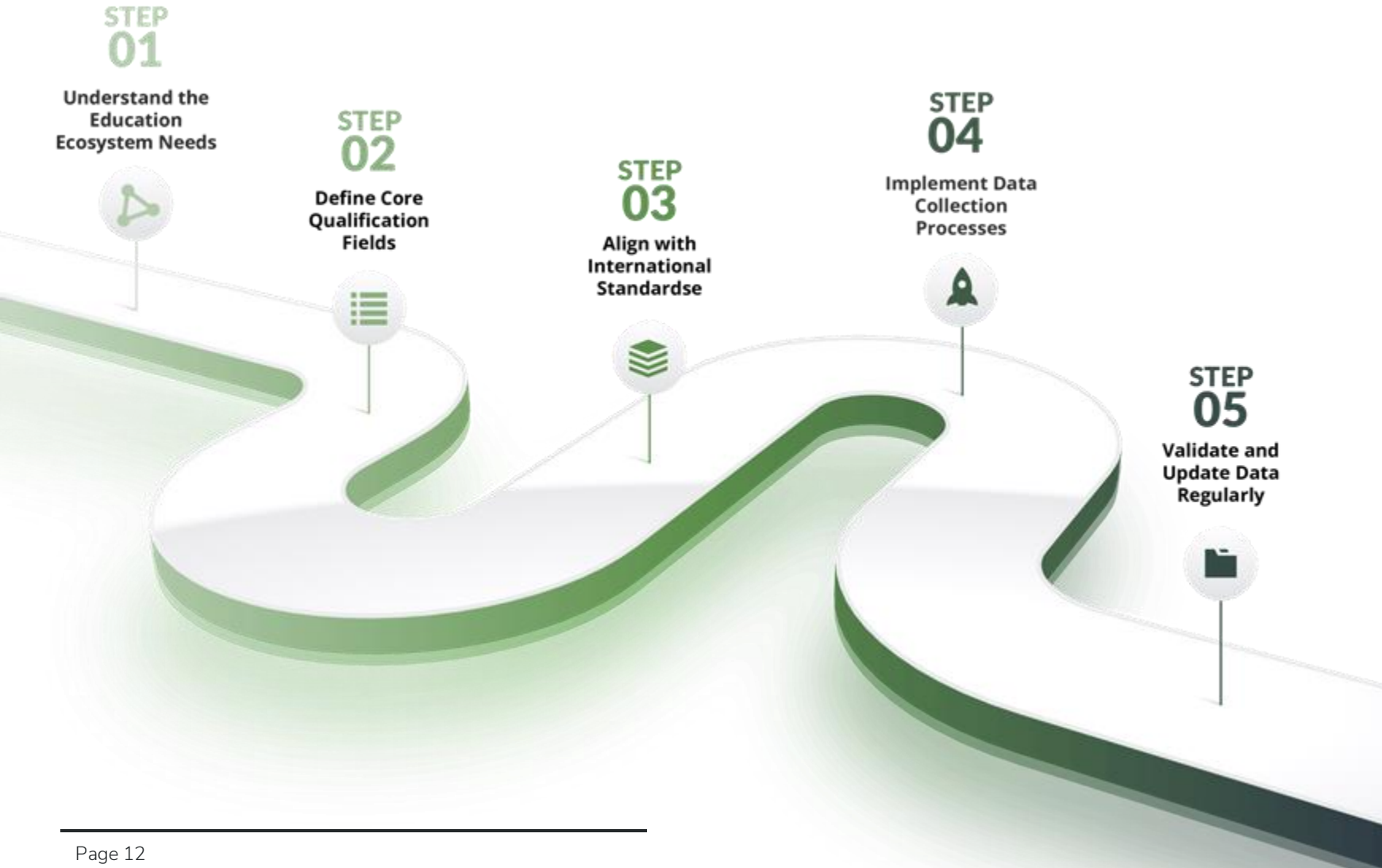


## Organisation

- Single data supplier
- Administrator with multiple data suppliers

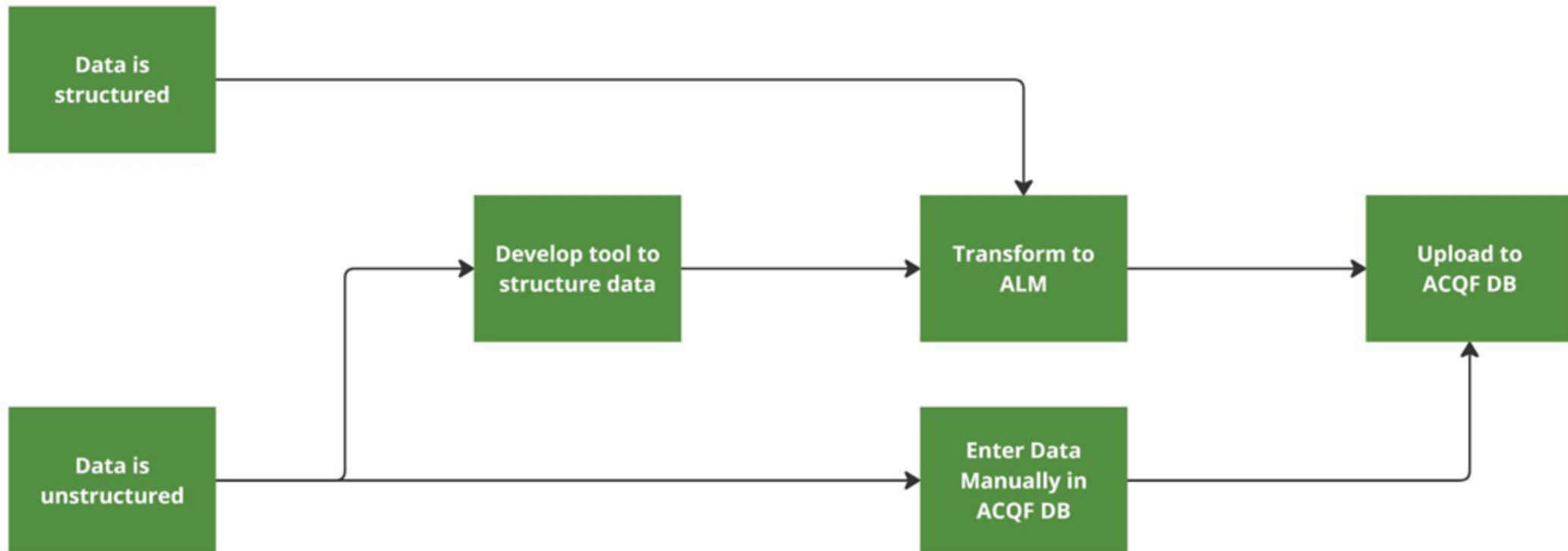
**Ensure coverage  
of entire NQF**

# Transform Data



**Pre-Requisite:  
Mapped and  
Standardised  
Qualifications  
Data**

# Transform Data



# Tools to Structure Data



## Stop using Unstructured

- Stop saving structured data as unstructured
- Use PDFs as 'auditing' evidence not as data retrieval source
- Most efficient and cost-effective option



## Template Based Extraction

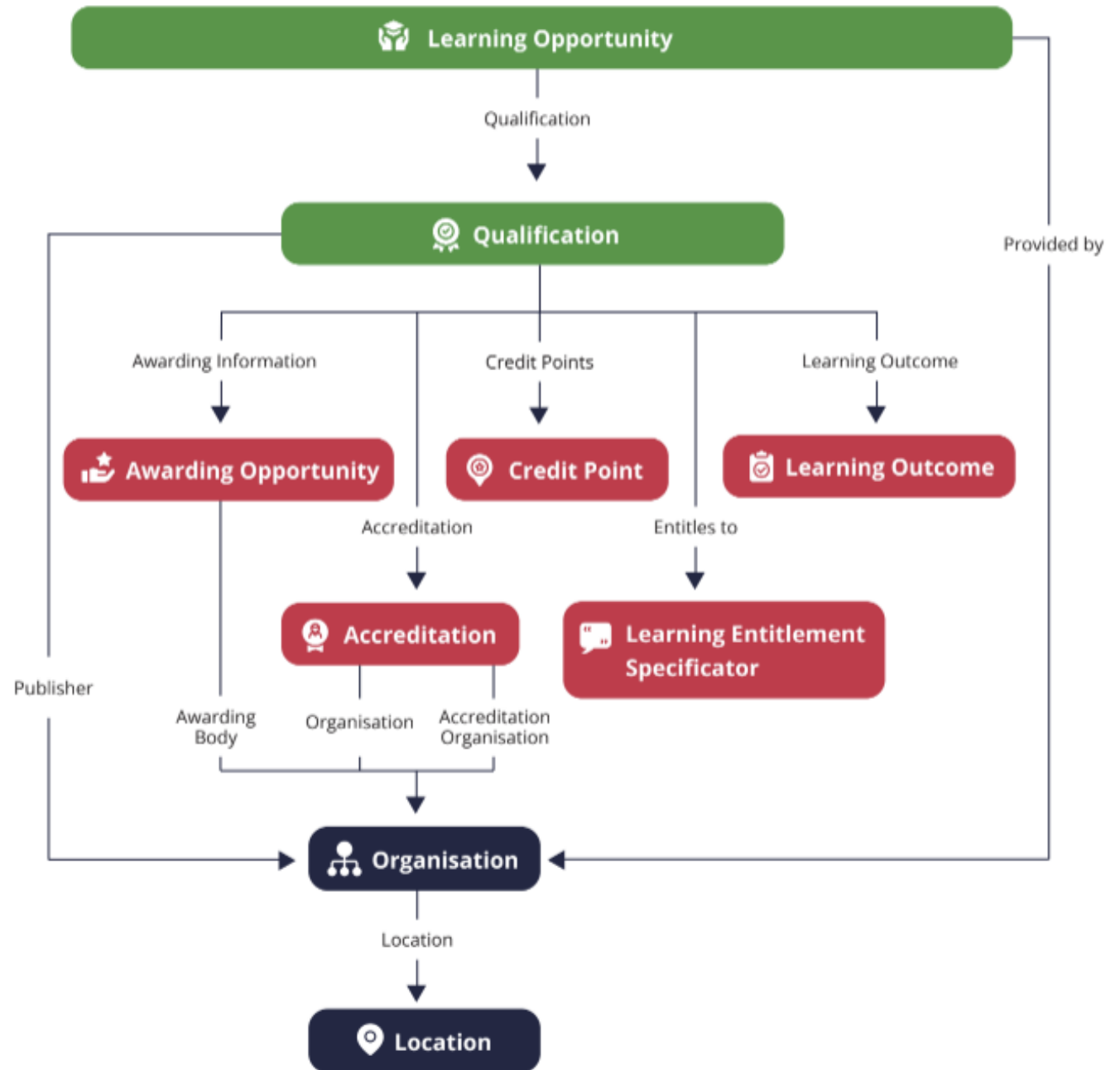
- Useful if data is structured in forms that always have same headings
- Automated tool to extract data from those forms, turn into searchable text, and save into a database
- High Degree of reliability



## Semantic Based Extraction

- Useful if Qualifications Data forms tend to be different
- AI and other tools used to extract meaning and populate database
- Quite experimental and not fully reliable.

# Mapping and Standardising Qualifications Data



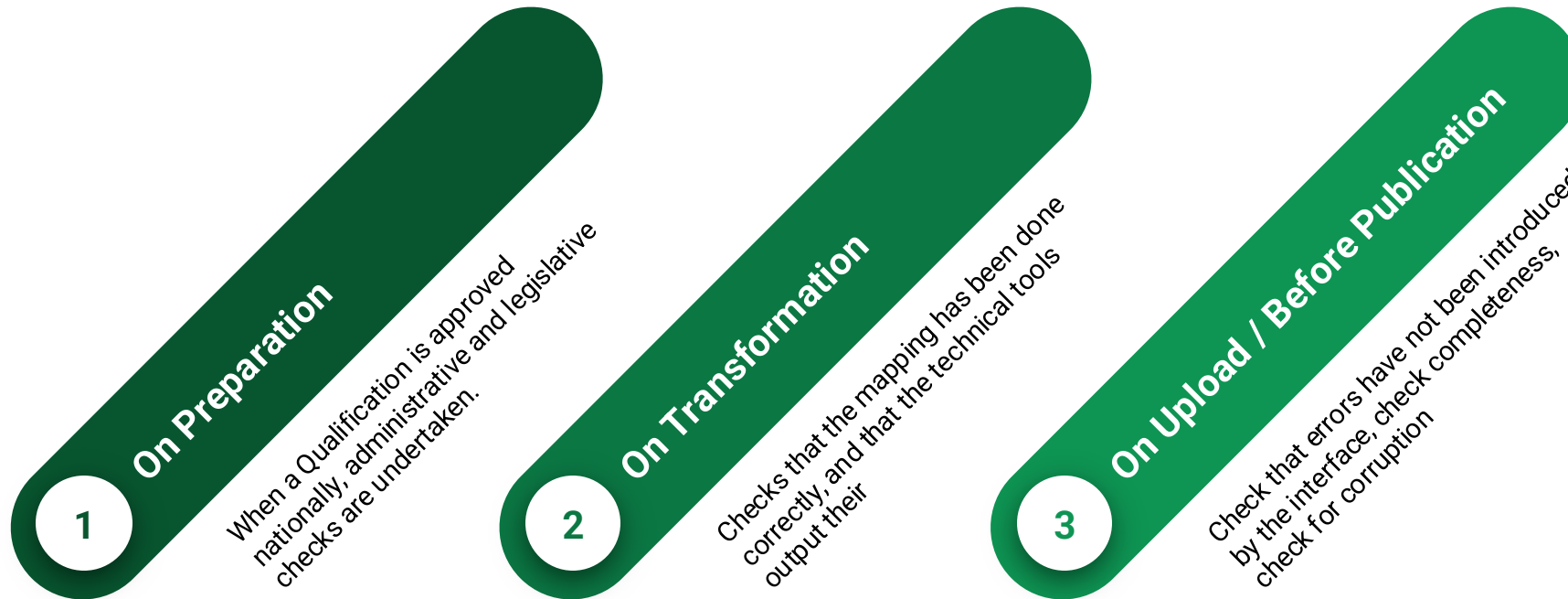
# Example of a Typical Dataset

Field Name	Description	Example
Qualification Title	The official name of the qualification	Bachelor's Degree in Engineering
Qualification Level	The level of the qualification	QF Level 6
Field of Study	The specific area or discipline of the qualification	Mechanical Engineering
Awarding Body	Institution that issues the qualification	University of Nairobi
Date of Award	The date when the qualification was awarded	June 2020
Learning Outcomes	Skills and competencies gained	Ability to design mechanical systems
Duration	The time taken to complete the qualification	4 years
Credits	The credit value of the qualification	240 ECTS
Mode of Study	The mode in which the qualification was delivered	Full-time, Part-time, Online
Others	Any other relevant information	Accreditation details, Language of instruction



# Quality Assure Data (Clean Data)

Before Publication, all qualifications **must** be quality assured.



# Typical Effort Distribution of a Data Science Project

**20%** Locating & Entering Data

**60%** **Cleaning/QA of Data**

**20%** Extracting Insights

# The “7 sins of data quality”

**01** The Description Dumper

**02** The Learning Outcome Avoider

**03** The Data Model Hacker

**04** The Know it All

**05** The Dummy Data Provider

**06** The Worshiper of old Gods

**07** The Minimalist

# The Description Dumper



The description dumper just copies all properties to the description field, and doesn't map their data to the properties.



Instead of rich data we can process, we receive a paragraph of text that is far less useful.



# The Learning Outcome avoider



No learning outcomes in data at all



All learning outcomes jumbled into one textbox



Learning outcomes not linked to ESCO or other frameworks



# The Data Model Hacker



Use of custom properties to avoid matching to data model



Using properties for purposes which they are not intended



## The know it all



Does not quality assure data before posting



Assumes data is correct without any basis



# The Dummy Data Provider



Using Dummy data to fill required fields



Forgetting to remove test data from the datasets

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# The Worshiper of Old Gods



Using the old data formats



No plan to migrate to newer formats



# The Minimalist



Populating only the required data fields

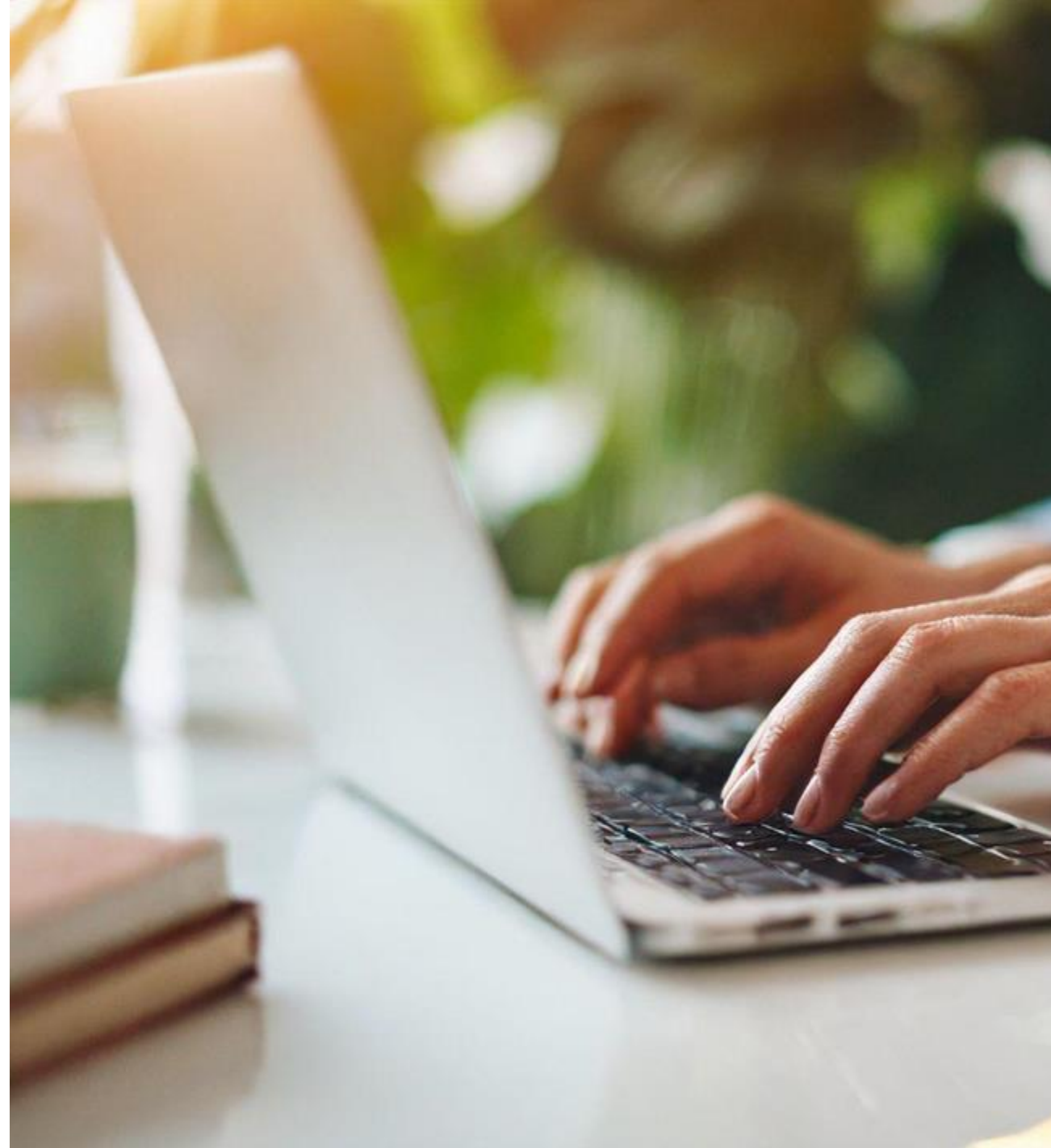


Limited information provided per data field



# Uploading & Publishing Data

**Demo Part 2: Uploading and Publishing Data in the ACQF Platform**



# Updating Data



## Push

- The database administrators are notified each time a modification is made to a qualification, and it is immediately updated in the ACQF
- Notification can happen automatically, or via a business process



## Pull

- There is no automatic notification.
- Database administrator locates updates, checks them for completeness and uploads
- Process is done several times per year (3-12)

# Typical QCP Roles

## Qualification Author

- Determine Learning Requirements
- Write Qualification Documentation

## Qualification Approver

- Determine compliance with legislative and administrative requirements
- Approve qualifications for provision

## Qualification Curator

- Collects Qualifications which have been approved
- Checks documentation for compatibility with QCP Standards and
- Transforms Data to QCP formats
- Manages QCP Data Upload

## Qualification Administrator

- Manages Access to the QCP for various Qualification Curators

Existing Roles

New Roles Required

# Updating Data

**Large Updates** = New Qualification

**Minor Updates** = Minor Update to existing Qualification



## Versioning

- Each National Authority needs to determine the versioning policy for themselves
- The ACQF DB merely implements the versioning policy requested

# Data Collection Activity



## Build a Unified Database:

Integrate qualifications data across African countries, while ensuring data standardisation, integrity and validation

- Coordination with national partners
- Understand data state(s) and planned approaches of data insertion
- Gathering and standardising qualifications data
- Quality assurance and support
- Data upload

# Data Collection Activity Timeline

## 2024

- Preparatory steps
- Workshop
- Data collection protocol
- Framework set-up, communication with stakeholders
- Quality assurance system

## 2025

- Ongoing (bilateral) support
- Ongoing data collection, initial upload (Q1)
- Monitoring of KPIs: Data collection reports (Q1)
- Data validation (Q2)



# Data Collection Activity: Immediate steps



**Nomination of Single Point of Contact (SPOC):** main liaison person between project team and national organisation for the data collection activity.

- Expertise in data management: data entry, validation, maintenance of data
- Knowledge of qualifications and NQF



**Online workshop with SPOCs:**

- Understand data state
- Guidance
- Planned approach of data insertion
- Effort planned to dedicate
- Set objectives of data inserted by summer 2025

**Further information on the ACQF data model:** <https://data.acqf-qcp.africa/>

# Conclusion and Next Steps



## Software development next steps

First-phase qualification curation portal to be delivered by the end of 2024

Dissemination and testing of the curation portal start from early 2025



## Training

Peer-Learning event to be held online in Q4 2024

Training Package to be published to ACQF website



## Data Collection

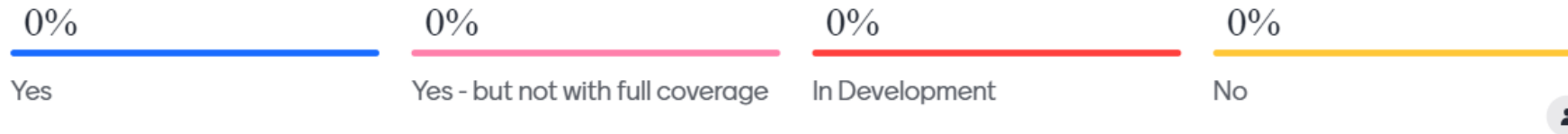
Nominations of SPOCs and establishment of communication

Workshop in Q3 2024

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Mentimeter

# Do you already have a central store for all Qualifications in your country?



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# What will be the main benefit of the QCP for you?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting in Interactivity to let participants vote for their favorites



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# What will be the main challenge in implementing the QCP for you?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting in Interactivity to let participants vote for their favorites



Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code **4427 8703**

# What is most important for future trainings?

- 1st** | Technical (IT) Support on the QCP
- 2nd** | Assistance on Organising Qualifications Data Collection and Quality Assurance
- 3rd** | Assistance on Improving Qualification Descriptions
- 4th** | Communicating with stakeholders about qualification databases
- 5th** | Setting up and operating national databases alongside QCP



**Thank you**

**Obrigado**

**Merci**

