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## ACQF Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP)

### QCP Steering Group

#### Concept and main activities

This concept outlines the main objectives and activities of the ACQF QCP Steering Group. This concept will be presented and validated at the webinar of 16/04/2024.

#### Main references:

- ✓ ACQF Policy Document (English): <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-policy-document-upon-validation-by-au-member-states-en-fr-pt/acqf-policy-document-en>
- ✓ ACQF Document de Politique (French): <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-policy-document-upon-validation-by-au-member-states-en-fr-pt/document-de-politique-du-cadre-continental-africain-des-certifications-acqf>
- ✓ ACQF Documento de Política (Português): <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-policy-document-upon-validation-by-au-member-states-en-fr-pt/documento-de-politica-do-quadro-continental-africano-de-qualificacoes-acqf>
- ✓ ACQF Brief Handbook. <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/brief-acqf-handbook>
- ✓ ACQF Guideline 6: Registers and databases of qualifications. <https://acqf.africa/resources/policy-guidelines/acqf-guidelines/acqf-guideline-6-registers-and-databases-of-qualifications>

### 1. Brief overview of the ACQF QCP

The African Continental Qualifications Framework II (ACQF-II) project aims to contribute to mobility and lifelong learning opportunities for African learners by improving comparability and transparency of qualifications, recognising skills and competences, and fostering mutual trust and information-sharing among qualifications frameworks and systems on the continent.

The project ACQF-II started development the Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP), in accordance with the areas of activity defined in the ACQF Policy Document, which was validated by the African Union Member States at the Addis ACQF Conference in July 2023.

The QCP will be a comprehensive database system consisting of interconnected databases, offering at minimum tools for registration, classification, comparison, and visualisation for users. The first

The ACQF QCP will consist of two main layers:

1. National databases: accessible to relevant national institutions for managing and registering qualifications.
2. Continental database: A network connecting national databases and other qualification repositories, facilitating information-sharing.

To achieve such functionalities some key elements of the data included in the QCP are: qualification title, level of qualification, education field, country code, awarding body, provider, description, credit

points, and links to recognition of prior learning. Optional elements such as external quality assurance bodies and links to occupations will also be considered.

The data system is based on Linked Open Data and Open-Source software, ensuring compatibility with general internet security protocols and data protection legislation. It considers lessons learned from international practices and existing taxonomies such as the international standard ISCED-F 2013.

The ACQF-II involves stakeholders and experts in the process of conceptual and technical development of the QCP. Participation in the QCP is open to African countries.

At completion of the ACQF-II project the QCP will be continued through the representative network of African qualifications institutions, in coordination and cooperation with the African Union. To ensure this sustainability the ACQF-II will deliver training and support to implementers, a Handbook, and peer-sharing activities.

## 2. QCP Steering Group

The QCP Steering Group (SG) is the main space for dialogue, exchanges of information and comments between the actors involved in the different phases and activities of the QCP.

### Members of the Steering Group

- The representative(s) of the countries involved and benefiting of the QCP
- Other interested stakeholders and experts from African countries and institutions
- The consortium in charge of technical implementation of the QCP (*Cognizone, PPMI, Knowledge Innovation Centre*).
- ACQF-II project coordinator
- ETF experts

The Members of the QCP SG are nominated or indicated by the relevant national institutions. They are invited to participate in online meetings (webinars) and workshops organised by the ACQF-II project.

ACQF-II project organises a series of thematic and policy workshops in 2024, which include agenda points related to the QCP. ACQF-II finances the participation of the members of QCP SG in relevant ACQF-II workshops, in accordance with the agreed rules and practices. These costs normally include return ticket in economy class, hotel room and full board, visa and transfer costs.

### Main functions of the Steering Group

- To contribute to steering of the activities of the ACQF QCP
- To provide and discuss ideas and recommendations on the main proposals and deliverables developed in the context of the QCP
- To create a team of informed and trained African stakeholders and experts on all matters related to the QCP
- To validate the main proposals and deliverables of the QCP
- To communicate information and updates on the QCP at national, regional, continental levels and globally, as adequate
- To support the handover of QCP to the competent entity at the end of 2026.

## 3. Plan and main milestones

The ACQP QCP is developed and operationalised in the period 2024-2026 in 4 primary phases:

Phase	Main outputs	Main activities	Period and milestones
<b>Phase 1</b>	Proof of concept of the QCP, including national and continental QCP layers	1. Technical concept report, including analysis of options for QCP 2. Stakeholders' needs analysis	02/2024 to 04/2024

<b>Phase 2</b>	Developed QCP and first demonstration, plus training materials	3. Development of the system of databases with key functionalities. 4. Data collection 5. Training of involved stakeholders, experts	05/2024 to 12/2024
<b>Phase 3</b>	Scaled, improved, finalised QCP with data and trained stakeholders/experts	6. Feedback. Finetuning of QCP 7. Scaling the system of QCP 8. Launch of full QCP 9. Monitoring and training.	01/2025 to 04/2026
<b>Phase 4</b>	Final operationalisation and handover	10. Learners' feedback 11. Final operationalisation steps 12. Handover to African Qualifications Network and AU	05/2026 to 12/2026

The QCP training activities for the national and other experts and stakeholders will be scheduled separately.

#### Meetings of the QCP SG – indicative plan

- 08/03/2024: webinar - launch and information on Activities 1 and 2 (Proof of concept, stakeholders' needs analysis). Participants: priority countries, technical implementation consortium, ACQF-II coordination. Meeting conducted.
- 16/04/2024: webinar – presentation of results of QCP stakeholders' needs analysis; brief overview of main QCP technical options, data model, plan.
- 09/2024: webinar – presentation of training materials for capacity development and progress on the development of the QCP foundations
- 12/2024: webinar – demonstration of the QCP database (first version)
- 03/2025: webinar – presentation of data collection coordination and the first live version of the QCP
- 09/2025: webinar – presentation of the training programme progress and gathering feedback for the final development phase of QCP
- 03/2026: webinar – final showcase of the QCP and planning of the handover process
- 09/2026: webinar – presentation of draft of concluding materials of the project, learners feedback report, handbook and handover protocols

Contact: Eduarda Castel-Branco, [ecb@etf.europa.eu](mailto:ecb@etf.europa.eu)

Coordinator of ACQF-II project

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