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Project acronym: MICROGUIDE

Project full title: DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Project No. 2021-1-ProjectRS01-KA220-HED-000027585

Funding Scheme: Erasmus+

Linking micro-credentials to National Qualification Framework

Qualifications Agency

28 June – 30 June, 2023,
Lleida, Spain



Law on National Qualifications Framework in Serbia

"Official Gazette of RS" no. 27/2018 of 6th April 2018, 6th to 24th January 2020

This Law set forth the National Qualifications Framework in Serbia (NQFS) as the system for regulating the qualifications, its purpose, objectives and principles, types and levels of qualifications, methods of acquiring the qualifications, descriptions of knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes qualification levels, bodies and organizations responsible for the implementation and development of NQFS, quality assurance in implementing NQFS and its referencing to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

NQFS is an instrument for identifying, creating and classifying qualifications, in accordance with the demands of labor market, continual learning, science and society in general.

NQFS defines processes and institutions (bodies, organizations) responsible for defining qualifications and qualification standards, methods and conditions for acquiring, comparing and recognition of qualifications, along with other mechanisms for quality assurance.

NQFS contributes to the improvement of the educational system of Republic Serbia and to the overall reform processes. The main purpose of improving the educational system is the education of competent individuals who will be able to respond to the requirements of labor market, society, economy, and to meet their own needs in an adequate and professional manner.

NQFS is an integral part of the European integration process and the Chapter 26 – Education and Culture, referenced to European Qualifications Framework and mobility of workforce.

Goals of establishing NQFS:

- providing comprehensibility, clear overview and transparency of qualifications, as well as their interconnections;
- development of qualifications standards based on the requirements of labour market and society as a whole;
- providing the orientation towards learning outcomes;
- improving the approach, flexibility of paths and mobility in the formal and non-formal education;
- providing the recognition of non-formal and informal learning;
- improving collaboration between relevant stakeholders;
- providing quality system within the process of development and acquiring qualifications;
- providing comparability and recognition of qualifications acquired in the Republic of Serbia with qualifications acquired in other states.

I phase of the NQFS development

2005. The process started with the support of EU projects in the area of VET and introduction of the Bologna Process in Higher education

2007.NQFS implemented in policies – Strategy for Vocational Education Development and Strategy for Adult Education Development

2012.NQFS implemented in the Strategy for Education Development in Serbia by 2020

2013. The document National Qualifications Framework – national qualifications system from level 1 to level 5 developed and approved by the Council for Vocational Education and Adult Education

2015. Public hearing at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia on the subject “National Qualifications Framework-linking education and labor market in the Republic of Serbia”

II phase of the NQFS development

2015. The Expert team for the development of an integrated National Qualifications Framework from level 1 to 8 was formed

2017. National Education Council, Council for Vocational Education and Adult Education and National Council for Higher Education adopted the qualification levels and level descriptors from level 1 to 8

2017. Council for Vocational Education and Adult Education, National Council for Higher Education, Institute for the Improvement of Education and Chamber of Commerce and Industry adopted the use of International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2013f) in NQFS

2017. Qualifications database established

III phase of the NQFS development

2018. Law on NQFS adopted („Official Gazette “no. 27/18)

2018. Establishment of institutions – Qualifications Agency, NQFS Council, and 12 Sector Skills Councils: <https://azk.gov.rs/>

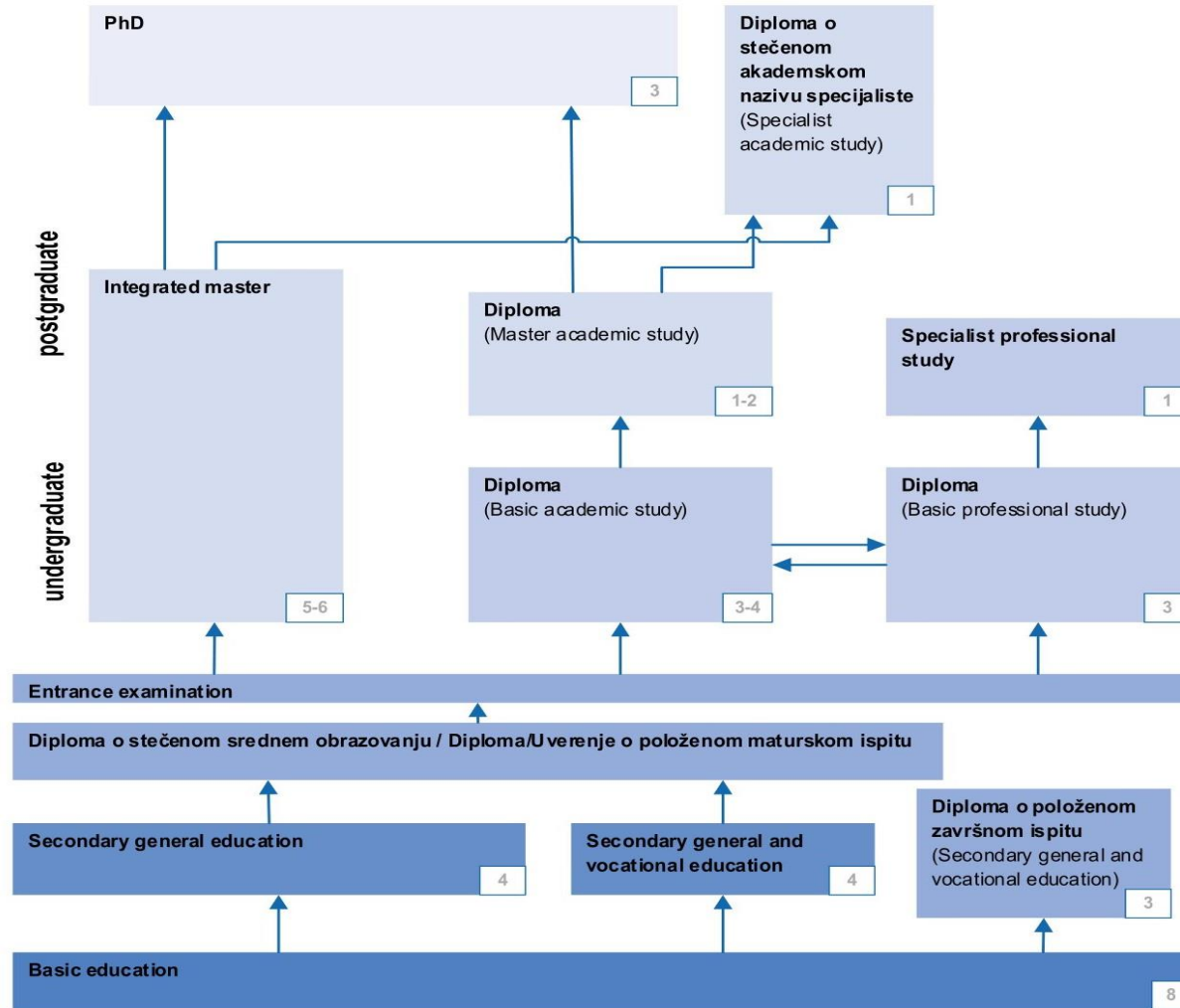
2019. Working Group for referencing the NQFS to the EQF and QF-EHEA

2019. NQFS referenced to EQF and QF-EHEA

NQFS- levels

NQFS level	NQFS sublevel	Qualifications	EQF level
1	-	Primary education Primary adult education Primary music education Primary ballet education	1
2	-	Vocational training (up to 1 year) Education for work (up to 2 years) Non-formal adult education (120 - 360 hours)	2
3	-	Secondary vocational education (3 years) Non-formal adult education (min 960 hours)	3
4	-	Secondary education (vocational, arts, gymnasium) (4 years)	4
5	-	“Meister” craftsman education, specialist education (1 - 2 years) Non-formal adult education (min 6 months)	5
	6.1	Undergraduate (Bachelor) academic studies (min 180 ECTS) Undergraduate (bachelor) applied studies (180 ECTS)	6
	6.2	Undergraduate (Bachelor with honors) academic studies (min 240 ECTS), Specialized applied studies (min 60 ECTS)	
7	7.1	Integrated academic studies (300 do 360 ECTS) Master academic studies (min 60 ECTS) – with previously completed undergraduate (bachelor with honors) academic studies (min 240 ECTS) Master academic studies (min 120 ECTS) - with previously completed undergraduate (bachelor) academic studies (180 ECTS) Master applied studies (min 120ECTS) - with previously completed undergraduate (bachelor) applied studies (180 ECTS)	7
	7.2	Specialized academic studies (min 60ECTS) - with previously completed master academic studies	
8	-	Doctoral studies (180 ECTS) – with previously completed integrated academic, or master academic studies	8

■ Education system Serbia – flow chart



0 Duration of education

NQFS Register

NQFS Register is a public database in which qualifications are classified and which contains relevant information on qualifications.

Role of the NQFS Register:

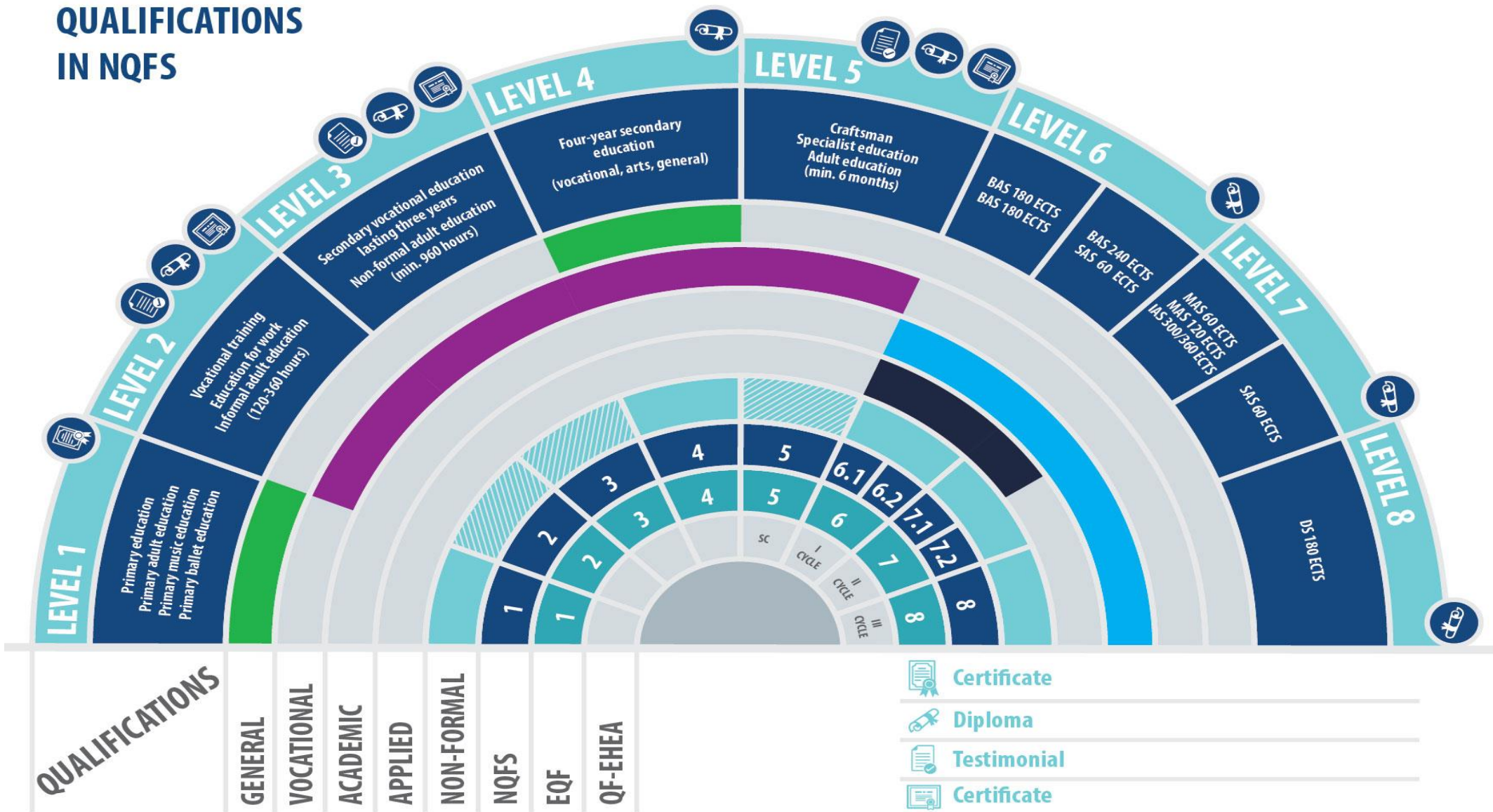
- transparent integration of the data on nationally recognized qualifications at all levels
- comparability of learning outcomes achieved at different levels, within different types and different forms of learning
- linking data on qualifications to occupations
- comparability of qualification levels in Serbia with EQF and QF-EHEA levels

NQFS Register structure

NQFS Register consists of sub-registers:

- National Qualifications - contains information on the qualifications acquired before and after the establishment of the NQFS Register classified by level and type in accordance with the CLASSNQFS (classification system)
- Qualification standards - contains information on the qualification standards (type and level of qualifications according to NQFS and EQF and QF-EHEA, learning outcomes, link with occupations, method of acquisition ...)
- Publicly Recognized Organizers of Adult Education Activities (PROAEA) - Information on PROAEA that have been accredited or revoked approvals for work, approved adult education programs/activities and employers with whom PROAEA realize practical work.

QUALIFICATIONS IN NQFS



Primary and secondary education

Primary education starts at the age of 7, and lasts for 8 years and it is compulsory. Primary education concludes with an exam (Завршни испит/Završni ispit, or Мала матура/Mala matura).

Secondary education generally lasts 4 years, and is not compulsory. Students are usually 15 years old when they start. Students may attend general secondary schools (gymnasia) or schools for both general and vocational education.

Upon satisfactory completion, students are awarded the Диплома о стеченом средњем образовању/Diploma o stečenom srednem obrazovanju (Diploma on completed secondary education) which gives access to higher education.

Level 5

Level 5 are acquired by completing the two-year and/or one-year crafts and/or specialist education and six-month non-formal adult education. The precondition for the acquisition of this level is the previously acquired Level 4 and/or Level 4 of NQFS or previously acquired NQFS Level 4 for non-formal adult education.

Upon completion Uverenje o položenom specijalističkom ispitu/Certificate on passed specialist exam is awarded.

These qualifications do not give access to higher education studies they are intended for labor market only.

Higher education

According to the type, higher education studies are divided into academic and vocational:

- academic studies train students to develop and apply scientific, artistic and professional achievements;
- vocational studies to apply and develop professional knowledge and skills required in order to enter the labor market.

By cycle, studies are divided in first, second and third cycle of studies.

First cycle studies:

- bachelor academic studies of three and four-year duration (180-240 ECTS);
- bachelor vocational studies of three-year duration (180 ECTS);
- specialized vocational studies of one-year duration (60 ECTS) after three-year vocational studies (180 ECTS).

Second cycle studies:

- integrated academic studies of five and six-year duration (300-360 ECTS);
- master academic studies of one-year duration (60 ECTS) after bachelor academic studies of four-year duration (240 ECTS), or master academic studies of two-year duration (120 ECTS) after bachelor academic studies of three-year duration (180 ECTS);
- master vocational studies of two-year duration (120 ECTS) after bachelor vocational of three-year duration (180 ECTS);
- Specialized academic studies of one-year duration (60 ECTS) after master academic studies.

Third cycle studies are doctoral academic studies of three-year duration (180 ECTS) after integrated academic studies of at least five-year duration (300 ECTS) or master academic studies

Equivalence of existing qualifications

Professional, academic or scientific titles acquired according to regulations in place by the time before implementation of Bologna process in September 2005, and adoption of Law on National qualification Framework, are equivalent to the levels of the NQFS set forth by this law, in particular:

- undergraduate studies at the faculties in the duration from four to six years, that by the effective date of this law, considering the rights arising from that education was equal to the professional title of a master and/or graduate master, shall be equivalent to level 7.1 of the NQFS;
- academic title of the Master of Sciences acquired after completing the master studies and/or selected master theses, that by the effective date of this law, considering the rights arising from that education was equal to the scientific title of the master of sciences, shall be equivalent to level 7.2.

Хвала на пажњи!
Thank you for your attention!
Gracias por su atención!