

## **Terms of reference for the committee for the verification of the Dutch and Flemish NQFs**

### **Task**

The main task of the committee is to verify whether the Dutch and Flemish National Qualification Frameworks for higher education (NQFs) are compatible with the overarching framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The committee will base its conclusions on the criteria for the verification that are specified below. The committee may also give recommendations with regard to the further development of the NQFs.

This task is part of the so called self-certification process in which each country certifies that its national framework is compatible with the Bologna framework. The criteria and the procedures for the self-certification that are specified below have been established by the Ministers of all countries in the Bologna process.

The details of the procedures can vary nationally. The Ministries of Education of the Netherlands and Flanders have asked the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) to install a committee of independent and international experts for the verification of the Dutch and Flemish NQFs. The committee will review the NQF documents submitted by the Ministries and meet with stakeholders in Dutch and Flemish higher education.

The conclusions on compatibility, and the findings and recommendations of the committee will be included in two separate reports, one relating to the Dutch NQF and the other to the Flemish NQF. After approval of the committee, the secretary will send both reports to NVAO. The Executive Board of NVAO will establish whether the reports follow the terms of reference and agreed procedure, and whether the reports address separately each of the criteria set out. If this conclusion is positive then the NVAO will give a "stated agreement" (cf. point 2 of the procedures stated below) and send the reports to the Dutch and Flemish Ministries. It is then up to the Ministries to formally complete the self-certification process.

### **Criteria for verifying that national frameworks are compatible with the Bologna framework:**

1. The national framework for higher education qualifications and the body or bodies responsible for its development are designated by the national ministry with responsibility for higher education.
2. There is a clear and demonstrable link between the qualifications in the national framework and the cycle qualification descriptors of the European framework.
3. The national framework and its qualifications are demonstrably based on learning outcomes and the qualifications are linked to ECTS or ECTS compatible credits.
4. The procedures for inclusion of qualifications in the national framework are transparent.

5. The national quality assurance system for higher education refer to the national framework of qualifications and are consistent with the Berlin Communiqué and any subsequent communiqué agreed by ministers in the Bologna Process.
6. The national framework, and any alignment with the European framework, is referenced in all Diploma Supplements.
7. The responsibilities of the domestic parties to the national framework are clearly determined and published.

**Procedures for verifying that national frameworks are compatible with the Bologna framework:**

1. The competent national body/bodies shall certify the compatibility of the national framework with the European framework.
2. The self-certification process shall include the stated agreement of the quality assurance bodies in the country in question recognised through the Bologna Process.
3. The self-certification process shall involve international experts.
4. The self-certification and the evidence supporting it shall be published and shall address separately each of the criteria set out.
5. The ENIC and NARIC networks shall maintain a public listing of States that have confirmed that they have completed the self-certification process [[www.enic-naric.net](http://www.enic-naric.net)].
6. The completion of the self-certification process shall be noted on Diploma Supplements issued subsequently by showing the link between the national framework and the European framework.

More information on the development of National Qualifications Framework and the Bologna framework is available at: <http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/qf/national.asp>