

Template 4: National Qualifications Framework

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Country:	Spain (ES)

Developments concerning the National Qualifications Framework

Some aspects to take into account (if applicable):

- National Qualifications System;
- Structure of the NQF;
- Legislation regulating the NQF;
- Descriptors of the qualification levels in the NQF;
- Correspondence between national qualification levels and EQF levels.

The reform of the professional qualifications framework started in 2002 with the approval of the Organic Law 5/2002. This Law followed the Copenhagen Declaration of 2002.

To answer the demands and recommendations of the Copenhagen Declaration, Spain started to work in the development of a National Qualifications Framework (the Spanish Framework of Qualifications, MECU) and its correspondence to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), going through all levels of education.

The MECU is the result of the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications (CNCP) plus the Spanish Framework of Qualifications for Higher Education (MECES).

The CNCP defines the qualifications of levels 1, 2 and 3, corresponding with levels 1-5 from the EQF, so all levels of VET (from Initial VET to Higher VET, in formal and informal education), whereas the MECES defines the qualifications corresponding to all levels of higher education (from 5-8 of EQF). The MECES was developed in 2011 to complete the MECU.

The MECU (National Qualifications Framework) combines the CNCP and the MECES but the reference for the first one is the National Institute of Qualifications (INCUAL), dependent from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the reference of the second one is the National Agency for Quality Evaluation and Accreditation (ANECA), also dependent of the Ministry of Education. In this regard, one of the weaknesses of the Spanish System of Qualifications is that there is not a unique national centre coordinated with the European Framework.

Nevertheless, there is an alignment between the EQF and the NQF in Spain (MECU):

EQF	CNCP	Degree (in Spanish)
1	1	Operario
2		
3	2	Técnico Medio
4		
5	3	Técnico Superior
6	4	Grado
7	5	Máster
8	Not defined	Doctor (PhD)

Source: INCUAL

EQF	MECES	Degree (in Spanish)
5	1	Técnico Superior en Formación Profesional Técnico Superior de Artes Plásticas y Diseño Técnico Deportivo Superior
6	2	Título de Graduado Título de Graduado en Enseñanzas Artísticas Superiores
7	3	Título de Máster Universitario Título de Máster en Enseñanzas Artísticas
8	4	Título de Doctor (PhD)

Source: ANECA

For the definition of the professional qualifications, the methodology is based on ECVET recommendations, using the concept of learning outcomes expressed on terms of knowledge, skills and competences. Each qualification is formed by several units of competence and each unit of competence gathers certain knowledge, skills and competences which can be evaluated and certified. Completing the units of competence associated to a certain profession (defined in the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications), it is possible to obtain a professional certificate, issued by the National Public Employment Service or the Autonomous Communities.

This is the furthest the Spanish system has gone in the implementation of ECVET up to now and the actions right now are addressed to the consolidation of the Spanish National Qualification Frameworks. The translation of units of competence to ECVET points/credits (in a similar way to the ECTS system, which it does is implemented) is still something pending.

National Coordination Point for the implementation of the EQF:	Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
National Coordination Point for the implementation of the ECVET:	Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport – Sub directorate General for Guidance and Vocational Training
Related Links:	www.mecd.gob.es / subdireccion.fp@medc.es

Developments concerning the National Catalog of Qualifications

Some aspects to take into account (if applicable):

- Organization and structure of the NCQ;
- VET modalities included in the NCQ (e.g. VET courses for Youths are included in the NCQ?);
- EQF levels of the qualifications integrated in the NCQ;
- Methodology used in the conception of the NCQ qualifications (e.g. Are the qualifications based in Learning Outcomes? Are the qualifications organized in Units of Learning Outcomes?).

Professional qualifications gather all professional competences significant for employment which can be acquired by modular training or any other kind of training, as well as through professional experience.

Competence is defined by the group of knowledge and skills enabling to carry out professional activity according to production and employment requirements.

Unit of competence is defined as the minimum group of professional competences, susceptible of recognition and partial accreditation.

The NCQ incorporates both technical competences (specific of the profession) and transferable (also called key competences).

Key competences are those which enable people to adapt to a changing working environment, enable to obtain good results during the professional activity in different domains and social contexts.

Each qualification is assigned with a general competence, where main objectives and functions of the profession are defined.

The professional environment describes the professional field where the activity is developed, specifying the type of organization, area or service, productive services or job positions related.

Each qualification is organised in units of competence, which aggregates the minimum professional competences susceptible of recognition and partial accreditation. Each unit has associated a training module, where minimum training is described and gives the necessary reference to acquire the mentioned unit.

This structure makes possible to evaluate and recognise the worker each of his/her units of competence (obtained by training or by working experience). This way, the worker can accumulate them and achieve the accreditation of the complete qualification through a VET certificate (Título de Formación Profesional) or a Professional Certificate (Certificado de Profesionalidad).

Therefore, VET modalities included in the NCQ are both VET certificates (Título de Formación Profesional) and Professional Certificates (Certificado de Profesionalidad).

The NCQ is organised according to professional sectors (familias) and according to levels, taking into account criteria provided by the EU. Currently, the NCQ gathers 668 qualifications distributed in 26 professional sectors and 3 different levels: Level 1, corresponding to EQF levels 1-2, level 2, corresponding to EQF 3-4 and level 3, corresponding to EQF 5.

VET certificates (Títulos de Formación Profesional) are regulated by Real Decreto 1538/2006, 15th of December, which establishes the general structure of VET certificates. VET certificates are an instrument to prove qualifications and competences corresponding to each of them and to ensure a training level which includes professional, personal and social competences to favour employability and social cohesion.

Professional Certificates (Certificados de Profesionalidad) are regulated by Real Decreto 34/2008, 18th of January, and it includes training actions addressed to acquire and improve competences and professional qualifications. The training provision to obtain a Professional Certificate is modular in order to favour the partial accreditation of the training received and make possible for the worker to go on with his/her professional training

itinerary whichever his/her working situation is in each moment. Each Professional Certificate proves a Professional Qualification from the National Catalogue.

Related Links:

<https://incual.mecd.es/estructura>

https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2003-17588