



EU-FUNDED TWINNING PROJECT

MK 13 IPA SO 02 15

“Further improvement of the system for development and implementation of the National Qualifications Framework”

TWINNING PROJECT RESULTS

GENERAL PROJECT DATA

The main beneficiary institution of this project was the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) in Skopje. A consortium of institutions from the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Croatia and the United Kingdom implemented the project over a period of 21 months.

The project’s **overall aim** was to support the process of developing further improvements to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and to support its referencing to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WERE TO:

- Prepare and align relevant legislation regarding the development and implementation of the National Qualifications Framework;
- Strengthen capacities to support the National Qualifications Framework;
- Support the National Qualifications Framework Unit within the Ministry of Education and Science;
- Assist in developing a functional NQF system;
- Set the framework for an operational National Qualifications Framework information and management system.





ACHIEVED PROJECT OUTPUTS

The development of a comprehensive National Qualification Framework (NQF) aligned to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) will improve the transparency, access and quality of qualifications in the country. The European Qualification Framework not only helps European countries compare qualifications and qualifications systems but it also supports improvements to quality assessment and quality assurance practices. This project has supported the work of the Ministry of Education and Science to review the legislation and update the Protocols to improve the working practices required for qualification systems functioning. It has strengthened the institutional capacity for implementation of an effective qualifications system. The Twinning project has worked with MOES and stakeholders to produce a body of tools including a comprehensive NQF Manual and Road Map for implementation of NQF. The project has helped design the Register for National Qualifications aligned to NQF.

COMPONENT I:

Improved relevant legislation on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) by reviewing existing legislation, proposing amendments to harmonize the National Qualifications Framework with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), update rulebooks and protocols, and raise public awareness about these activities. Outputs include:

- Report analyzing legislation on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
- Report on stakeholders' roles in the NQF
- Report on the inclusion of qualifications in the NQF
- Recommendations and draft legal acts to update existing legislation
- Rulebook on the work of the National Board for the NQF and on the NQF Register
- Protocol on the joint work of the Bureau for the Development of Education, the Vocational Education and Training Centre and Adult Education Centre on the development of occupational standards, qualifications standards and educational programmes
- Protocol on the Cooperation of Sectoral Qualifications Councils in general and in particular in cases of shared competence for proposed qualifications standards or programmes
- Protocol on mutual cooperation in evaluation and approval of qualifications standards for higher education
- Methodology for evaluation of qualifications standards in VET and adult education and for the evaluation of higher education qualifications standards



COMPONENT 2:

Strengthened institutional capacities to implement the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). This includes testing and piloting the revised rulebooks, protocols and bylaws of the NQF system, analyse the existing national system to develop and implement the structural and systemic levels (institutional and administrative set-up) of the NQF, develop mechanisms for networking and cooperation among all NQF institutions and relevant stakeholders, and provide recommendations for the NQF management information system.

- Report on the institutional set-up within the NQF system in Beneficiary Country in the context of EU recommendations
- Report on institutional solutions in the EU countries of Ireland, France, Poland and Austria
- Co-operation protocol for the NQF
- Report on the analysis of training needs and preparation of training materials
- Data base with materials for Training of Trainers
- Written recommendations on the improvement of the functioning of the NQF management and information system
- Action Plan - implementation of the register of qualifications
- Commentary on the flowcharts for the NQF Unit relating to the rulebook for the work of the NQF Board
- Description of key functionalities and features of the management information system of the NQF register
- Diagram of the formal administrative check of the sub-module for the NQF
- Diagram of the procedure for the development/submission/revision of qualifications standards and education programmes
- Diagram of the procedure for the development and submission of qualifications standards in HE
- Diagram of the procedure for the development/submission/revision of occupational standards, qualifications standards and programmes in VET
- Diagram of the procedure for the development/submission/revision of formal VET programmes and verified non-formal programmes in adult education

COMPONENT 3



Enhanced the process of developing qualifications for the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), including: developing a methodology for developing and describing new qualifications based on labour market needs, and a methodology for describing existing qualifications for two priority sectors, testing and piloting these methodologies, preparing guidelines for quality assurance procedures relating to NQF implementation, and support to the process of referencing the NQF to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

- Identification report of the existing qualifications considering all levels of the NQF
- Analysis of selected solutions in the area of the quality assurance of qualifications awarded within Beneficiary Country
- Report on the analysis of labour market needs and the solutions developed to date – initiation of cooperation with stakeholders
- Guidelines for the quality assurance of developing new vocational qualifications in the National Qualifications System (NQS)
- Quality Assurance Procedure: Evaluation of newly developed qualifications
- Roadmap for the Further Development and Implementation of the NQF
- Manual updating the methodology of developing new qualifications for the NQF based on labour market needs
- Training of Master NQF Trainers
- Guidelines – The role of Sectoral Qualifications Councils in the process of adapting existing qualifications
- Adapting existing qualifications to NQF and EQF requirements
- Manual on Adapting Existing Qualifications to NQF and EQF Requirements for experts involved in adapting particular qualifications
- An additional existing qualification adapted for Master Hairdresser
- Four new qualifications developed for the IT and tourism sectors
- NQF Glossary for clear understanding of NQF terminology

This Twinning Project began in January 2016 and ended on 17 October. The project was funded by the European Union with a budget of 2 250 000 EU.