



Level 5 of the EQF and Quality Assurance

ENQA - April 6, 2023

Our international community in short

- ▶ A community of practice for level 5 of the EQF
- ▶ Founded in 2013 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- ▶ 690 members / 37 countries
- ▶ Non-profit / Foundation

What are we talking about...

- ▶ National Level 5 Area...
- ▶ Qualifications at level 5 of the EQF (and connected to a NQF)
- ▶ Quality Assurance systems, used for them
- ▶ But... what does this mean... if... how... when...

Level 5 in Tertiary Education

- ▶ Level 5 is part of 'Tertiary Education'
 - ... 3 and 4 = Secondary Education
 - 5, 6, 7 and 8 = Tertiary Education
- ▶ We are looking at three main sectors in Tertiary Education
 1. **Higher Education**
 2. **Higher VET** (Higher Vocational-Professional Education)
 3. **Business Education and Training** (non-formal - non-degree - incompany - modules - units - microcedentials... / Private Institutions - Business Academies...)

European Level 5 Area

- ▶ In Higher Education:
 - Short Cycle HE (within the EHEA)
 - Not a common international name yet... but we propose:
Associate
- ▶ In Higher VPE (Higher VET)
 - HVPE 5
 - No common international names... Do we need them?
- ▶ In BET
 - linked to level 5 of a NQF (by a National Coordination Point)
 - international qualifications
 - names linked to professions / private organisations involved...

Link with QA and accreditation of qualifications at level 5

- ▶ We have then three QA systems for tertiary education
- ▶ All three of them having their own approach and procedures
 1. Higher Education: European Standards and Guidelines
 2. HVET/HVPE: EQAVET and...
 3. BET: all kinds of procedures... and stakeholders... and standards

- ▶ Aim: Looking for similarities and how to collaborate - countries, national organisations, institutions..

But...

- ▶ Do we need Short Cycle HE in every country... based on the same criteria for the other cycles?
- ▶ If there is no SCHE in a National HEA... do we need HPVE at level 5...?
- ▶ Do we need both...?
- ▶ What is a national strategy... for the next 5 years...?

What's next...

- ▶ Doing research
- ▶ It is a process within Europe (also looking at the EHEA):
Level 5 - but also including HVPE at levels 5 and higher
- ▶ Conference in 2024 (Spring) about level 5 - including QA

And...

- ▶ In Europe the focus will be on having the European Education Area in 2025....
- ▶ And the next ministerial meeting about developments within the European Higher Education Area (Bologna Process) will be held in 2024 (Autumn)...
- ▶ And almost every country has its NQF based on the EQF...
- ▶ And more countries are formulating a strategy for their National Level 5 Area...

QA and Accreditation

- ▶ The European Level 5 Area is relatively new... and therefore challenging...
- ▶ One of the most important issues is a format for harmonizing the systems that are used for quality assurance: similarities... for collaboration... and flexible learning pathways... and new developments and insights...
- ▶ In September we want to start an international working group on QA at level 5 - having a first webinar a.s.a.p.
- ▶ You are welcome!



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