



HKQF Conference

Panel Discussion I

**International Dimension of HKQF:
Mobility of Learners and Employers
arising from EQF Study**

Comparability Study of the HKQF and the EQF

Eva CHENG

Qualifications Framework Secretariat

HKQF and EQF : Origin, Development and Objectives

- **HKQF**

- concept, legislation, objectives, 7-level hierarchy, unitary and local framework
- links to education/training and employment

- **EQF**

- concept, recommendation of European Parliament and Council, objectives, 8-level hierarchy, regional meta-framework
- links to lifelong learning and mobility
- a translation device between different qualification systems/frameworks and their levels within EU member states and countries

Comparability Study : Aims

- To enhance understanding of HK qualifications and standards in Europe, and vice versa
- To create a zone of trust on qualifications and standards
- To strengthen mutual recognition of qualifications, and facilitate learner and labour mobility
- To foster economic cooperation and collaboration between HK and Europe
- To provide a platform for further QF development



European
Qualifications
Framework

Comparability Study : Methodology

- To determine the comparability between HKQF and EQF by:
 - analysing the purpose, governance, structure, operation, and QA of two frameworks
 - carrying out a detailed level-to-level comparison of the level descriptors of the two frameworks
 - conducting a reality check with qualification types
 - consulting local and international experts



Comparability Study : Five Principles

- Transparent framework governance
- Level-to-level comparability
- Outcomes-based learning
- Clear and transparent mechanisms for inclusion of qualifications on QF
- Robust underpinning QA arrangements in line with international principles



Process of Level-to-Level Comparison

- **Structural comparison** : comparing the architecture, policy, concepts of learning outcomes, a vertical and horizontal analysis of the domain descriptors, and definition of levels
- **Technical comparison** : linguistic/textual analysis of the learning outcomes statements of the level descriptors
- **Contextual matching (“reality check”)** : use of typical examples of qualification types linked to levels to enrich context
- **Social context matching**

Result of Level-to-Level Comparison

HKQF	EQF
Level 7	Level 8
Level 6	Level 7
Level 5	Level 6
Level 4	Level 5
Level 3	Level 4
Level 2	Level 3
Level 1	Level 2
	Level 1

Joint Report of HKQF-EQF

- Results of level-to-level comparison agreed by both EDB and EQF AG
- Joint Report thoroughly discussed and endorsed by Local Expert Group
- Joint Report presented by EDB and accepted by EQF AG in Berlin in December 2015



Lessons Learnt

- **Comparability Study** : an opportunity for self-evaluation and identification of areas for improvement
- **Within HK** : alignment of understanding and expectations of local stakeholders on HKQF
- **Externally** : Building trust and mutual understanding with national and regional QFs (eg. NQFs, EQF, etc)



Future Plan


- **Comparability Study** - A starting point for
 - further cooperation and collaboration with Europe at different levels (eg. govt-to-govt, institution-to-institution, corporation-to-corporation, etc)
 - Initiation of a formal review and evaluation on the infrastructure and development of HKQF
- **Communication of Study findings** with stakeholders in the education and industry sectors
- **Mapping out future plan** for comparability studies with other jurisdictions
- **Comparability Study and YOU**

The background features a light blue grid with several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of blue, green, orange, and grey. In the top right corner, there is a small cluster of four squares: a light green one, a blue one, a grey one, and an orange one.

HKQF-EQF Comparability Study : Implications to Stakeholders

Chetwyn CHAN
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Implications of Results

- Educational institutions
 - Learners
 - Employers and professional associations/unions
- 

Implications to Educational Sector

- Admission of students: Benchmark qualification of student applicants from overseas particularly Europe and others using EQF as reference (Levels 3 and 5)
- Internationalization of Hong Kong students: outbound exchange, attachment, overseas enrolment and study abroad
- Diversity of student population: inbound students
- Enrich students' learning experiences: credit transfers cross Hong Kong and European institutions

Implications to Learners

- Increase in overseas study opportunities particularly in European countries (professional development for employees)
- Better local recognition of academic qualifications for both professional and non-professional education
- Diverse formal and informal learning prior to higher education
- Better globalization and competitiveness

Implications to Employers and Professional Associations

- More diverse workforce (with talents) extended to European countries
- Timely supply of workforce in emerging fields
- Stable supply of workforce during surge of economy
- Continuous improvements of standards (due to diversity)

The background features a light blue grid with several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of blue, green, orange, and yellow. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement.

International Dimension of HKQF: QA Perspective

Dorte KRISTOFFERSEN

**Hong Kong Council for Accreditation
of Academic and Vocational
Qualifications**

The Context for Accreditation and Qualifications Assessment

- Internationalisation of education
- Importance of recognition of qualifications
- The use of universally understood and presented information

QF Comparability and Qualifications Assessment

- International conventions
 - Lisbon Recognition Convention
 - Bologna Process
- EQF translation device between qualifications and their levels
- National QFs are linked to EQF

QF Comparability and Qualifications Assessment

- The use of the EQF Comparability Study:
 - Translation device between EQF and HKQF that facilitates comparison with national QFs
 - It can help to determine what HKQF Level a non-local qualification may be pitched at
 - It serves as a reference point for QA when conducting its own research on credential evaluation
 - It provides information to QA stakeholders such as students, parents, educational institutions/schools and employers about European qualifications that may facilitate their decision making.

QF Comparability and Accreditation

- HKQF permits the inclusion of non-local qualifications
- The comparability study may streamline accreditation of NLPs as it provides a tool for easier comparison
- This may encourage more non-local operators to have their NLPs accredited
- The use of the comparability study is one building block in establishing a zone of trust between education and training systems in Europe and Hong Kong

Limitations and Potentials

- EQF does not contain qualifications
- Its strength lies in its use as a translation device - a joint language
- It should enable dialogue toward increased mobility of learners
- It should facilitate recognition of European qualifications in HK and vice versa and more European students in HK
- The European challenge for automatic recognition

The background features a light blue grid with several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of blue, green, orange, and grey. In the top right corner, there is a series of four squares in a staircase pattern, colored green, blue, grey, and orange from top-left to bottom-right.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF HKQF: EXPERIENCE OF AXA

Xavier LESTRADE
AXA China Region
Insurance Co Ltd



AXA Hong Kong Partnership with HKQF at a glance

Professionalism is at the core of our distribution strategy

Professionalism

Innovation


Digital

AXA in Hong Kong: Pioneer in the industry to offer QF accredited courses

AXA Academy
Your path to success



資歷架構
Qualifications
Framework

- 
- Certificate in Financial Planning - Level 3 Certificate Qualification
 - Certificate in Sales Management - Level 3 Certificate Qualification

Implications of HKQF and EQF for AXA



Implications for AXA

- ➔ Opportunities for our employees and advisors to enrich their qualifications throughout their professional career
- ➔ Reinforce the foundation of international mobility between HK and Europe
- ➔ Ease transfer of AXA global best practices in learning and development both in technical and client facing positions