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How does a National Quality Assurance Framework support a National Qualification System on Lifelong Learning?

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Rural Development for Employability in Rural areas:



= > From **local activities** in four priority rural regions (Karakalpakstan, Khorazm, Bukhara, Surkhondaryo) in Agriculture and Irrigation

- Refurbishing Colleges
- Equipment of Colleges
- Curricula development
- Assessment
- Training of Trainers

=> To **systemic activities** at national level since 2024.



NQS in Uzbekistan PR 345 30/09/2024

The Resolution stipulates the main directions of reforming the NQS:

- Improving the regulations, institutional and methodological **foundations of NQS**
- Development and advancement of a National **Classifier** of Occupations, professions and jobs based on international standards
- Development and implementation of qualification **frameworks**
- Ensuring international **Recognition of Qualifications** and the integration of qualification levels with the qualification level of leading foreign countries.
- Implementation of **Recognition of Prior Learning**
- Development and implementation of tools for **Skills Anticipation**
- Development of **Strategic Plan** for the full implementation of the NQS

A Concept of National Qualification System should answer the following questions:



- What are the definitions of basic concepts for NQS?
- What is the purpose of NQS?
- What are the functions of NQS?
- What are the Institutions of NQS?
- What are the purpose and functions of the NQF?
- What are the purpose of qualifications standards In the NQF?
- What is the organisation of NQS?
- How is the quality of qualifications assured In the NQS?
- What is the role of the regulator in NQS?
- What is the role of Awarding Bodies in the NQS?
- Who are the stakeholders of the NQS?



Who answers the questions ?



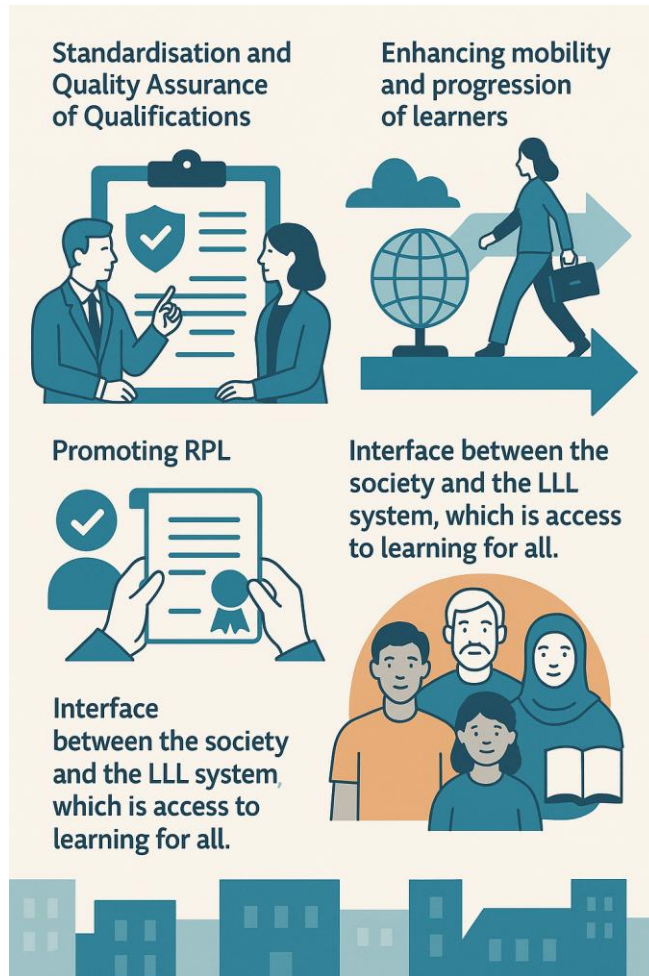
A Qualification and Quality Assurance Authority



National Quality Assurance Framework



Quality Assurance Framework objectives within the NQS:



- Ensuring the quality, relevance and recognition of qualification
- Standardisation and Quality Assurance of Qualifications
- Enhancing mobility and progression of learners
- Promoting RPL
- Interface between the society and the LLL system which is access to learning for all.
- Developing a National Register of Qualifications



WHY is National Qualification Framework the **backbone** of the National Qualification System?



If there is a NQF, there is a **Register** of accredited qualifications.



If there are accredited qualifications, there are **Awarding Bodies** who build those qualifications.



Awarding bodies are bodies authorised to **build, assess** and **validate** qualifications as competences.



If there are accredited awarding bodies, there is a **REGULATOR**.



National Quality Assurance Framework



Definition of Quality:
degree to which a set of characteristics of an entity **fulfills the needs and expectations** of stakeholders

2 areas in QA: **DEVELOPMENT** of QUALIFICATIONS **DELIVERY** of QUALIFICATIONS

1

Regulator and **Awarding Bodies** are in charge of developing and regulating qualification standards.

2

Training Providers and **Assessment Centres** are in charge of implementing accredited qualification through training programmes.



Based on this logic, NQAF programme had 3 Directions working on the NQS.

D1

Development and Regulation of Qualification Framework.

Method: comparison of Uzbekistan qualification system with other countries: Albania, Estonia, France (Peer reviews).

How are their qualification standards regulated in different countries?

- Ministries
- Dedicated qualification authority and a separate quality assurance agency ? (Estonia)
- Unified Regulatory Body? (France)
- NQS Concept (Olav with NQS Institute)



Recommendations on the NQS Concept

Before drafting the “Law on National Qualifications System” **compile the NQS Glossary** of basic terms (competence, qualification, NQS, NQF, learning outcome, RPL etc.).

Compile an Executive Summary of the NQS Concept 2030.

Revise the NOS template and methodology to assure that NOS becomes a National Qualification Standard.

The National Qualification Standard will serve as an input for designing relevant training programmes and assessment models.

Wider circle of stakeholders, particularly members of Sectoral Councils, **need systematic training** in fundamentals of competence-based approach, constructive alignment, learning outcomes and Bloom’s taxonomy.



D 2

Implementation of Quality Assurance in Training Providers

PEER REVIEWS WITH VET PROVIDERS



Method: Raising awareness for training providers on quality criteria leading to accreditation.

Quality assurance is not an optional feature. **It is the main feature of a Training Provider** aiming to improve the service in Lifelong Learning.

Tools:

- Peer Review with Training Providers (Training Providers learning from each others).
- Concept of Self-evaluation
- Concept of Quality Implementation Plan



D 3

On Sectoral Skills Councils & Qualification Assessment Centres

Method: Building capacity of SSC to be Representatives of the Industry in the NQS.

How is this done?

- Skills analysis
- Developing NOS,
- Managing NOS database,
- Sectoral qualification standards,
- SSCs as awarding bodies developing qualifications ?
- Assessment Centres also deliver qualifications ?



Future directions for SSCs

To enhance the effectiveness of the SSCs, recommendations include:



- **Increasing Private Sector Engagement:** Encouraging more active participation from businesses to ensure training programs meet real-world needs.
- **Providing Legal Status and Autonomy:** Granting SSCs independent legal status to allow greater flexibility in operations and funding.
- **Ensuring Adequate Funding and Resources:** Allocating sufficient resources to support the development and implementation of training programs and occupational standards.
- **Further capacity building** especially in the writing of SSDPs, NOS and modern qualifications linked to the UNQF.



Outputs : Quality Assurance Manuals

(Several times updated)



- Quality Assurance Manual on the Regulator is our contribution to the NQS 2030 Concept
- Quality Assurance Manual on the Quality Assurance Framework
- Quality Assurance Manual for Training Providers
- Quality Assurance Manual on Peer reviews at TP level.
- Quality Assurance Manual for SSCs and Assessment Centers
- Quality Assurance Manual for Awarding Bodies
- Quality Assurance Manual for Quality Assurance Councillors



Current Activities under the NQS Institute

Principle: NQF backbone of the NQS

- Recognition of Prior Learning (International Expert+Steering Committee + Working Group)
- National Register of Qualifications (2 International Experts + Working Group)



Possible RPL Scenarios in Uzbekistan (WG)

- **Scenario A**, is to implement RPL for **full qualifications**, focusing on priority sectors where occupational standards are already in place and labor market demand is high. This will provide the clearest and most straightforward pathway for candidates and institutions during the early phase of implementation.
- In the medium term, **Scenario B**, which expands RPL to cover **partial qualifications** or **skills blocks**, allowing for greater flexibility and alignment with modular learning approaches.
- Next, **Scenario C** represents a hybrid model in which RPL is combined with **additional bridging training** for candidates who demonstrate most, but not all, of the required competencies.
- Initially, Uzbekistan will prioritize **Scenario A**, gradually progressing towards Scenarios B and C, as institutional capacity, assessor training, and regulatory provisions mature.
- Finally, in certain occupations where practical risks are minimal, a **portfolio-only** assessment could be introduced, relying primarily on documented evidence and prior achievements to validate learning.



Gaps between current regulations and RPL framework (WG)

- Current regulations still emphasize **traditional, formal** examinations rather than the **recognition of professional experience**, which makes it difficult to fully **validate** informal and non-formal learning outcomes.
- Furthermore, there is limited legal provision for recognizing partial qualifications or **skills blocks**, restricting the flexibility needed to introduce **modular approaches** to recognition.
- Another key gap lies in the treatment of **portfolio-based evidence**: while candidates may present documents and records of their work experience, the use of portfolios is not yet fully standardized or regulated, resulting in inconsistencies in assessment practices across different sectors.
- These gaps highlight the need for targeted regulatory adaptations to ensure that RPL processes can operate effectively and equitably in Uzbekistan.



Methodology and implementation schedule: Overview

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7
1 - Methodological note delivery (UNESCO)							
2 - Documentary study (UNESCO)							
3 - On-site meetings (Tashkent mission)							
4 - Production of the pre-prototype (UNESCO)							
5- Working Group Workshop (WG): pre-prototype analysis,							
6 - Observations and Proposed Amendments (WG)							
7 - Adjustment of the pre-prototype (UNESCO)							
8 - WG workshop with UNESCO. Pre-prototype revision							
9 - Presentation of the revised WG pre-prototype at SC							



Methodology and implementation schedule: Overview

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7
10. Prototype consolidation (1): -	Production of the working version: Revised preliminary prototype Stabilized essential principles Revised narrative Actor-function table Tools and Supports						
11. RPL/VNFIL Framework prototype (2)	Prototype Consolidation WG Workshop Production: Revised prototype and its appendices Revised Tools and Materials Application to two qualifications SC meeting						



National Register of Qualifications

- The **QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY** oversees a **National Register of Qualifications (NRQ)**, which contains professional qualifications pertaining to one or more professions.
- **Only a certificate registered in the NRQ** entitles the holder to a recognised qualification.
- The NRQ made up of qualifications awarded by **public and private bodies**.
- This new regulatory system is backed up by a **set of documents which specify expectations**.
- The **NRQ is a general framework** designed to provide a set of consistent overall quality standards, applicable to all the professional qualifications which it contains.
- The aim of certification is to provide a **clear indicator of qualifications for the labour market**.
- The quality of assessment depends on **procedural guarantees**.



National Register of Qualifications 8 criteria

1. The extent to which the **jobs held by holders of the qualification correspond to the profession** that is the focus of the professional qualification.
 2. The **impact of the qualification** in terms of access to or return to employment,
 3. The **quality of the occupational standards, the competencies framework and the evaluation framework** and the absence of exact duplication with an existing listed qualification.
 4. The implementation of procedures to **monitor all the methods used to conduct evaluations**.
 5. Consideration of the **legal requirements** linked to the pursuit of the profession targeted by the qualification.
 6. The option of obtaining qualifications through **RPL**.
 7. The overall **coherence of the competencies blocks** that make up the qualification.
 8. Where applicable, the coherence of the following:
 - the complete **equivalence** between parts of the proposed qualification and equivalent qualifications at the same level.
 - partial connections between one or more competencies blocks contained in the proposed qualification and the competencies blocks found in other qualifications.
-



National Register of Qualifications

Registration on request.

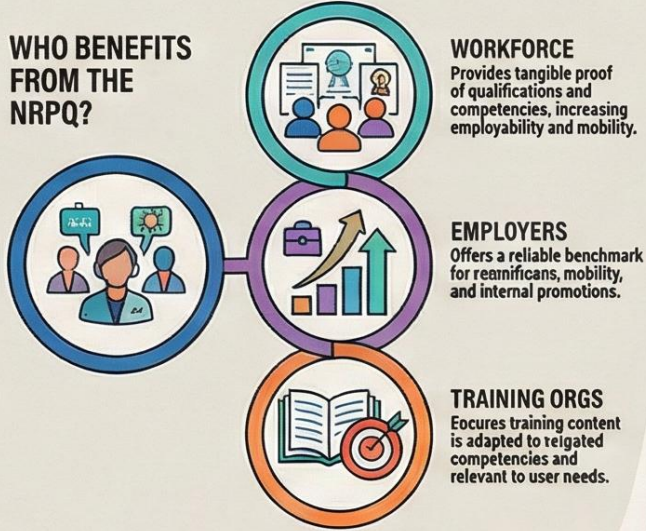
Applications are reviewed by a Qualifications Committee under the Qualification Authority. This Committee advises the QA Agency on the inclusion of qualifications in the NRPQ.

This advisory role has one principal task:

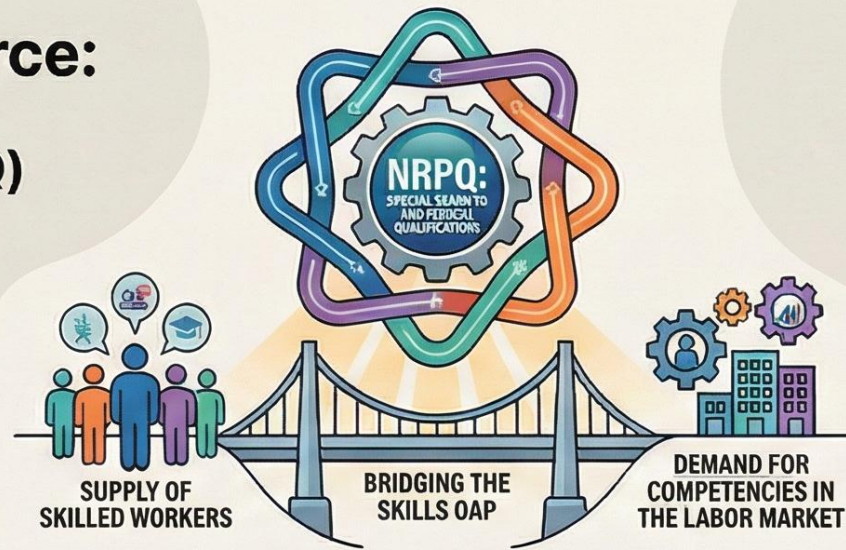
- to decide whether or not to include a given qualification in the register.
- In the event of a positive ruling: the period during which the qualification will be included in the register, the name of the qualifications and, in the case of qualifications included in the NQF, the specification of a qualification level.

Building a Trusted Workforce: A Guide to the National Register of Professional Qualifications (NRPQ)

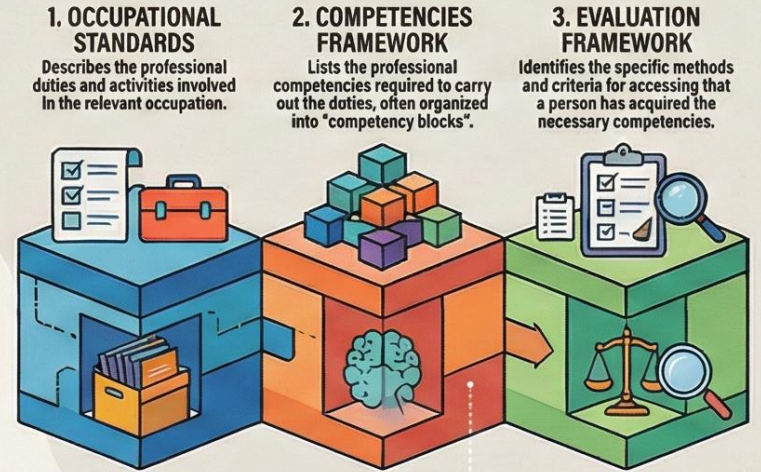
WHO BENEFITS FROM THE NRPQ?



OVERSEEN BY THE QA AGENCY
The Quality Assurance (QA) Agency is responsible for maintaining the register and ensuring all qualifications most established standards.



ANATOMY OF A PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION



Competency Block
A coherent and accessible set of competencies that allows an individual to independently perform a specific professional activity.

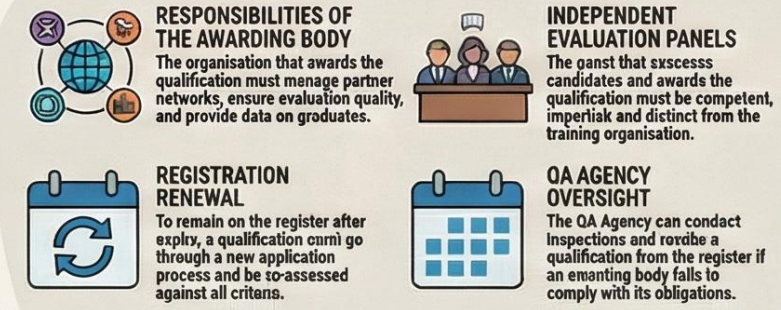
THE PATH TO REGISTRATION: A STEP-BY-STEP OVERVIEW



LIFE ON THE REGISTER: OBLIGATIONS & OVERSIGHT

5-YEAR VALIDITY PERIOD
Each qualification is registered for a minimum of 5 years to assess its relevance to changing labor market needs.

KEY CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL





UNESCO will release the summary of the project in a global Publication to which all participating Experts contributed.



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THANK YOU!

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