

Comparability Study and YOU

For learners and employees

The Study supports the mobility of learners for further education and improves understanding of the levels of qualifications by employers, thereby contributing to the employment opportunities of Hong Kong people in European countries.

For education and training providers

The Study facilitates collaboration between local and European institutions in programme articulation, decisions on credit transfer and launch of exchange programmes.

For employers, trade associations and business

The Study improves understanding of qualifications by employers in both European countries and Hong Kong. It therefore enables local and international enterprises to make business decisions, particularly if decisions are dependent on availability and contribution of personnel with suitable qualifications.



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Comparability Study of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

The Study is a joint undertaking by the Education Bureau (EDB) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the European Commission (EC)

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HKQF-EQF Comparability Study

The purpose is to establish the comparability of levels of qualifications between the HKQF and the EQF. This in turn will facilitate mutual understanding of qualifications between Hong Kong and European countries whose national qualifications frameworks (NQFs) are referenced to the EQF.



The process involves:

- Commencement at an international conference held in Hong Kong in November 2014
- Public consultation on draft Study results in September and October 2015
- EDB presentation in Berlin, Germany in December 2015, and acceptance of Study report by the EQF Advisory Group
- Announcement of Study results in March 2016

HKQF

A seven-level hierarchy that orders and supports qualifications in academic, vocational and professional as well as continuing education sectors. The seven levels are defined by the Generic Level Descriptors which specify the outcome standards of each level.

EQF

An eight-level meta-framework that acts as a translation device to relate the national qualification systems of different European countries to the eight common reference levels of the EQF. The eight levels are defined by Level Descriptors which specify the requirements of each level.

Level-to-Level Comparison of HKQF and EQF

The HKQF and the EQF share similarities in terms of objectives, level structure, outcome-based approach and quality assurance requirements. These underpinning fundamentals support the level-to-level comparison between the HKQF and the EQF as below:



Results of Comparability Study

HKQF

(Levels and Examples of Qualification Types)

7 Doctoral Degree

6 Master Degree

5 Bachelor Degree

4 Associate Degree / Higher Diploma

3 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education

2 Certificate of Vocational Education

1 Foundation Certificate

EQF

(Levels and Qualification Types linked to EQF via NQFs referenced to EQF)

8 Third Cycle degrees (Doctoral Degree)

7 Second Cycle degrees (Master Degree)

6 First Cycle degrees (Bachelor Degree)

5 Short Cycle Higher Education

4 Upper Secondary General School Leaving Certificates

3 Vocational Education and Training Qualifications

2 Lower Secondary Education Certificates

1 Primary Education Certificates

The **level-to-level** relationship means that qualifications recognised under the HKQF can be situated at a comparable level of the EQF and vice versa.

The Study results have also made it easier to compare the level of qualifications between Hong Kong and European countries whose NQFs are referenced to the EQF.