



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE



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The European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) acts as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers' and learners' mobility between countries and facilitating their lifelong learning. The EQF will relate different countries' national qualifications systems to a common European reference framework. Individuals and employers will be able to use the EQF to better understand and compare the qualifications levels of different countries and different education and training systems.

The EQF was adopted by the European Parliament and Council on 23 April 2008.

The EQF encourages countries to relate their qualifications systems or frameworks to the EQF by 2010 and to ensure that all new qualifications issued from 2012 carry a reference to the appropriate EQF level.

The core of the EQF are eight reference levels describing what a learner knows, understands and is able to do – 'learning outcomes'. Levels of national qualifications will be placed at one of the central reference levels, ranging from basic (Level 1) to advanced (Level 8). It will therefore enable much easier comparison between national qualifications and should also mean that people do not have to repeat learning if they move to another country.

The EQF applies to all types of education, training and qualifications, from school education to academic, professional and vocational. The system shifts the focus from the traditional approach which emphasises 'learning inputs' such as the length of a learning experience, or type of institution. It also encourages



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lifelong learning by promoting the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Easier comparison

At present, an enterprise in France may hesitate to recruit a job applicant from, say, Sweden, because it does not understand the level of the qualifications presented by the Swedish candidate. But once the EQF is fully implemented, a Swedish person's certificates will bear a reference to an EQF Reference Level. The French authorities will have already decided where their own national certificates in the field concerned lie, so the French enterprise would use the EQF reference to get a better idea of how the Swedish qualification compares to French qualifications

Most Member States are now developing their own National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) to link into the EQF. The Commission, national authorities and social partners are working to implement the EQF through an EQF Advisory Group. The group's work is complemented by the Cluster on the Recognition of Learning outcomes, one of the eight clusters within the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme, which supports the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Documents

- [Recommendation](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (April 2008) on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning.
- [The European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning \(leaflet\)](#).
- [The National Qualifications Framework](#) - [\(click to link\)](#)

FROM THE COMMISSION

Commission report: the world drugs problem, ten years on

Last Tuesday, the European Commission launched a report on the world's illicit drugs Markets since 1998. It shows that in the past decade drug policies across the world have developed, especially at national level, as efforts to help drug users have been stepped up and tougher policies adopted against drug traffickers. But what is the result of all this on the ground?

You can read the whole summary and link with the actual report from MEUSAC's website.



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Spring Day for Europe 2009



The 2009 Spring Day for Europe joins the European Year of Creativity and Innovation to encourage as many schools as possible to experience creativity and innovation on a European scale.

What is Spring Day for Europe?

Spring Day for Europe is an annual campaign that is open to all schools in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Teachers are encouraged to book one or many days in their calendar to involve their students in activities that focus on debate, interaction and reflection on European themes. Spring Day enables young citizens to express their views and make their voices heard in Europe.

25 March – 9 May 2009

Spring Day for Europe runs this year from 25 March to 9 May 2009. Schools of all types are welcomed, from pre-primary to upper secondary and vocational schools. Spring Day is also open to classes from organisations responsible for extra-curricular activities whose goals are to develop and strengthen skills related to school curricula.

Spring Day for Europe 2009 and the European Year of Creativity and Innovation

2009 is the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (EYCI). In its seventh year and because of its popularity, the Spring Day campaign is joining up with the Year and is expected to trigger interest in and raise awareness about creativity and innovation, in schools in all EU member states and beyond, as well as at local, regional and national level.



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The Spring Day for Europe campaign suits many of the school subjects and offers a set of teaching and learning opportunities in which teachers and students may experience both cultural and practical aspects of creativity and innovation.



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In concrete terms, the Spring Day 2009 campaign as part of the EYCI is designed to:

- support artistic and other forms of creativity through pre-school, primary, secondary and vocational education;
- create a context that enables young people to acquire skills that are the basis of self-expression throughout life;
- promote cultural diversity as a source of creativity and innovation;
- encourage the use of information and communication technologies as media for creative self-expression;
- contribute to developing a more entrepreneurial attitude;
- raise awareness about innovation as the path to sustainable development;
- highlight regional and local strategies based on creativity and innovation.

The Spring Day for Europe campaign also offers a number of opportunities to foster online and offline debates focusing on creativity and innovation, in the year when the EU citizens will again cast their votes for the European Parliament elections. In this context participants are also encouraged to reflect on the EU strategic orientation for the post-2010 decade and on the “knowledge-based” aspects of the Lisbon strategy.

Why Register?

Once registered, teachers and their classes have access to the full package of activities, competitions, resources, tools and services of the Web portal. Participation in activities and competitions is based on the registration information, meaning that a contributing school is identified according to the data supplied when registering.

[HOW CAN YOU REGISTER?](#)



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ENGSO project on the future of sport at EU level

On 4-5 February a kick-off meeting of the new project EU:SPORT:FUTURE took place in Brussels in the new EOC EU office.

[The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation](#) (ENGSO) is implementing the project in cooperation with seven different sport organisations from all over Europe. The objective of the project is to have broad discussions, collecting the opinions of both experts and citizens, in order to provide recommendations on how the future EU competence in sport should be implemented. This will be achieved via a questionnaire on "Sport and Europe" accessible to citizens via the website: www.eusportfuture.eu and five workshops which will take place over the next few months.

This ten-month project receives financial support from the European Commission's "Citizens for Europe Programme", managed by the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency.

National Youth Day 2009

21st March

To celebrate the National Youth Day, Sedqa has teamed up with the Institute of Tourism Studies and Bay Street Complex. This event will have something for everyone, from beach games and a beach party at St. George's Bay, starting at 12.15pm, to a fashion show, hip hop shows, break dance competition and bands at Bay Street Complex from 3.30pm till 10.00pm. The highlight of this event will be a human chain in the sea, which will take place between 2.00pm and 2.30pm. Other activities will include a mocktail bar where members of the public will have the opportunity to create their own mocktail, martial arts demonstrations, a climbing wall and the Music Hit Song participants performing their songs. Attendance and participation in these events is free of charge. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in