



Leonardo da Vinci Thematic Conference

*“Competences, Learning outcomes, Qualifications:
Transparency contributing to Employability”*

Workshop 1

Towards National Qualifications Frameworks: challenges and perspectives

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Development and Implementation of the National Qualification Framework (NQR) in Austria



European context/national needs

- **Transparency in the education system and long-term assurance of learning outcomes: the European Qualification framework (EQF)**
- **National qualification framework (NQR) – Impulse: consultation process EQF, presidency 2006, -> initiative of ministers**
- **National standards in education are part of the european quality initiative: definition of learning outcomes, systematic evaluation**



Goals in Austria

- **Development of one national qualification framework under involvement of all stakeholders (8 levels)**
- **Overall education system**
- **Based on learning outcomes – descriptors of qualifications – in the formal system**
- **Meeting the requirements of the Austrian labor market**
- **With a research fundament**



Elements of the NQR

- **Instrument for national recognition**
 - **Descriptors, register, mechanism**

- **national priorities**
 - **influence to national strategies**

- **Cooperation at national level**
 - **long-term working stable structures**



Benefit of the NQR

- **transparency, transition and progression in the education system (Austria and Europe)**
- **visibility and validation of qualifications, professions**
- **„driver” of national reforms**
- **mobility**
- **integration**



Organisation/Structure

- **Project group in BMUKK and BMWF for overall coordination**
 - strategic planning, realisation, involvement of stakeholders, commissioning of studies
- **National Steering group**
- **Experts group (research, counseling)**
- **Preparatory group at EU level**



Time-frame (short-, medium-term)

1. Fact-finding: Feb. – Oct. 2008

- **Information and dissemination**
- **Clarification of wording, definition of requirements**
- **First research results**
- **Development of consultation paper**



Time-frame (short-, medium-term)

2. Consultation: Nov. 07 – April 08

- **National consultation process**
- **Fundament: consultation paper with descriptors (incl. concept for the classification of qualifications)**
- **Written statement of stakeholder**
- **Analysis, recommendation of the national steering group**
- **QA**



Basic principles

- **Broad involvement of all stakeholders – „common framework“ with common descriptors**
- **Sector is self-responsible for the strategy**
- **Three corridors (formal – not formal – informal)**
- **Foster the strength of the Austrian system**



Timeframe until 2010

- **Creating the NQR on the basis of learning outcomes with a European context – in the formal system!!**
- **National coordination unit**
- **First Methods for the validation of informal learning**
- **Legal framework**



Thank you!

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