

Recognition of sport qualifications in the framework of EQF in Flanders



Evolution

EQF (European Qualifications Framework) 2008



NQF (National Qualifications Framework) 2010



VKS (Flemish Qualifications Structure) 2010



FLEMISH QUALIFICATIONS AGENCY 2010



Flanders

- In Flanders there are 2 possibilities for acquiring a qualification:
 1. through educational trajectory
 2. through other educational providers recognised by the Flemish Government (for sport in Flanders this is done by VTS = the Flemish Trainer School)

Structure of Qualifications in Flanders

	EQF (8 levels)	
	VKS (8 levels)	
↙		↘
EDUCATION		OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROVIDERS (VDAB, Flemish Trainer School, ...)
↓		↓
All Education Levels		Professional Competences
↓		↓
Flemish Education Council		Social Economic Council Flanders
↘		↙
	Qualifications Agency	

Sport Professional Competences Profiles

SERV		
↓		
Leading group professional competences sport	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social partners •Stakeholders (VSF, ISB, Vlabus) •Government (Blosso)
↓		
Group of experts professional competences sport	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Put together by the leading group •Determine sport professional competences
↓		
COMPETENT	→	Competences data base
↓		
Qualifications Agency	→	VLOR, SERV and experts per domain
↓		
Determination of levels by VKS	→	Publication of the decision of the agency

How did we proceed in Flanders?

- The pedagogical department of VTS has described the competences of trainers and sport attendants, while taking into account:
 - the tasks of the trainers on the field
 - different levels of coaching
 - the structure of VKS
 - already existing European education structures within certain fields of sport (equestrian sport, skiing, fitness)
 - the study of Free University of Brussels on this topic

A few necessary definitions

- **Competence:** the ability to use knowledge, skills and attitudes integrated into actions for social activities
- **Knowledge:** the amount of information that has been acquired
- **Competence:** ability to do something with the acquired knowledge in an effective and efficient way – competence relates to knowledge, but mainly to ability
- **Responsibility:** the level on which people can take decisions on their own
- **Context:** consists of, on the one hand, familiarity and, on the other hand, the complexity of the surrounding factors

Structure of Sport Qualifications (SKS)

- For each level the competences have been described **generically** and this has resulted in 5 educational levels based on knowledge, context and responsibility
- For each level an agreement has been made on which sport persons are to be trained by which trainer on which level

Structure of Sport Qualifications

- Aspiring-Initiator: helps beginning and recreational athletes at their club level
- Initiator: trains beginning and recreational athletes at their club level
- Instructor: trains recreational and/ or professional athletes up to the provincial/ national level
- Trainer B: trains sport professional athletes up to the national level
- Trainer A: trains sport professional athletes up to the international level

Adjustments made by the implementation of SKS

- For each field of sport the educational patterns are to be adjusted for each level in order for the sport specific competences to be acquired
- The courses (texts) are possibly to be adjusted to the educational patterns

Result of the implementation of SKS

- The biggest positive change is that in the new system a trainer's education will result in the same competences within all fields of sport, for example a Trainer A for swimming is on the same level as Trainer A for football.
- The basis is the specificity of the sport trainings and not the number of hours of courses or internships. The difference between different sports, such as team sport, outdoor sports and technical sports is clearly shown through competences which have to be acquired (also for safety).

Advantages of SKS in the European context

- Univocal EVC-EVK procedures
- Correct classification in VKS and in this way also in EQF
- Equal valuation (classification) in sport by the professional world and the volunteer sector based on these criteria = competences with EQF as the common framework

Conclusions of SKS in the European context

- Sport qualifications are to be taken in NQF, in order for them to be consequently taken into qualifications data bases
- As of 2012, the EQF level will be indicated on each qualification, so it will be easier to compare the similarity of qualifications
- EQF is a useful means for comparing sport qualifications in one's own country with those of other countries
- EQF, as a reference framework, assures the mobility of European qualifications

Conclusions of SKS in the European context

- EQF, as a reference framework, assures the mobility of European qualifications and contributes to the free movement of workers and services in the EU

Sport cannot miss out on this!



Exchange of views

Question 1:

- How are sport qualifications implemented in NQF/ EQF in your country and what are the most frequent problems?

Question 2:

- What is the role of the sport department in the registration of sport qualifications in your country?

Exchange of views

Question 3:

- What is the position of the sport sector (sport federations) in your country on indicating the EQF level on the issued sport qualifications?

Question 4:

- What are you planning to do with sport trainings which do not want to adjust to NQF?

Exchange of views

Question 5:

- Should the EU play a role in making agreements with international sport federations about the classification of sport qualification on European level, taking into account that each country can demand additional requirements for non-specific sport competences?

Thank you for your attention and
your contribution.

