Workshop on non-formal qualifications, Berlin 10th October

Situation in the Netherlands
• NLQF: focus on adults
• Adult learning in the Netherlands
• Process of classification
• Challenges for future
Adult learning in NL

• 1,5 million people a year participate in post-initial learning (15,5% of population)

• 84% of adult learning takes place in the private sector;

• Turnover € 3,5 billion per year;

• 10% of the Dutch population is functionally illiterate;

• NL has a developed system of recognition of non formal and informal learning (RPL).
Development and functioning NCP NLQF

- NCP NLQF started 1 February 2012

- Objectives NCP NLQF:
  - Classification and registration of qualifications of the private sector;
  - Information and communication;
  - Maintenance and evaluation of NLQF and link to EQF;
  - Accountability and monitoring of the implementation of the NLQF.
Information and communication

• Information meetings/workshops;
• Website;
• Presentations NCP staff: providers and companies;
• Development of PR programme;
• Development of a marketing approach;
• Question: how to reach employers/employees.
Classification of qualifications into the NLQF

- Qualifications regulated by the government (Ministry of Education): generically included in the NLQF;
- Qualifications of the private sector: applications to NCP NLQF. Procedures developed.
Classification of government regulated qualifications

• All government regulated qualifications are generically included in the NLQF
Classification of qualifications of the private sector

Step 1: Validation of the institution/organisation. Validation is condition for step two;

Step 2: Classification of qualifications into levels of EQF/NLQF;

Step 3: Registration of EQF and NLQF-qualifications in register.
Step 1: Validation of the organisation

Issues to be examined:

• Legal entity;
• Ownership of the qualification;
• Permanency of the organisation;
• Process of examination;
• System of quality control.
Step 1: Validation of the organisation

• Validation organisation for ensuring quality of EQF/NLQF: no obscure private suppliers;

• Committee NCP which reviews/judges if the application has relations to existing quality control organisations;

• Final decision by the Board of NCP NLQF;

• At this moment 9 organisations validated. One in consideration.
Step 2: Classification of qualification into EQF/NLQF level

- Procedure has been developed;
  Self-assessment by applicant:
  - Descriptors;
  - Workload (minimal of 400 hours);
  - Examination /assessment;

- Three experts make a report on the self-assessment and give an advice about the EQF/NLQF-level. This advice is judged by a committee of the NCP NLQF;

- The Board of NCP NLQF makes the final decision about the classification of the qualification in the NLQF.

- Seven qualifications classified. One in consideration.
Work in progress

• Improvement of the procedures is ongoing, based on experiences. At this moment discussion on “best fit” method;

• Need to communicate with stakeholders and a wider public, especially employers/employees (social partners);

• Relations with quality control organizations is necessary;

• NLQF in connection with ECVET/ECTS and validation of non-formal and informal leaning: Partnership for life long learning.