

# The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in Austria

PLA Vienna, 19.10.2018

Mag. Udo Bachmayer

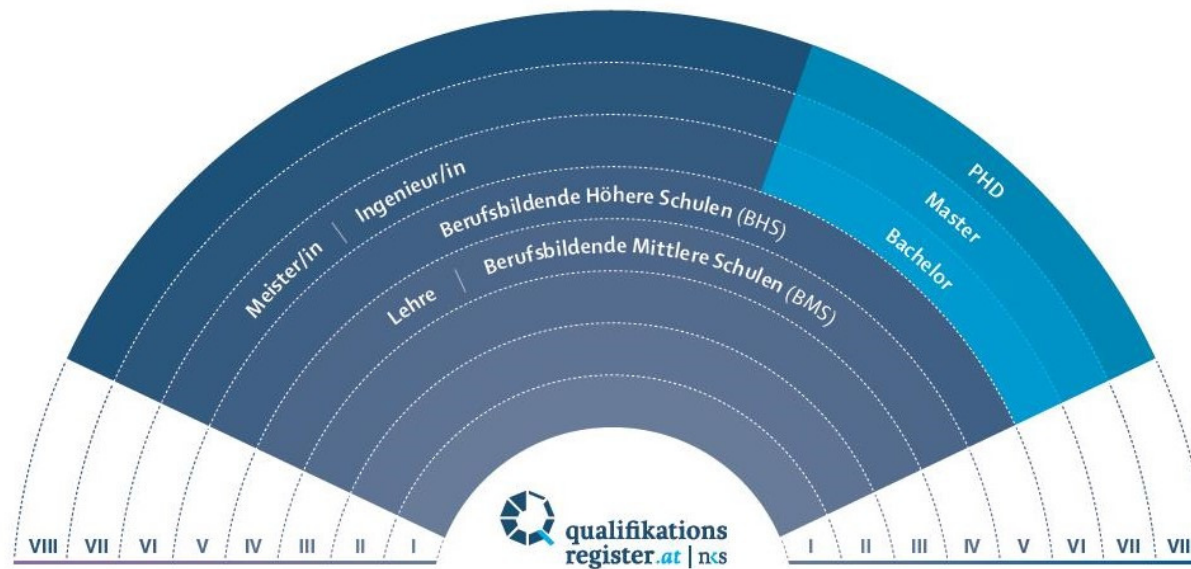


## Overview

- National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in Austria – Main focus
- Approach and procedures in the mapping process
- State of Implementation
- Inclusion of qualifications from outside the formal sector
- Tasks of the Coordination Point for the NQF in Austria



# National Qualifications Framework in Austria



## Adherent to following principles

- 8 levels
- Not legally binding
- All areas of education
- Splitting the NQF table of descriptors at levels six to eight
- Dimensions: Knowledge, Skills, Competence
- Integration of formal, non-formal and informal learning



## Legislative Process

- The NQF-Act was adopted by the first chamber of the Austrian Parliament on 24 February 2016 and in consequence by the Federal Council on 10 March.
- It went into effect on 15 March 2016. The NQF-Act was published in the Federal Law Gazette.



## NQF-Act: Overview

- Definitions
- Composition and tasks of the relevant bodies (NCP, Advisory Board, Steering Group)
- Reference to further supporting documents (rules of procedure, NQF-Manual, guidelines)
- Aims of the NQF-Act
- NQF-Register
- Explanatory notes on the NQF-Act



## NQF-Act

- § 1 – Scope of the Act and objectives
- § 2 – Definitions
- § 3 – NQF qualification levels
- § 4 – NCP (National Coordination Point) for the NQF Austria
- § 5 – Tasks of the NCP
- § 6 – NQF-Advisory Board
- § 7 – NQF-Steering Group
- § 8 – Mapping of formal qualifications
- § 9 – Mapping of non-formal qualifications
- § 10 – NQF-Manual



## § 1 – Scope of the Act and objectives

- Regulation of the mapping of national qualifications to a NQF qualification level and publication of this mapping in a publicly accessible register (NQF-register) for information purposes
- Mapping process – including persons with expertise and learning outcomes as basis in accordance to the EQF-Recommendation
- Objectives: Transparency, Comparability, Lifelong Learning
- The mapping serves for information purposes only and has no legal effect for professional licences or any admission qualifications.





## § 2 - Definitions

- Qualification
- Learning Outcomes
- Formal qualification
- Non-formal qualification
- NQF-Service point



# § 3 – NQF-qualification level



I  
II  
III  
IV  
V  
VI  
VII  
VIII

## First qualifications in the NQF

- PhD NQF-Level VIII
- Master NQF-Level VII
- Bachelor, “Ingenieur” and “Meister” NQF-Level VI
- School for Higher Vocational Education (BHS) NQF-Level V
- School for Intermediate Vocational Education (BMS) NQF-Level IV
- Apprenticeship – the Dual System NQF-Level IV



## § 4 – NQF-NCP (National Coordination Point)

- Contract between BMBWF and OeAD-GmbH
- Information and disclosure rights by BMBWF
- Obligations and tasks of the NCP, option for termination, qualification profile of the employees of the NCP
- Rules of procedures and guidelines of the NCP > approval by NQF-Steering Group and authorization by BMBWF
- Reimbursement of expenses by Federal State, Budget plan
- Yearly work report to BMBWF, NQF-Steering Group and National Council by the 10th of April



## § 5 – Tasks of the NCP

- Mapping of qualifications to the NQF according to the act
- Further development of the NQF-Register
- Support of all relevant bodies in the process
- Public Relations and consultation
- Networking at national and European level



## § 6 – NQF-Advisory Board

- NQF-Advisory Board established within the NCP for its consultation
- Consists of seven experts
- Authorization by NQF-Steering Group, appointment by BMBWF
- Appointment for a maximum period of five years
- Written statement on the mapping of a qualification
- Rules of procedure for the NQF-Advisory Board provided by the NCP; Approval by the members of the NQF Advisory Board with a simple majority

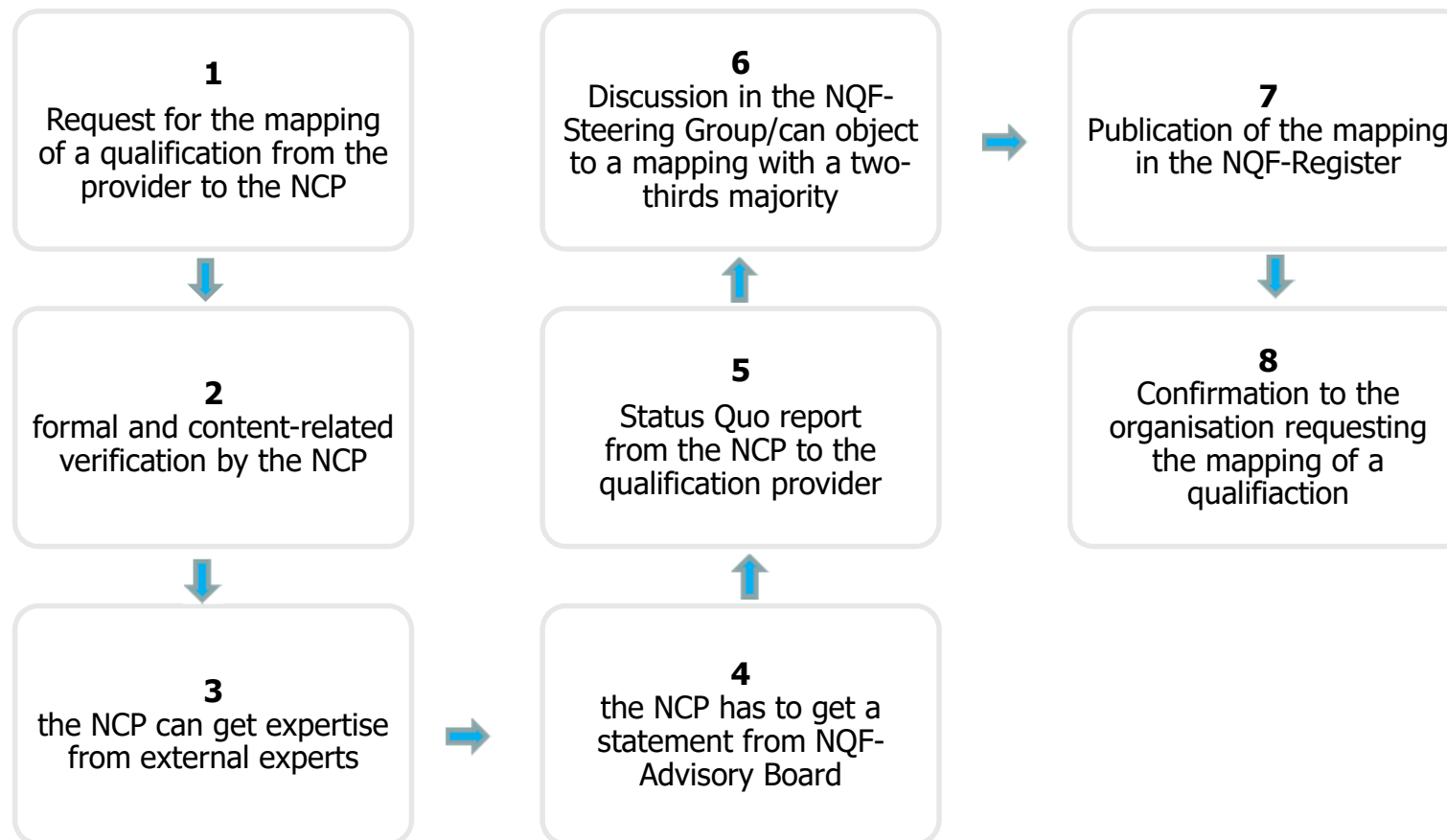


## § 7 – NQF-Steering Group

- For the consultation of the national authorities
- Supervisory body concerning the rules of procedure, the NQF-Manual, the Guidelines of the NCP and the members of the NQF-Advisory Board
- Can appeal against a mapping of a qualification with a 2/3 majority



## Mapping process (for formal qualifications)





# The mapping process

Prozess der Zuordnung von Qualifikationen zum NQR



## § 9 – Mapping of non-formal qualifications (1)

- NQF-Act provides information about the term „NQR-Servicestelle“
- Appointment of the “NQF-Service Points” („NQR-Servicestellen“) by BMBWF following proposals of the NQF-Steering Group
- Support of qualification-providers for non-formal qualifications in the mapping process
- Defined in more detail in the guidelines of the NCP



## § 9 – Mapping of non-formal qualifications (2)

- List of criteria and tasks for NQF-Service Points
- Public Tender
- Selection process
- First mappings of qualifications from outside the formal education and training sector in 2019





Coordination Point  
for the NQF | Austria

## NCP Austria

Ebendorferstraße 7 | 1010 Vienna

T +43 1 534 08-0 | F +43 1 534 08-20

E [nqr@oead.at](mailto:nqr@oead.at)

[www.qualifikationsregister.at](http://www.qualifikationsregister.at)

[www.oead.at/nqr](http://www.oead.at/nqr)



[www.qualifikationsregister.at](http://www.qualifikationsregister.at)

oead Erasmus+