

EQF Referencing Seminar

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Scotland/UK Case study

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Partnership

- Overview of the SCQF
- Processes and timescales for EQF referencing
- Issues and challenges
- Working with the rest of the UK
- Next steps

SCQF aims

- Assists people of all ages and circumstances to access appropriate education and training over their lifetime to fulfil their personal, social and economic potential
- Enables employers, learners and the public in general to understand the full range of Scottish qualifications, how they relate to each other and how different types of qualifications can contribute to improving the skills of the workforce

Key characteristics

- Outcome based
- Recognition of units
- 12 levels
- Credits (1 credit = 10 notional learning hours)
- Formally assessed
- Quality assured
- In place since 2001

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12				DOCTORAL DEGREE	
11				MASTERS DEGREE INTEGRATED MASTERS DEGREE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	SVQ5
10				HONOURS DEGREE GRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	
9			PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD	BACHELORS / ORDINARY DEGREE GRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	SVQ4
8		HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA		DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION	
7	ADVANCED HIGHER	HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE		CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION	SVQ3
6	HIGHER				
5	INTERMEDIATE 2 CREDIT STANDARD GRADE				SVQ2
4	INTERMEDIATE 1 GENERAL STANDARD GRADE	NATIONAL CERTIFICATE	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARD		SVQ1
3	ACCESS 3 FOUNDATION STANDARD GRADE				
2	ACCESS 2				
1	ACCESS 1				

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and Higher Education Institutions, however, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information on other credit rated provision, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the database.

Who credit rates?

- Universities
- Further Education colleges
- Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Since January 2009 criteria for new bodies in place and another 4 organisations approved

What do they credit rate?

- Their own provision offered in schools, colleges and universities
- “Third party” provision owned, developed and awarded by others e.g employers; certificating bodies, professional bodies, voluntary and community organisations

EQF Referencing

- How did we approach it in Scotland?
- How long did it take?
- Who did we involve?
- How did we work with the other countries and NCPs in the UK?
- Where are we now?

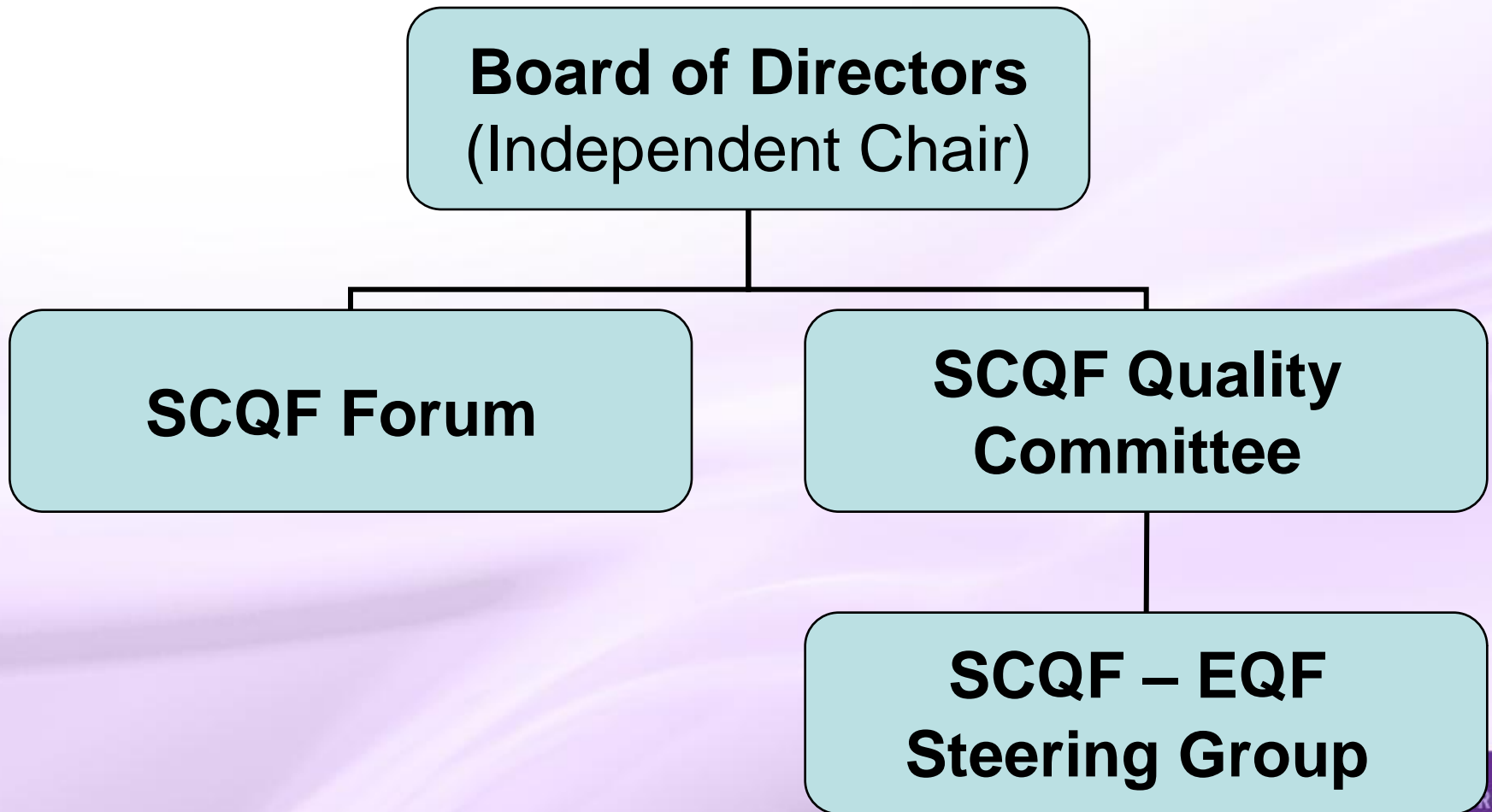
Scottish process (1)

- Contracted with an expert consultant to undertake technical referencing in April 2008
- Established a Steering Group comprising main stakeholders and including 2 international experts in June 2008
- Raised awareness of pending consultation August 2008
- Took account of outcome of the Bologna verification 2006
- Issued final referencing proposal; report ; and consultation document to key groups and individuals in early September 2008

Scottish process (2)

- Put final referencing report and consultation on web for open consultation in early September 2008
- Consultation closed end November 2008
- Analysis of responses in January 2009
- QA digest October 2008 – January 2009
- Responses; QA digest and final report structure discussed by Steering Group in February 2009
- Draft report May 2009
- Final report August 2009

SCQF Committees



Issues/Challenges

- Importance of engaging stakeholders
- Weighting of responses
- Concerns in Scotland re lowest level of EQF and messages for learners
- Communication of SCQF vs EQF (not always a level to level match)
- Links to sectoral frameworks
- Potential for overtrading/misunderstanding
- Co-ordination across the UK

Working within the UK

- Three NCPs – England/NI; Wales and Scotland
- UK EQF Co-ordinating Group
- Agreement on broad approach
- Sharing of information and processes
- Joined up communication strategy
- Agreement on timescales (summer 2009)
- Collaboration to resolve any emerging issues
- Working on a UK report bringing together key themes, issues and processes

Outcome across the UK

EHEA	EQF	SCQF	QCF	CQFW
3 rd cycle	8	12	8	8
2 nd cycle	7	11	7	7
1 st cycle	6	10/9	6	6
Short cycle	5	8/7	5/4	5/4
	4	6	3	3
	3	5	2	2
	2	4	1	1
	1	3	E3	E3
		2	E2	E2
		1	E1	E1

Next steps

- Scotland Report on our website at www.scqf.org.uk (other UK country reports will be on their websites by end September)
- UK report to the EC by December 2009
- Developing a further joint communication strategy September 2009 – June 2010
- Work on response to criteria on certification by early 2010