

## **EQF Network Testing Project**

# **The Italian National Qualification Framework**

**INCUAL - Instituto Nacional de las Cualificaciones**

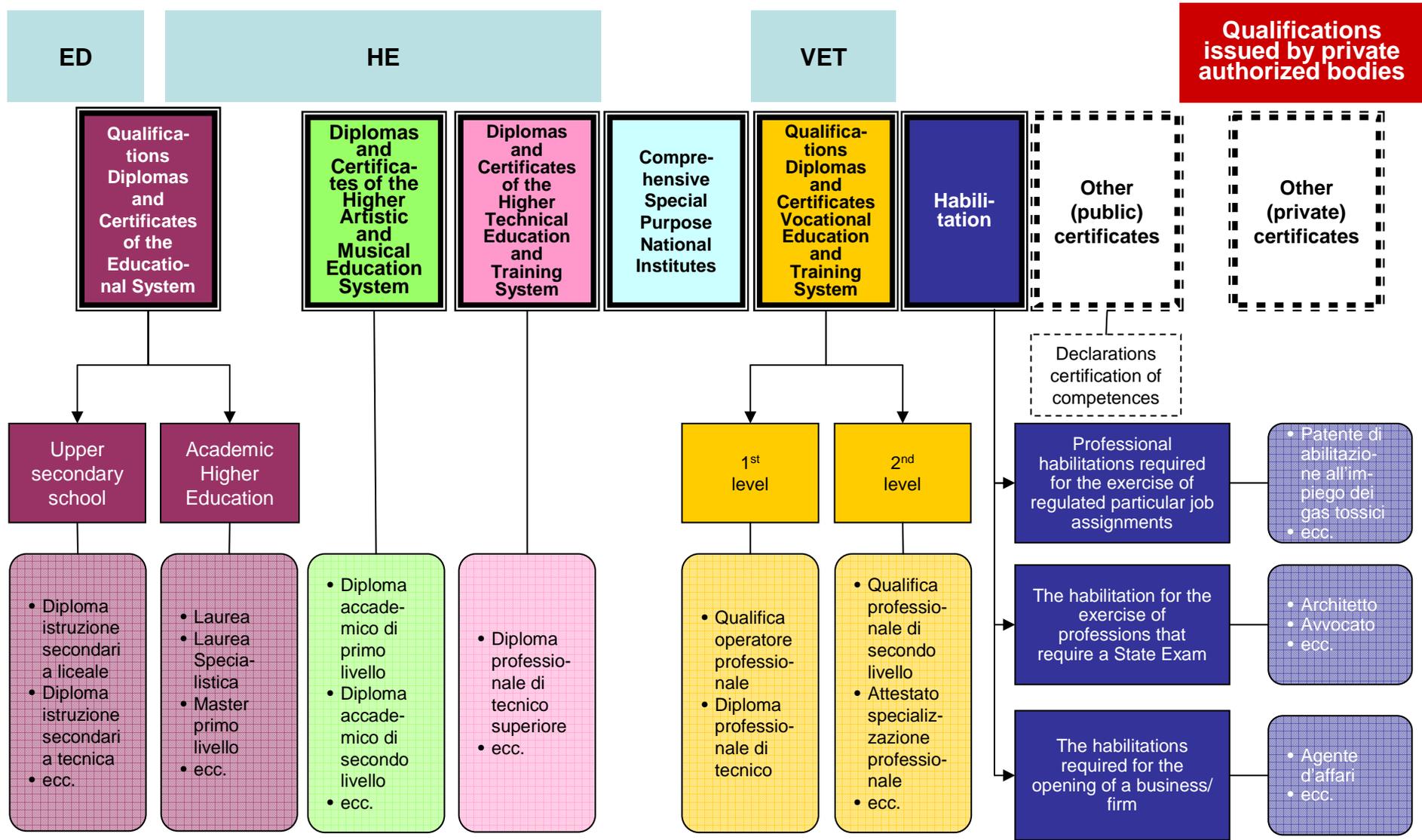
Madrid 26-27 May 2008

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# Overview

-  The outline of the qualifications issued by the Italian system.
-  The criteria used for the identification of the qualifications that will be linked to the EQF by 2010.
-  The indicators and descriptors for the identification of the qualifications that may be correlated to the EQF by 2010.
-  A hypothesis of the outline of the qualifications that may be correlated to the EQF by 2010.
-  The analysis of the qualifications linked to various sub-systems and that may be correlated with the EQF by 2010 based on the indicators and the descriptors used for their identification
-  The hypothesis for the classification of the Italian Qualifications that may be correlated to the EQF by 2010.

# The Qualifications issued by the Italian System



## The criteria used for the identification of the qualifications that will be linked to the EQF by 2010

Each of the type of qualifications issued within the Italian system was evaluated with the help of the following criteria.

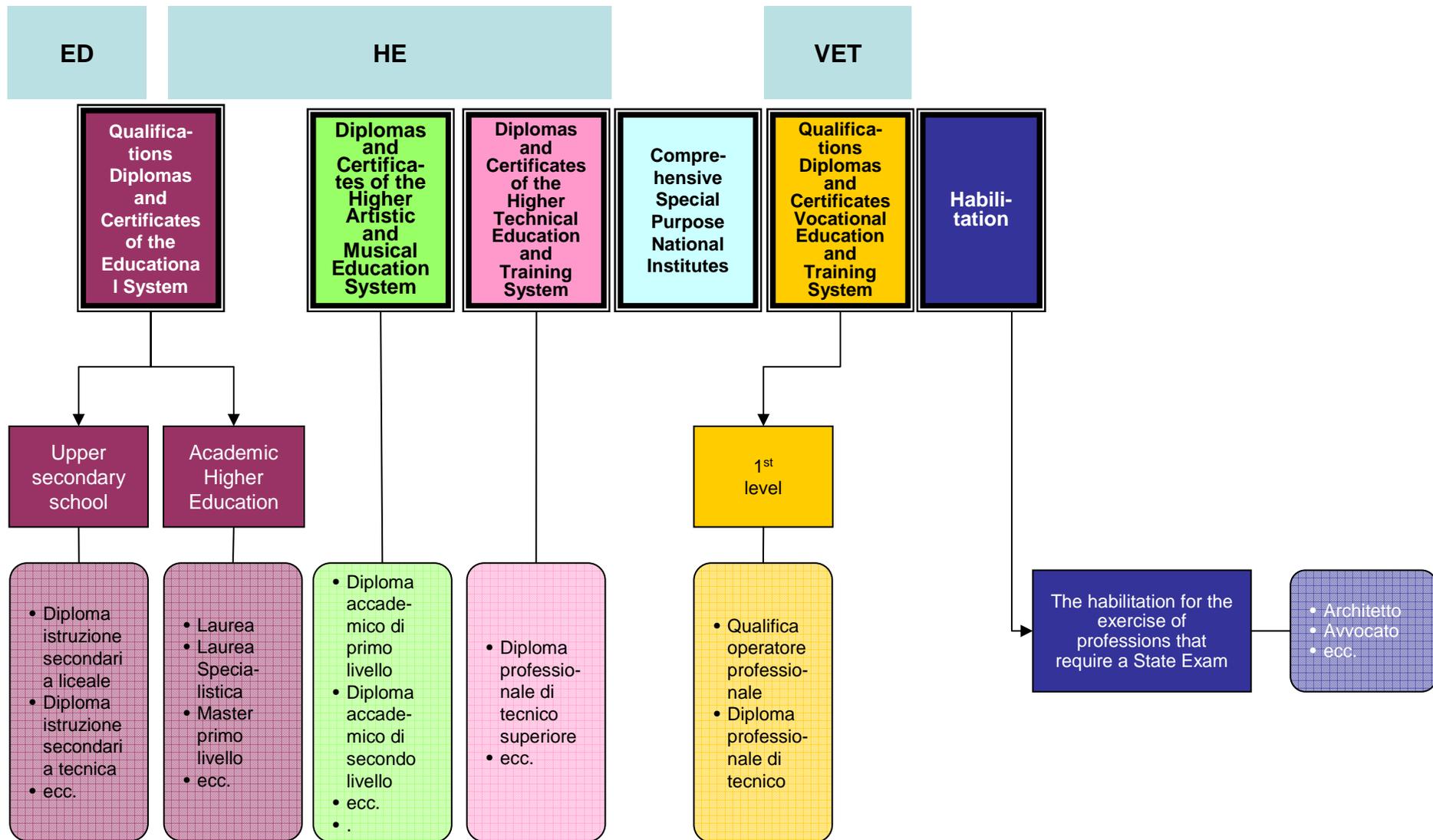
-  *The affiliation to a regulated system/sub-system*
-  *The degree of dissemination – required by both the individuals and the labour market*
-  *The availability / unavailability of the necessary information for the classification of the type of qualification in the EQF grid*
-  *The segmentation degree of the types of qualifications and of the involved bodies*

## The indicators and descriptors for the identification of the qualifications that may be correlated to the EQF by 2010

### The presence among the qualification's descriptive elements of:

-  *A reference to the adequate EQF level*
-  *The descriptors of the learning outcomes formulated in terms of knowledge, skills and competences.*
-  *The quality criteria consistent with the ones indicated by the European RECOMMENDATION*

# A hypothesis of the outline of the qualifications that may be correlated to the EQF by 2010



## 2nd degree upper secondary diplomas (ED)

-  *There is no specific reference to an EQF level, but the qualification is naturally placed on the 4<sup>th</sup> level because it is preparatory for the higher education.*
-  *The Ministerial Decree of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, 2007 (regarding the compulsory education) **introduces** the concept of **learning outcomes** and defines the **essential learning levels** that every student has to acquire by the end of the 2 compulsory years' cycle.*
-  *Also, the Ministerial Decree **introduces** the requirement for the new evaluation and **certification** models that should be consistent with the European documents, from which the Common Quality Assurance Framework is part of.*
-  *For the time being, the qualification that can be obtained at the end of the 5-year course of studies is described by the **Specific Learning Objectives**, made up of **knowledge** and **skills**.*
-  *The articulation of knowledge and skills is quite close to the statement of what the student must know, understand and/or know how to do.*

# The diplomas of the academic higher education (HE)

-  There is **no specific reference** to the EQF levels, but the Italian University system adopts the 3 cycles of the Bologna Process. Therefore the **Laurea** is placed on the 6<sup>th</sup> level, the **Laurea magistrale** on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the **Dottorato di Ricerca** on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
-  The Ministerial Decree of March the 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 states that “in order to define the educational organisation for the **Laurea courses**, the universities have to specify the training objectives in terms of **expected learning outcomes** with reference to the descriptors’ system adopted at a European level” (the Dublin Descriptors).
-  The Universities comply with the indications on the quality of the courses endorsed by the Ministers in Bergen (2005). The National Evaluation Agency for Universities and Research will take the ENQA (the European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies) document as reference.
-  In-depth examination on the correlation between the EQF and other university diplomas are in the pipelines: diploma di specializzazione e master di primo e secondo livello.

# The diplomas of Higher Artistic and Musical Education (HE)

-  *There is no specific reference to an EQF level, but the AFAM (Alta Formazione artistica e Musicale) structure is very similar to that of the universities. Therefore the **Diploma accademico di 1°liv .**, the **Diploma accademico di 2°liv** and the **Diploma accademico di formazione alla ricerca** are placed respectively on the 6°, 7° and 8° of the EQF levels.*
-  *The AFAM qualifications are described in terms of **training objectives** that are understood as “a set of knowledge and abilities that characterize the professional and cultural profile that, when acquired, completes the course of studies”. (DPR no. 212 of July the 8<sup>th</sup> 2005,).*
-  *At the moment, it is not decided whether the AFAM adheres to the quality indications endorsed by the Ministers in Bergen (2005) as the Universities do.*
-  *In-depth examination on the correlation between the EQF and other HAMES diplomas are in the pipelines: diploma accademico di specializzazione e diploma di perfezionamento o master.*

## High technical professional diploma IFTS (no-academic HE)

-  *There is no specific reference to an EQF level. Nevertheless, it is **higher** technical education and training. Therefore a first hypothesis is to place it on the 5<sup>th</sup> EQF level (right below the levels the university and AFAM degrees are placed on).*
-  *There are **national standards** for the IFTS training pathways that represent the descriptors for the **learning outcomes** in terms of competences and know how and which are equipped with the **criteria for the evaluation of such outcomes**. The analysis of these descriptors confirms that the IFTS learning outcomes are consistent with the 5<sup>th</sup> EQF level.*
-  *The IFTS training pathways are designed and managed by associated bodies that include **vocational training centres/agencies accredited by the Italian Regions**. The regional accreditation plans are consistent at least in part with the quality assurance criteria included in the RECOMMENDATION.*

# The diplomas issued by the Complementary Special Purpose National Institutes



*The complementary special purpose national institutes refer to the non university and non “artistic and musical” higher education. Their number is limited to 11.*



*For each of these institutes there will be a special preliminary investigation as to identify: the type of certificates that are issued, whether a special reference to an EQF level is present, whether descriptors formulated in terms of learning outcomes are present and if the quality assurance criteria consistent with the ones indicated by the RECCOMENDATION are also specified.*

## Qualifications, diplomas and 1st degree certificates issued within the vocational education and training

-  *There is no specific reference to an EQF level. The assignment of the adequate EQF level to these qualifications will be decided through an agreement between the State and the Regions. In fact, the Regions govern the “vocational education and training system” (art. 13 L. 40/2007) and ensure the basic levels of the performances as indicated by the State.*
-  *The National Table is in the process of completing **a national standard system for the minimum standards and for the recognition and the certification of the competences**. The standards that are being completed are described in terms of **learning outcomes**. They will make up the base of these qualifications and will become a reference point for the assignment of the proper EQF level.*
-  *These qualifications can be acquired in the **training centres/agencies accredited by the regions**. The regional accreditation plans are consistent at least in part with the quality assurance criteria included in the RECOMMENDATION.*

# The habilitations that require passing a State Exam

- **For some professions**, the DPR no. 328 of June the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001 links the requirements for the admission to the State Exam to the University educational organisations and creates, within the **professional categories**, a **section A** that is available for the individuals having a “**Laurea magistrale**” degree and **section B** for those having a “**Laurea**” degree.
  - There is no explicit reference to the EQF levels, but the habilitation for section A can be placed at the 7<sup>o</sup> level of the EQF as an equal to the Laurea magistrale. In the same way the section B habilitation can be placed on the 6<sup>o</sup> level as is the Laurea degree. In fact, the habilitation is a further examination of the mastery of the knowledge and abilities acquired during the course of studies, and consolidated during the stage.
  - The habilitation is described in terms of **professional activities** from which it is possible to draw the **learning outcomes which were attested and documented during the exam**.
  - Specific references to approaches, methods and procedures for the quality assurance of the certification process are missing.
- **For the professions** that require the habilitation through a State Exam and are not regulated by the DPR no. 328 of June the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001, further verifications are being carried out.

# The hypothesis for the classification of the Italian Qualifications that may be correlated to the EQF by 2010

1	
2	Qualifica di operatore professionale (VET)
3	Diploma professionale di tecnico (VET)
4	Diploma di istruzione secondaria di secondo grado liceale (ED), Diploma di istruzione secondaria di secondo grado tecnica-professionale (ED)
5	Diploma professionale di tecnico superiore IFTS (HE non-university tertiary level)
6	Laurea (HE, 1° Cycle), Abilitazioni DPR 328 (Sezione B), Master universitario di primo livello, Diploma accademico di primo livello AFAM (HE, 1° Cycle), Diploma di perfezionamento o master AFAM
7	Laurea magistrale (HE, 2° Cycle), Abilitazioni DPR 328 (Sezione A), Diploma accademico di secondo livello AFAM (HE, 2° Cycle), Master universitario di secondo livello
8	Dottorato di ricerca (HE, 3° Cycle), Diploma accademico di formazione alla ricerca AFAM (HE, 3° Cycle), Specializzazione, Diploma accademico di specializzazione AFAM