

THE REGULATION ON THE PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TURKISH QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

SECTION ONE

Objective, Scope, Basis and Definitions

Objective and Scope

ARTICLE 1- (1) The objective of this regulation is to regulate the procedures and principles for the development, improvement, implementation and updating the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

(2) The Regulation herein includes the inclusion rules of the qualifications which are gained through all education and training programmes including higher education and other learning methods to the Turkish Qualifications Framework, maintaining the quality assurance of them, the identification of all the institutions and organizations which are responsible of the quality assurance, the establishment and management of all the information, decision-making and implementation units for the development and management of the Turkish Qualifications Framework and the procedures and principles for the identification of all the tasks, authorities and responsibilities related to the works within the scope of this Regulation.

Basis

ARTICLE 2- (1) The Regulation herein is prepared based on the second subparagraph of the article 23/A of the Law on the Regulations Regarding the Vocational Qualifications Authority No. 5544 dated 21/9/2006.

Definitions

ARTICLE 3- (1) For the purpose of implementation of this Regulation, the following terms shall express the meanings assigned to them below:

a) European Qualifications Framework: The reference framework which is enacted with the Recommendation 2017/C189/03 and dated 22/5/2017 of the Council of the European Union, and makes the understanding of qualifications easier in different countries and systems by providing comparison between national qualifications systems,

b) Awarding body: The bodies authorised by responsible institutions and organizations in order to carry out the operations for the certification of qualifications in the event of success after assessing and evaluating the learning outcomes of the individual,

c) Educational institution: Secondary schools and higher education institutions which graduates in general, vocational and technical educational fields and all kinds of formal and non-formal educational institutions and organizations which provide certification programmes,

d) Quality assurance: The activities of planning, implementation, evaluation, reporting and quality improvement which enable the qualifications to meet the determined quality and criteria,

e) Coordination Council: The Turkish Qualifications Framework Coordination Council,

f) Credit: The numerical expression of the learner's working load based on learning outcomes,

g) Council: The Turkish Qualifications Framework Council,

h) Authority: Vocational Qualifications Authority,

i) Learner: The individual who continues to improve his/her knowledge, skills and competences on his/her own or accompanied by a trainer, within the scope of formal and non-formal education, on the job and in informal learning contexts,



- j) Learning outcome: The knowledge, skills and competences acquired by an individual after the completion of any learning process,
- k) Programme: The certification-based educational unit developed under the scope of lifelong learning in education institutions or institutions where education-training and scientific research and practice is done; which is comprised of branches of science or art those constitute a whole, similar or contemplate each other in terms of aim, scope and quality.
- l) Level: Each of the eight levels which are defined with knowledge, skills and competence in the Turkish Qualifications Framework,
- m) Level descriptors: The definitions of knowledge, skills and competence of the levels of the Turkish Qualifications Framework,
- n) Responsible body: Ministry of National Education, Council of Higher Education, higher education institutions, Vocational Qualifications Authority and the other institutions and organizations which are referred as responsible of qualifications in its relevant legislation,
- o) Turkish Qualifications Framework: The national qualifications framework, which has been designed in line with the European Qualifications Framework and indicates all qualification principles acquired through general, academic and vocational education and training programs including primary, secondary and higher education as well as other ways of learning.
- p) Qualification: An official document obtained when a responsible body, at the end of a process of assessment and validation, recognizes that an individual has accomplished the learning outcomes according to certain criteria,
- q) Qualification type: Groups of qualifications in which qualifications are classified at the same level of Turkish Qualifications Framework that are similar in terms of their functions, learning outcomes, credit values or orientations,
- r) Qualification type specifications: Documents that describe the common features specific to qualifications under each qualification type.

SECTION TWO

Main Principles and Structure of Turkish Qualifications Framework

Purpose and main principles of Turkish Qualifications Framework

ARTICLE 4- (1) The purpose of the Turkish Qualifications Framework; is to provide an integrated structure in which the quality assured qualifications gained in all learning contexts are described and classified, the transitional relationships among qualifications are determined and lifelong learning is supported.

(2) The main principles of the Turkish Qualifications Framework are as follows:

- a) To classify all quality assured qualifications at national level through the levels defined based on learning outcomes.
- b) To ensure the transparency and recognition of qualifications.
- c) To facilitate access to the achievement processes of qualifications.
- d) To allow for crediting of qualifications and combining credits as well as transitions between qualifications.
- e) To enable the design of new qualifications.
- f) To ensure that qualifications are prepared based on learning outcomes.
- g) To ensure the recognition of prior learning.
- h) To support the lifelong learning.
- i) To strengthen the relationship between education and employment.
- j) To ensure the participation and contribution of stakeholders and to execute the effective cooperation among the responsible bodies.
- k) To be in compliance with the European Qualifications Framework.
- l) To develop common concepts in order to ensure the international comparability of qualifications.



m) To ensure the recognition of quality assured qualifications those have been developed by professional organizations as well as other bodies and institutions.

Levels and level descriptors

ARTICLE 5- (1) The Turkish Qualifications Framework consists of eight levels.

(2) Each level is described with level descriptors consisting of knowledge, skills and competence which express the common learning outcomes in that particular level.

Qualification types

ARTICLE 6- (1) Qualification types are used in order to classify the qualifications at the same level of the Turkish Qualifications Framework which are similar in terms of general, vocational and academic orientations, credit values and functions.

(2) Qualification types are described by using the qualification type specifications. The qualification type specifications are as follows:

- a) Qualification Type Title.
- b) Awarding Body.
- c) Orientation.
- d) Level.
- e) Category.
- f) Credit range and the normal duration of the programme.
- g) Programme profile.
- h) Learning environment.
- i) Learning outcomes.
- j) Key competences.
- k) Assessment and evaluation methods.
- l) Quality assurance.
- m) Entry requirements.
- n) Requirements for obtaining the qualification.
- o) Progression routes.
- p) Legal basis for the qualification.

(3) There shall not be more than one qualification type with the same name in the Turkish Qualification Framework.

(4) The operations for the identification of existing qualification types, determining new qualification types, updating and cancellation of qualification types shall be managed within the scope of procedures and principles to be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

Transition among qualifications

ARTICLE 7- (1) The procedures and principles on the lateral and vertical transitions among the qualifications in the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

(2) The responsible bodies shall provide guidance to the learners about the lateral and vertical transitions among the qualifications in the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

Recognition of prior learning

ARTICLE 8- (1) The procedures and principles on the recognition and quality assurance of prior learning shall be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council. These procedures and principles shall be regulated to include having a right to a qualification, the right to access to an exam or an education programme which will



result with a qualification and the exemption of credits for a qualification or some requirements of the programme.

Key competences

ARTICLE 9- (1) The key competences in the Recommendation 2018/C189/01 and dated 22/5/2018 of the Council of the European Union about the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning shall be used at level descriptors and qualification type specifications.

(2) Key competences shall be determined in compliance with the qualification type by responsible bodies. Provision of the key competences shall be the responsibility of educational institutions whereas the assessment, evaluation and certification of these competences shall be the responsibility of educational institutions and awarding bodies.

SECTION THREE

Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Updating

Quality assurance of qualifications

ARTICLE 10- (1) All quality assured qualifications achieved through education and training programmes and in other learning contexts shall be included in the Turkish Qualifications Framework. Criteria for ensuring the quality assurance of the qualifications shall be determined by responsible bodies under the coordination of the Authority and published electronically.

(2) Quality assurance criteria shall be determined pursuant to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area for higher education qualifications whereas the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training for vocational qualifications as well as the national education quality frameworks compatible with these.

(3) To ensure the quality assurance of the qualifications in accordance with the determined criteria;

a) Ministry of National Education shall be responsible for the education and training qualifications which are under the authority and responsibility of Ministry of National Education,

b) Presidency of the Council of Higher Education and higher education institutions shall be responsible for the education and training qualifications which are under the authority and responsibility of higher education institutions,

c) The Authority shall be responsible for the qualifications which are under the authority and responsibility of Vocational Qualifications Authority,

d) The bodies and institutions specified in the relevant legislation shall be responsible for other qualifications.

(4) All qualifications in the Turkish Qualifications Framework should be quality assured. The quality assurance should include internal and external quality assurance processes, quality assurance criteria, the input, process and output related to the acquiring of the learning outcomes and the activities of assessment, evaluation and certification.

(5) The procedures and principles for the recognition and monitoring of external evaluation institutions shall be developed by, according to relevance, Ministry of National Education, Higher Education Quality Council, Authority and the bodies and institutions stated in third paragraph (d) and they shall be submitted to the Coordination Council.

(6) The procedures and principles for qualification quality assurance shall be published in the Official Gazette by the Authority upon the approval of the Coordination Council. Responsible bodies shall establish and operate the quality assurance system with the following features in compliance with the procedures and principles in question:



- a) To identify explicit and measurable objectives and learning outcomes related to the qualifications.
- b) To plan the processes for internal and external quality assurance.
- c) To contain practical guidelines which will which will also cover stakeholder involvement.
- d) To allocate appropriate resources.
- e) To describe internal and external evaluation methods.
- f) To develop procedures on feedback mechanisms and improvement.
- g) To draft accessible evaluation results.

Qualifications Database

ARTICLE 11- (1) The information about the qualifications which are confirmed to be in the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be recorded and updated regularly in Qualifications Database that will be established by the Turkish Qualifications Framework Department.

(2) The procedures and principles to establish, manage, update the Qualifications Database and the use of the information it consists shall be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

Inclusion and exclusion of the qualifications to/from the Turkish Qualifications Framework

ARTICLE 12- (1) The criteria about the inclusion of the qualifications to the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

(2) The requests related to the inclusion and exclusion of the qualifications to/from the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be concluded by the Coordination Council. The qualifications decided to be included to the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be incorporated into the Turkish Qualifications Framework level determined by the Coordination Council.

(3) Responsible bodies shall maintain traceable records of the qualifications within their remit.

Use of the qualifications in Turkish Qualifications Framework

ARTICLE 13- (1) The procedures and principles applying to the publication of the qualifications and their use by the education institutions and awarding bodies shall be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

(2) A person, an institution or a body that are not authorized or permitted by the responsible bodies shall not perform an activity of education, training, testing and awarding by referring to the qualifications in Turkish Qualifications Framework.

(3) A person, an institution or a body which perform an activity of education, training, testing and awarding by referring to the qualifications in Turkish Qualifications Framework without the authorization or permission of the responsible bodies shall be subjected to administrative, financial and criminal proceedings as per general provisions.

Updating, modification and cancellation of the qualifications in the Turkish Qualifications Framework

ARTICLE 14- (1) When the qualifications in the Turkish Qualifications Framework are modified, the impact of the modification on the holders of the qualification shall be evaluated by the responsible body; if necessary regulations related to the status of these individuals shall be done and if this regulation imposes any liability to the relevant parties, this situation shall be



notified to all relevant parties and published electronically minimum six months prior to the commencement of the concerned practice.

(2) In case of the cancellation of a qualification in the Turkish Qualifications Framework by the responsible body, the decisions on the status of the certificates awarded according to the cancelled qualification as well as measures on other related issues shall be taken by the responsible body. The valid qualification units of the holders of the qualification excluded from Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be evaluated during the certification to be performed according to the other qualifications that include the concerned units.

CHAPTER FOUR

Coordination Council, Council, Consultation Committee and Responsible Bodies

Turkish Qualifications Framework Coordination Council

ARTICLE 15- (1) Turkish Qualifications Framework Coordination Council shall be established with the relevant Deputy Minister assigned by the Minister of National Education, President of Council of Higher Education or his authorised deputy and President of Vocational Qualifications Authority. Coordination Council shall convene with full participation and take decisions unanimously.

(2) The duties of the Coordination Council are as follows:

- a) To assess and confirm the decisions of the Council.
- b) To ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the practices regarding Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- c) To ensure cooperation among responsible bodies for all matters regarding the implementation of Turkish Qualifications Framework and quality assurance of the qualifications.
- d) To ensure the coordination to enable the national and international consultation with regard to Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- e) To take measures in order to ensure the assignment of personnel in the authorities they represent to work for the development and implementation of Turkish Qualifications Framework.

(3) Members take the measures regarding the implementation of the decisions of the Coordination Council in their authorities.

Turkish Qualifications Framework Council

ARTICLE 16- (1) Turkish Qualifications Framework Council with the participation of twenty-two members as listed below shall be established in order to carry out the duties stated in this regulation.

- a) A total of five members from the Ministry of National Education, all being the general directors.
- b) A total of four members assigned from the Council of Higher Education, one being among the Council of Higher Education Executive Board members, one being a dean on duty, two being among the members of Council of Higher Education at the Higher Education Quality Council and one member to be designated by the Higher Education Institutions National Student Council.
- c) A total of three members from Vocational Qualifications Authority, one being the vice president.
- d) One member from the Union of Chambers and Exchange Commodities of Turkey.
- e) One member from the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen.
- f) One member from each of the three confederations of employees' unions which have the highest number of members.



g) One member, being the representative of education unions, from each of the three confederations of public employees' unions which have the highest number of members.

h) One member from the confederation of employers' unions that has the highest number of members.

(2) The Council shall select a president and a vice president in its first meeting.

(3) The term of office of the Council members shall be three years. Any member whose term of office expires may be re-appointed.

(4) Due to the disengagement of any member from the authority of which he/she is a representative, his/her membership shall be terminated automatically. The membership of those who cannot perform his/her duty for more than six months for any reason shall be terminated without the need for any other treatment.

(5) The Member who does not attend three meetings within a calendar year without a valid excuse, or who does not sign the decisions within its time period despite having participated in a meeting and not having voted against or does not write justification for the counter vote within its time shall be considered to be withdrawn from membership. This shall be determined by the Council decision.

(6) The relevant responsible body shall designate a new member within a month at the latest in place of the member whose membership is terminated due to any reason. In case of not designating member, total number of members shall be determined based on the number of designated members until the designation of member.

(7) Upon its President's request with agenda, the Council shall meet at least once a month, as often as necessary. Meetings shall be held with at least a simple majority of the total member number, and decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, decision shall be regarded as made according to that of the President.

(8) With regard to the issues addressed, relevant persons and representatives of the bodies and institutions can be invited to the meetings without voting rights in cases deemed necessary by the President.

(9) The duties of the Council are as follows:

a) To prepare a three-year action plan related to the implementation of the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

b) To prepare the procedures and principles for the quality assurance of the qualifications to be included in the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

c) To regulate the procedures and principles to be applied during the process of incorporating the qualifications into Turkish Qualifications Framework.

d) To prepare the procedures and principles on the examination of the objections to the decisions concerning the implementation of Turkish Qualifications Framework. d) To prepare the criteria regarding the qualifications to be included in the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

e) To prepare the procedures and principles in for the establishment, implementation and updating of the Qualifications Database.

f) To prepare the procedures and principles regarding the horizontal and vertical transition among the qualifications to be included in the Turkish Qualifications Framework, as well as credit accumulation and transfer.

g) To prepare the procedures and principles regarding the recognition of prior learning and ensuring quality assurance.

h) To prepare the procedures and principles for the identification of the existing qualification types, determining new qualification types and updating and cancellation of qualification types.

i) To prepare the procedures and principles for updating, modification and cancellation of qualifications.

j) To prepare the procedures and principles for the publication of qualifications and use of qualifications by education institutions and awarding bodies.



- k) To prepare the procedures and principles for updating the Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- l) To prepare the procedures and principles for the use of Turkish Qualifications Framework logo.
- m) To prepare a communication strategy to raise the national and international awareness on the Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- n) To make suggestions to the Coordination Council regarding the qualifications requested to be included in the Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- o) To ensure that the monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the Turkish Qualifications Framework are prepared and to submit them to the Coordination Council.
- p) To make suggestions to the Coordination Council regarding the preparation, development and updating of the Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- q) To publish reports on the functioning of the quality assurance systems regarding qualifications.
- r) To establish the working groups required for the implementation and improvement of the Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- s) To submit the annual activity reports to the Coordination Council.
- t) To generate suggestions and proposals on issues within its field of operation and are requested to be discussed by the Coordination Council.

Secretariat Services

ARTICLE 17- (1) The secretariat services of the Coordination Council, Council and Consultation Committee shall be carried out by the Department of the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

(2) Ministry of National Education, Presidency of Council of Higher Education and Authority shall designate the personnel, the number and qualifications of whom will be determined by the Coordination Council at the Authority in order to perform the tasks of the Department of the Turkish Qualifications Framework which are assigned with legislation.

Consultation Committee

ARTICLE 18- (1) In order to evaluate the issues regarding the Turkish Qualifications Framework and provide opinions, the Committee, in which the stakeholders recommended by the Council are represented, shall be established by the Coordination Council.

Duties of Responsible Bodies

ARTICLE 19- (1) The duties of the Responsible Bodies are as follows:

- a) To work in cooperation with the Council in the processes regarding the implementation of Turkish Qualifications Framework.
- b) To assign representatives at the working groups.
- c) To implement the regulations and tasks related to the qualifications within their remit in line with the decisions of the Coordination Council.
- d) To prepare the qualification type specifications in collaboration with the Council for existing and new qualification types within their remit.
- e) To submit proposals on the inclusion of qualifications within their remit into Turkish Qualifications Framework as well as information regarding these qualifications to the Council.
- f) To provide training, consultancy and guidance about the Turkish Qualifications Framework to personnel involved in the development of qualifications as well as training, education, assessment and evaluation activities with respect to qualifications.
- g) To perform activities within the scope of the responsibilities set out in the communication strategy and support to increase the national and international awareness about the Turkish Qualifications Framework.



- h) To establish, implement, monitor and take necessary measures to improve the quality assurance system for qualifications within their remit.
- i) To prepare reports regarding the qualifications within their remit and quality assurance practices.
- j) To ensure that the credit accumulation and transfer systems regarding the qualifications within their remit are in compliance with the European credit and transfer systems.
- k) To take necessary measures for the implementation and achievement of the purposes of the Turkish Qualifications Framework.

CHAPTER FIVE

Various and Final Provisions

Enforcement of the Turkish Qualifications Framework

ARTICLE 20- (1) Turkish Qualifications Framework shall come into force through publication in the Official Gazette by the Authority, upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

Financial provisions

ARTICLE 21- (1) All expenses arising from activities regarding the preparation, updating, promotion and dissemination of the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be covered from the budget of the Authority.

(2) The service procurement, stationary, printing, distribution, catering and meeting expenses of the Coordination Council, the Council, the Consultation Committee and the working groups shall be covered by the Authority as per Article 259 of the Presidential Decree no 4 on the Organization of the Associated, Affiliated, Related Institutions and Organizations and Other Institutions and Organizations.

(3) In the event that the Coordination Council and the Council members attend meetings related to their duties identified in the regulation herein outside their place of official duty, per diem allowance to be paid to them shall be covered by the responsible bodies as per the Travel Expense Law dated 10/2/1954 and no 6245.

The use of the Turkish Qualifications Framework Logo

ARTICLE 22- (1) The logo of the Turkish Qualifications Framework which will be placed on the qualifications that are included into the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be used in accordance with the procedures and principles to be determined upon the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Coordination Council.

Transitional provisions

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 1- (1) In one month following the publication of the regulation herein, the institutions and organizations which are stated in the first paragraph of the Article 16 submit their representatives to the Authority who will serve in the Council. The duties and tasks regarding the Turkish Qualifications Framework shall be performed by the Authority until the establishment of the Council.

(2) Turkish Qualifications Framework which is approved by the Executive Board of Vocational Qualifications Authority shall come into force through publication in the Official Gazette in one month following the publication of the regulation herein.



(3) The studies for the referencing of the Turkish Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework shall be completed in one month following the publication of the regulation herein.

(4) The self-certification for the compliance of the Turkish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education with the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area shall be performed within the referencing studies stated in the third paragraph.

The establishment of the quality assurance systems regarding qualifications

PROVISIONAL ARTICLE 2- (1) Within two years following the publication of the principles and procedures regarding the quality assurance of qualifications in the Official Gazette, Ministry of National Education, Presidency of Council of Higher Education, the Authority and institutions stated in the sub clause (ç) of the third paragraph of Article 10 shall be obliged to establish the system for the quality assurance of qualifications within their remit.

(2) The quality assured general, vocational and academic qualifications including those of higher education that are within the remit of the responsible bodies and are provided upon the consent and under the supervision of these bodies shall be included into Turkish Qualifications Framework within four years following the publication of the regulation herein.

Enforcement

ARTICLE 23- (1) The regulation herein that is prepared by consulting the Court of Accounts shall come into force on the date of publication.

Execution

ARTICLE 24- (1) The President shall enforce the provisions of the regulation herein.