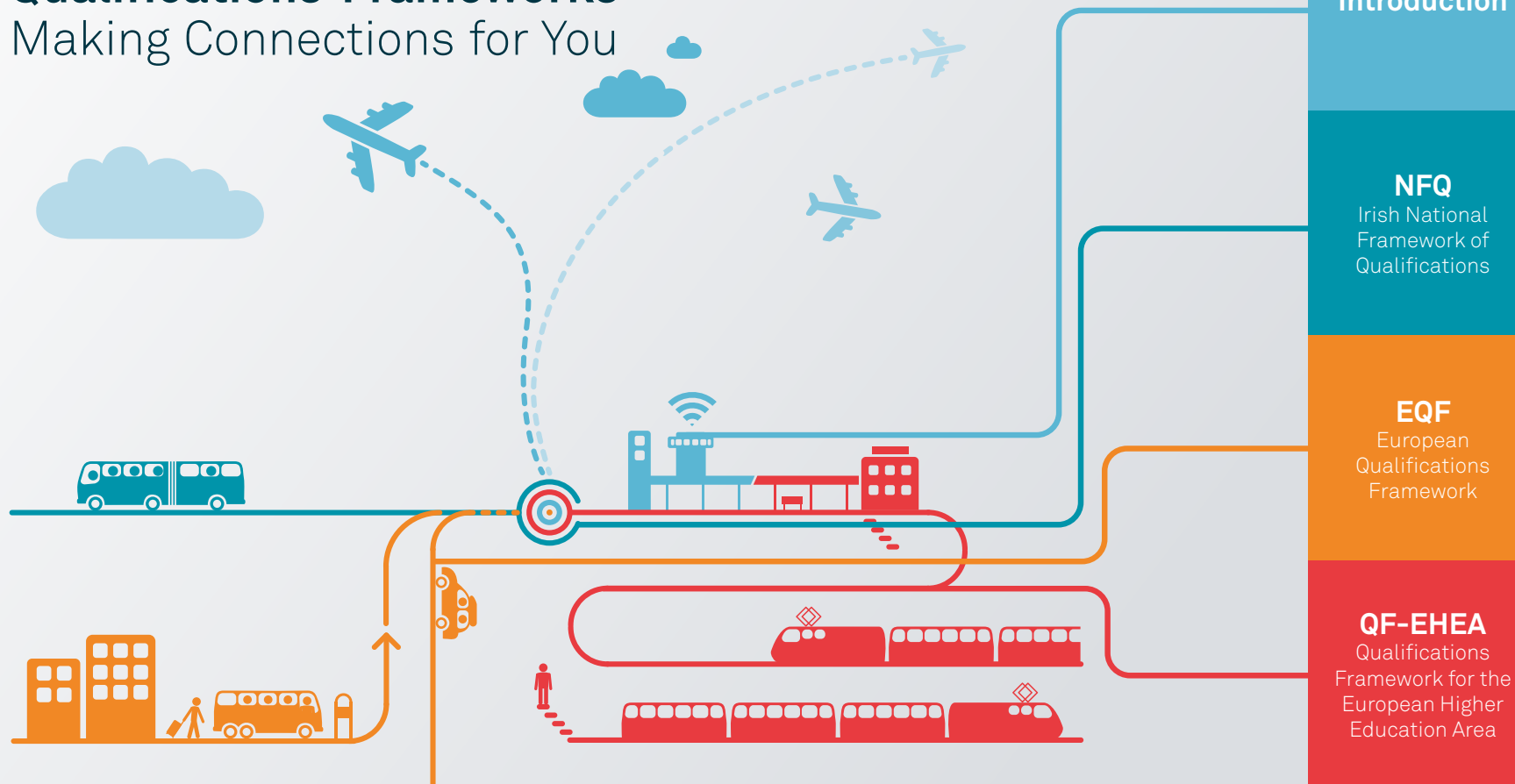


Qualifications Frameworks

Making Connections for You



Introduction

NFQ
Irish National
Framework of
Qualifications

EQF
European
Qualifications
Framework

QF-EHEA
Qualifications
Framework for the
European Higher
Education Area



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QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cailíochta agus Cailíochtaí Éireann

www.QQI.ie

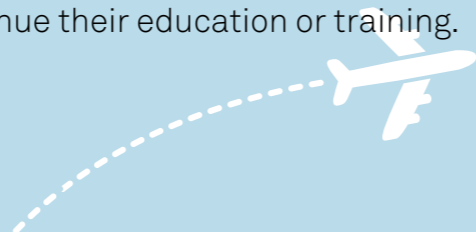
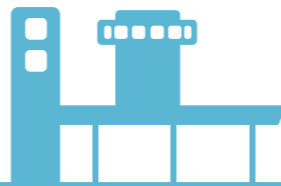
**Make the
Connection**

INTRODUCTION – QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS

Qualifications frameworks describe the qualifications of an education system and how they interlink. National qualifications frameworks describe what learners should know, understand and be able to do on the basis of a given qualification.

These frameworks also show how learners can move from one qualification, or qualification level, to another within a system. Over 150 countries are now developing, or have developed, a national qualifications framework.

Qualifications frameworks are not just at national level, there are also European and other regional qualifications frameworks. The **European Qualifications Framework** and the **Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area** are overarching systems that link different countries' qualifications systems together. They act as translation devices to make qualifications easier to understand across different countries and qualifications systems in Europe and beyond. Their main aim is to help people moving from one country to another to work, or to continue their education or training.



EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2020 GOALS



By 2020, at least 95% of children, between the age of four and the age when they begin compulsory primary education, should participate in early childhood education.



Reduce the proportion of early school-leavers to below 10% by 2020.



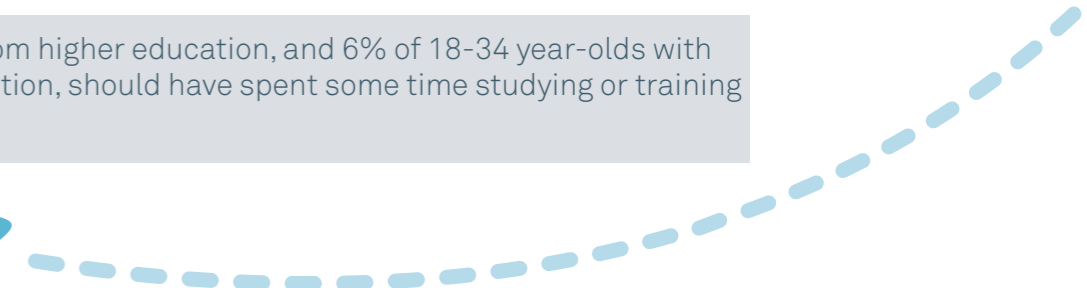
By 2020, at least 40% of 30-34 year-olds will have completed tertiary education.



At least 82% of employed graduates (20-34 year-olds who have successfully completed upper secondary or tertiary education) will have left education in the previous 1-3 years.



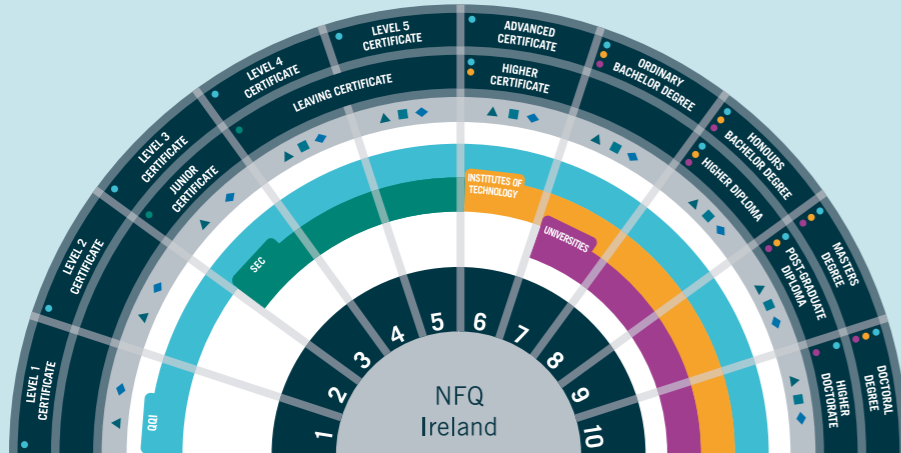
At least 20% of graduates from higher education, and 6% of 18-34 year-olds with an initial vocational qualification, should have spent some time studying or training abroad.



THE IRISH NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS (NFQ)



The Irish NFQ was established in 2003. The NFQ is a framework through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other in a coherent way. Qualifications are organised within the NFQ based on their level of knowledge, skill and competence. There are many different types and sizes of qualifications included in the NFQ and because all qualifications included in the NFQ are quality assured you can have confidence that they will be recognised at home and abroad.



AWARDING BODIES

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

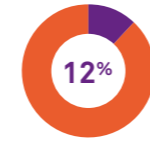
AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- ▲ Major Awards: named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- ▲ Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ▲ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) has responsibility to develop, promote and maintain the Irish NFQ. QQI also facilitates the recognition of foreign qualifications.

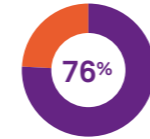
Find out more at www.QQI.ie.



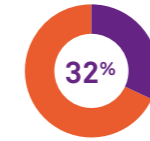
12% of Irish people have spent some time studying abroad in the EU.



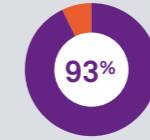
EU citizens from outside of Ireland account for over 10% of total employment in Ireland.



76% of Irish people felt that it was easy to get information on having your skills and qualifications recognised in Europe.



32% of Irish people have spent some time working abroad in the EU.



93% of young people in Ireland are expected to graduate from upper secondary education in their lifetimes.



Ireland is the best European performer in terms of the proportion of people completing higher education.

1,060,000

full time learners across the system

860,000

young people at school

200,000

learners in Higher Education

270,000

learners in Further Education and Training

NFQ
Irish National Framework of Qualifications

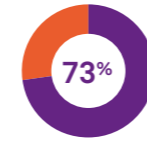
THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (EQF)



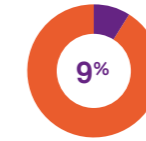
The EQF is an overarching framework that links the qualifications frameworks of different European countries together. It covers qualifications at all levels and in all sub-systems of education and training (general and adult education, vocational education and training as well as higher education).

The main role of the EQF is to make qualifications more readable and understandable across different countries and systems. In this way, the EQF supports individual mobility and lifelong learning, helping those moving from one country to another to work, or to continue their education or training. European countries are encouraged to develop their national qualifications systems and to link those systems to the EQF. Ireland completed the referencing of the Irish NFQ to the EQF in 2009.

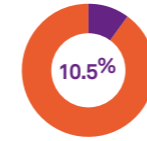
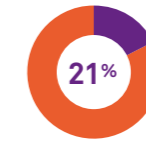
Find out more on the EQF by visiting **Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe** <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en>.



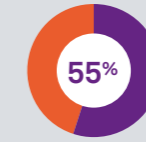
Nearly three-quarters of EU citizens agree that their education or training has provided them with the necessary skills to find a job in line with their qualifications.



Only 9% of Europeans say they know the level of the European Qualifications Framework to which their qualifications correspond, while 21% have heard about the European Qualifications Framework.



During 2013 on average across the EU, 10.5% of persons aged 25-64 participated in some form of lifelong learning activity. In some countries over 30% of adults took part in lifelong learning during 2013.



Across the EU around 55% of early leavers from education and training are jobless.



There were 214 million international migrants in 2010; there could be 400 million in 2050.



Today, in Europe some 76 million 25-64 year olds, roughly equivalent to the combined total populations of Italy, Hungary and Austria, have either low qualifications or no qualifications at all.



EQF
European
Qualifications
Framework

THE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (QF-EHEA)

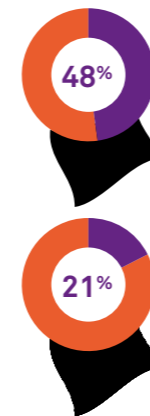


The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) aims to facilitate cooperation between systems, institutions, and individual staff and students throughout the EHEA. This will make European higher education known and appreciated throughout the world. 48 countries worldwide are participating in the EHEA, working to implement its goals for quality and mobility.

The EHEA now includes the concept of a qualifications framework with an emphasis on learning outcomes. The undergraduate/postgraduate degree structure has been modified into a three-cycle system - bachelor, master and doctorate.

Ireland's NQF has been verified as compatible with that of the QF- EHEA. This means that higher education and training qualifications from Ireland are consistent with the EHEA bachelor, master and doctorate cycles.

Find out more on the **European Higher Education Area** by visiting <http://www.ehea.info/>.



Europe is an attractive market for international students.

Europe hosts 48% of higher education students studying outside of their country of origin, while North America hosts 21%.



Access to higher levels of education has expanded steadily over the past decade, yet there are significant differences across countries.



A population with high qualifications and skills makes the European Union a strong competitor.



Better qualifications are necessary because, more than ever in a world of change and mobility, people need a clear and trusted way to demonstrate their competence to perform a job.



Education leads to further education: the higher the educational attainment and level of skills, the greater the participation in formal and/or non-formal adult education.



NOW WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO NEXT?

Ireland has collaborated with other European countries to ensure that qualifications frameworks are connected internationally. The relationship between the Irish National Framework of Qualifications and the EQF and the QF-EHEA has been formally established. This means that your qualifications are easier to understand when moving from country to country.

MAKE THE CONNECTION

1. Find out the level of your qualification

Both Certificate and Diploma Supplements connect the NFQ to other frameworks for you. Find out more by visiting www.europass.ie.

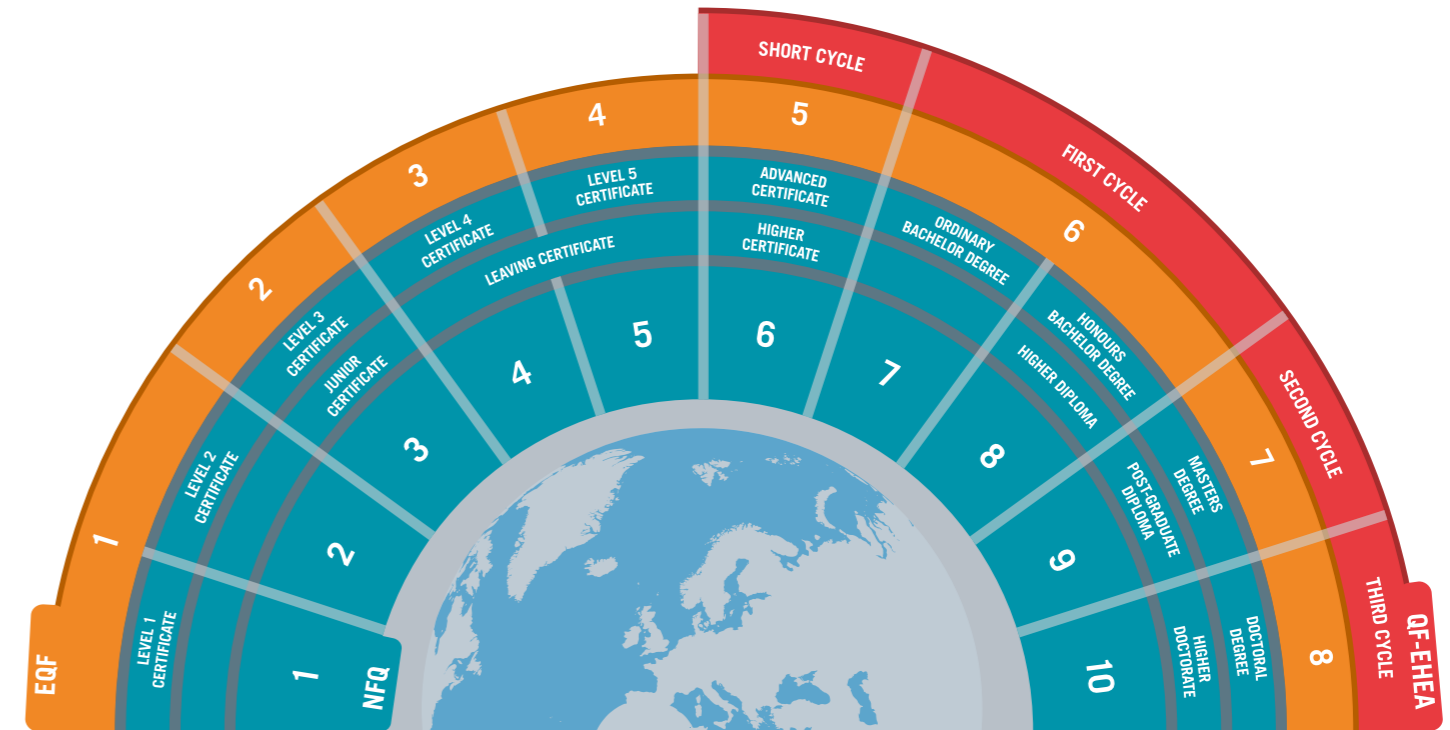


2. Seek advice on travelling with your qualification

ENIC-NARIC centres facilitate the recognition of qualifications throughout Europe and beyond. Find out more by visiting www.enic-naric.net.



Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global



- NFQ Irish National Framework of Qualifications
- EQF European Qualifications Framework
- QF-EHEA Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area



For further information consult: www.nfq.ie www.QQI.ie

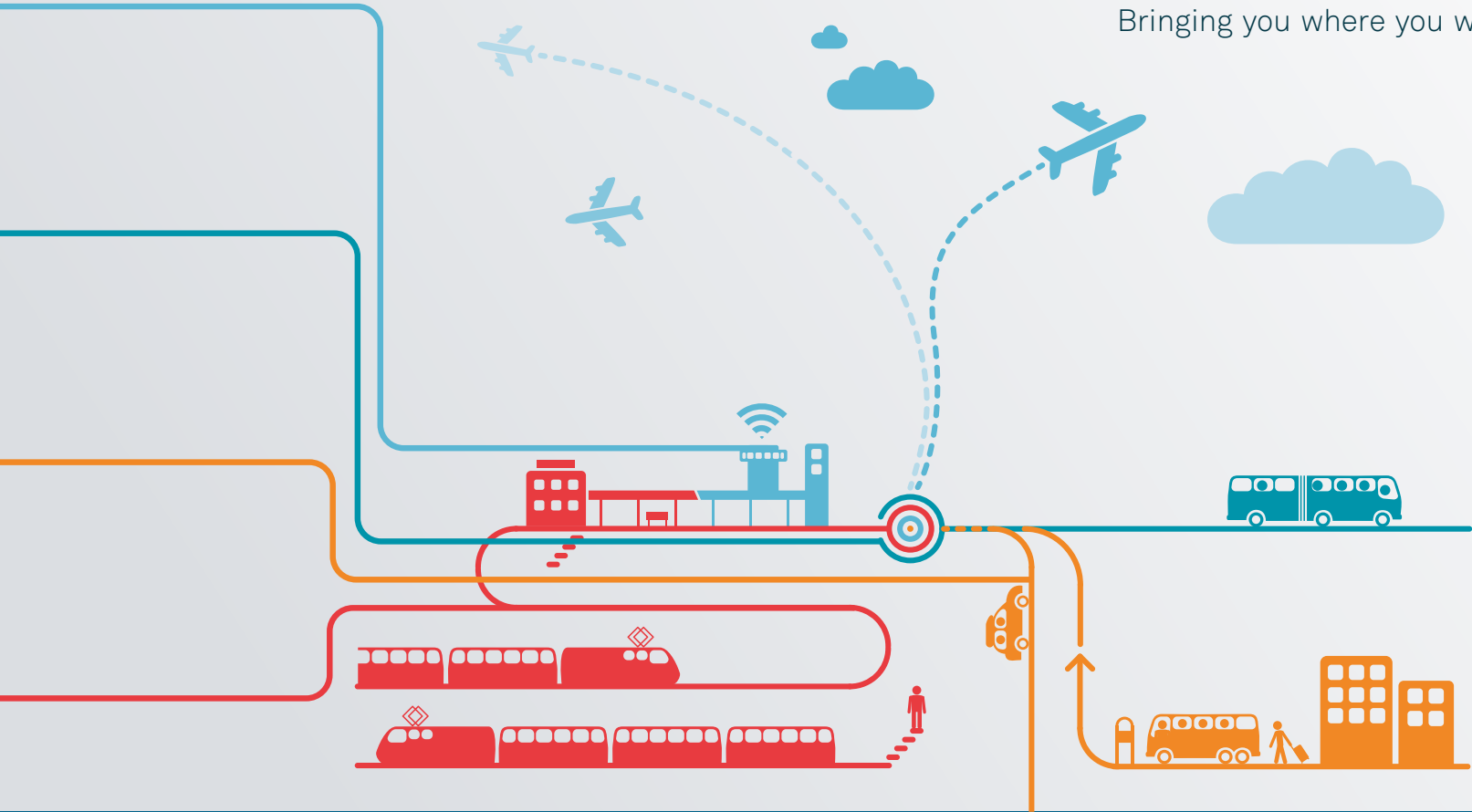
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Make the Connection

Qualifications Framework

Bringing you where you want to go



QQI

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Put simply, lifelong learning means that people can, and should, have the opportunity to learn throughout their lives.

www.QQI.ie