



The Lifesaving Framework in accordance to the European Qualification Framework (EQF)



Dr. Klaus Wilkens, PhD, President of ILSE



Background

Recommendation of the EU-Parliament (23.4.2008)

“The development and recognition of citizens' knowledge, skills and competence are crucial for the development of individuals, competitiveness, employment and social cohesion in the Community. Such development and recognition should facilitate transnational mobility for workers and learners and contribute to meeting the requirements of supply and demand in the European labour market.

Access to and participation in lifelong learning for all, including disadvantaged people, and the use of qualifications should therefore be promoted and improved at national and Community level.”

Dr. Klaus Wilkens, PhD, President of ILSE

2



Background

The EQF Concept

“European qualifications framework’ means an instrument for the classification of qualifications in Europe (EU) according to a set of criteria for specified levels of learning achieved, which aims to integrate and coordinate national qualifications subsystems and improve the transparency, access, progression and quality of qualifications in relation to the labour market and civil society.”



Background

Method (EC)

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) acts as a translation device to make national qualifications more readable across Europe, promoting workers’ and learners’ mobility between countries and facilitating their lifelong learning.

The EQF will relate different countries’ national qualifications systems to a common European reference framework.



Background

Method

The core of the EQF are eight reference levels describing what a learner knows, understands and is able to do – ‚learning outcomes‘. Levels of national qualifications will be placed at one of the central reference levels, ranging from basic (L1) to advanced (L8).

It will therefore enable much easier comparison between national qualifications and should also mean that people do not have to repeat learning if they move to another country.

Following the level of the EQF and considering the ILS-Certificate-System a European version for the Lifeguard Qualifications has been developed.



The Lifesaving Framework in accordance to the EQF

Descriptors

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
In the context of EQF, knowledge is described as theoretical and/or factual	In the context of EQF, skills are described as cognitive (involving the use of logical, intuitive and creative thinking) and practical (involving manual dexterity and the use of methods, materials, tools and instruments)	In the context of EQF, competence is described in terms of responsibility and autonomy



The Lifesaving Framework Level 1: Lifesaver *

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
Knowledge of respiration and circulation principles and of adult CPR	Trained in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swimming ▪ Diving ▪ Jumping ▪ Rescue without equipment ▪ First Aid 	A Lifesaver* is a person with the basic training required for the assistance in saving of life in the water.
EQF Descriptors		
Basic general knowledge	Basic skills required to carry out tasks	Work or study under direct supervision in a structured context



The Lifesaving Framework Level 2: Lifesaver **

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
Knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ basic patient management techniques ▪ basic resuscitation techniques ▪ basic first aid techniques ▪ the function of selected lifesaving rescue equipment 	Additional trained in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jumping, swimming, diving ▪ First Aid in application ▪ Using of fins, diving mask, snorkel ▪ Using of rescue equipment (rescue tubes, etc.) ▪ Case studies (easy to middle level of difficulty) ▪ Assistance in swimming pools and on lifeguard stations 	A Lifesaver ** is a person with the basic training required for the saving of life in the water
EQF Descriptors		
Basic factual knowledge of a field of work or study	Basic cognitive and practical skill required to use relevant information in order to carry out tasks and to solve routine problems	Work or study under supervision with some autonomy



The Lifesaving Framework Level 3: Lifesaver *** (Pool Lifeguard)

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk in a pool ▪ Risk assessment and evaluation ▪ Lifeguard and service management ▪ Simul. emergency cases ▪ Co-operation with ambulance service and hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher requirements in jumping, swimming, diving ▪ Using of rescue tubes and other means ▪ Paramedical education ▪ Evaluation of O₂ devices and AED ▪ Developing of Emergency plans 	<p>A Pool Lifeguard is a person who will be regularly assigned to protect life and safety at a pool.</p>
EQF Descriptors		
Knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to accomplish tasks and solve problems	Take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study



The Lifesaving Framework Level 3: Lifesaver *** (Inland Open Water Lifeguard)

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risks in open water ▪ Risk assessment and evaluation ▪ Lifeguard and service management ▪ Simul. emergency cases ▪ Co-operation with the ambulance service and hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher requirements in jumping, swimming, diving ▪ Using of rescue tubes and other means ▪ Paramedical Education ▪ Evaluation of O₂ devices and AED ▪ Developing of Emergency plans 	<p>An Inland – Open Water Lifeguard is a person who will be regularly assigned to protect life and safety at a non-surf, stillwater beach, such as a lake or river.</p>
EQF Descriptors		
Knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to accomplish tasks and solve problems	Take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study



The Lifesaving Framework

Level 3: Lifesaver *** (Beach/ Surf Lifeguard)

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk at the beach ▪ Risk assessment and evaluation ▪ Lifeguard and service management ▪ Simul. emergency cases ▪ Co-operation with the ambulance service and hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher requirements in jumping, swimming, diving ▪ Using of rescue tubes and other means ▪ Paramedical Education ▪ Evaluation of O₂ devices and AED ▪ Developing of Emergency plans 	A Surf Lifeguard is a person who will be regularly assigned to protect life and safety in the surf environment.
EQF Descriptors		
Knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to accomplish tasks and solve problems	Take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study



The Lifesaving Framework

Level 3: Lifesaver *** (Lifesaving Instructor)

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Methodical-didactical basics of lessons ▪ Type and application of auxiliary means for lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teaching tests for lessons for Lifesaver * and **: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in the lesson room ▪ in the pool ▪ in open water 	An Instructor is the person instructing candidate(s) in the specific requirements of the appropriate Certificates * and **
EQF Descriptors		
Knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to accomplish tasks and solve problems	Take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study



The Lifesaving Framework Level 4: Chief Lifeguard / Ch. Instructor

Knowledge	Skills	Competence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Principles of learning and teaching ▪ Schemes of work and lesson planning ▪ Lifesaving specific didactical / methodical aspects ▪ Structure of nat. and intern. Lifesaving Organisations and Competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supervised teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in the "classroom" ▪ at the poolside, ▪ open water and beach (incl. CPR/ First Aid) ▪ Examination lessons ▪ Written examination 	<p>A Chief Lifeguard or Chief Instructor is a person instructing candidate(s) in the specific requirements of the appropriate Certificate Lifesaver****</p>
EQF Descriptors		
Factual and theoretical knowledge in broad context within a field of work or study	a range of cognitive and practical skills required to generate solutions to specific problems	supervise the work of others, taking some responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of work or study activities



The procedure

Acceptance by EU



EUROPÄISCHE UNION

Our concept has been submitted to the EU/Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

The assessment was positive (23.9.2009).

This was an important recognition of the of the ILSE-Lifesaving-Organisation and gives the chance for a support by the EU Leonardo da Vinci and Grundvig Programmes.



The procedure

Transfer to the national level

Every member country of the EU has to draw up a National Qualifications Framework.

It is the task of the ILSE Members in EU countries to translate the document in their national language, to forward it to their national partner and to get in contact with their national culture department in order to achieve the National Qualification Framework

Helpful documents

National Contact persons: [ILSE Circular 2010-1 Enclosure 2](#)

Participating organisations: [ILSE Circular 2010-1 Enclosure 3](#)



Conclusion

- The European concept is compatible to the ILS-Certificate System
- The European concept could be a base for the Lifeguard Vocation all over the world

