

# TYC

## Turkish Qualifications Framework



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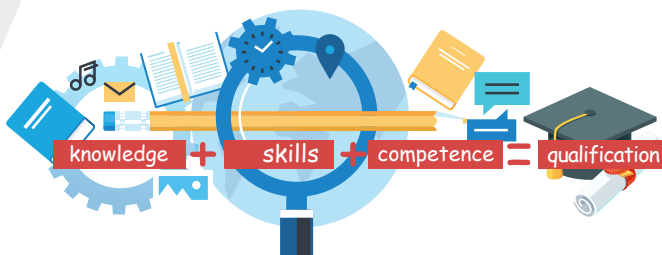
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## Turkish Qualifications Framework



Turkish Qualifications Framework (TQF); is the national qualifications framework which describes, classifies and compares the qualifications (i.e. diploma, certificate, mastership certificate etc.) awarded upon the completion of formal and non-formal education in Turkey as well as the qualifications (i.e. vocational qualification certificate) awarded upon the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

The TQF which is developed on the basis of the learning outcomes approach, is also referenced to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.



## What is a Qualification?



Qualification means a formal outcome (diploma, degree, title, qualification certificate etc.) of an assessment and validation process which is obtained when a responsible body determines that an individual has achieved learning outcomes to given standards. Responsible bodies are the Ministry of National Education, Council of Higher Education, Vocational Qualifications Authority and other institutions and organizations specified in the relevant legislation for qualifications.

The qualifications to be included in the TQF should be developed in terms of “learning outcomes” and must meet the “quality assurance” criteria. Learning outcomes refer to the knowledge, skills and competences that an individual has acquired after completion of a learning activity.

Quality assurance refers to the activities of planning, implementation, evaluation, reporting and quality improvement which enable the qualifications to meet the determined quality criteria.

## Which Qualifications are in the Scope of the TQF?



The TQF includes all quality assured qualifications awarded as a result of recognition of the individual's learning outcomes achieved in formal, non-formal or informal learning contexts by a responsible body. These qualifications mainly include the diplomas, Journeyman's and Mastership Certificates awarded by the Ministry of National Education; diplomas and certificates awarded by the higher education institutions, VQA Vocational Qualification Certificates awarded by the Vocational Qualifications Authority, and certificates and awards issued by authorized institutions in accordance with the international agreements and the national legislation.



Inclusion of a qualification into the TQF approves that;

- It is described in terms of learning outcomes,
- It meets the quality assurance criteria,
- The process of access to the qualification is reliable and transparent
- The relationship with other qualifications is clearly explained,
- It is recognized by education providers and employers,
- It has a clear reference to the European Qualifications Framework.

The qualifications awarded in Turkey as well as the general and up-to-date information about them can be accessed through the Turkish Qualifications Database.

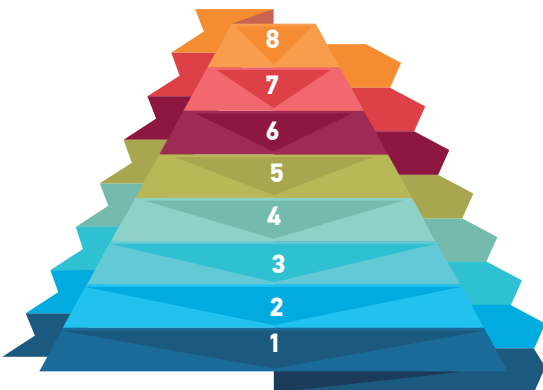
<http://portal.tyc.gov.tr/>

## Structure of the TQF



The TQF has a structure consisting of eight levels and qualification types. The levels are classified from 1 to 8 and illustrate a progress from simple to difficult, from basic to complex. The TQF levels are defined by statements of learning outcomes, namely level descriptors.

The qualification types are used to group qualifications that are at the same level and have common specifications. For example; Level 4 Vocational Qualification Certificate is a qualification type that describes the minimum common specifications of the Level 4 Vocational Qualification Certificates awarded for different occupations.



## TQF Management Structure



The Vocational Qualifications Authority is in charge of the development, improvement and update of the TQF. VQA has established decision making, implementation and advisory units such as the TQF Coordination Council, the TQF Council and the TQF Consultation Committee to ensure the effective cooperation and a participative management approach among stakeholders. The studies of all these units are carried out by the Turkish Qualifications Framework Department of VQA.

All institutions and organizations, which are the main stakeholders of the TQF, have a say in decisions regarding the TQF.



## Who are the Beneficiaries of the TQF?

Today, each individual is in a direct or indirect relationship with the world of education and work. TQF concerns the whole society because of the link it establishes between the education and work life. However, the beneficiaries of the TQF are, in particular:

- Learners, Employees and Job Seekers
- Institutions and Organizations in the field of Education, Training and Employment
- Awarding Bodies
- Developers of Education Programs and Curriculum
- Teachers
- Employers
- Career Guides
- Job and Occupation Counsellors
- Human Resources Specialists

## What are the Benefits of the TQF?

The most important contribution of the TQF will be to increase the quality and reliability of the qualifications. Additionally;

- The relationship between education and employment will be strengthened.
- Individuals will be provided with qualifications which are valid and recognized in the labour market.
- The competent labour force required by the labour market will be supplied.
- The qualifications awarded in Turkey will be comparable to those awarded in other countries.
- The national and international mobility of individuals will be facilitated.
- The credit rating of qualifications, accumulation of credits and progression among qualifications will be implemented.

## The International Dimension of the TQF ←

One of the main purposes of the TQF is to ensure that qualifications awarded in Turkey are understandable and are reliable at the European Union level. For this purpose, the Turkish Qualifications Framework has been referenced to the European Qualifications Framework upon the decision of the EQF Advisory Group, the competent expert group of the European Commission.

The referencing of the TQF to the EQF proves that the education and qualifications system in Turkey is compatible with the principles and standards at European Level.



The most significant aspect of the TQF is the quality assurance. Therefore, the determination of the quality assurance criteria that should be met by the qualifications to be included into the TQF and the publication of the principles and procedures regarding the quality assurance in the Official Journal are decided in the TQF Regulation. Due to these decisions, “the Principles and Procedures regarding the Quality Assurance of Qualification to be Included into the TQF” has been prepared and are available at [tyc.gov.tr/KGUE](http://tyc.gov.tr/KGUE).

As per the Article 23/A of the Vocational Qualifications Authority Law No. 5544, VQA is responsible for carrying out the operations for the development, improvement and updating of the TQF. The Regulation on the Procedures and Principles for the Implementation of the Turkish Qualification Framework was approved by the decision of the Council of Ministers and published on the Official Journal on 19/11/2015.