

Expert Group  
Human Resources Development in Sport  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Relevance of the active leisure sector and  
international qualification framework to the EQF



THE RELEVANCE OF THE ACTIVE LEISURE  
SECTOR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION  
FRAMEWORK TO THE EQF (SIQAF)

Active  
Leisure  
Alliance

Co-funded by the  
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The current active leisure sector qualification framework has an “informal” referencing to EQF levels.

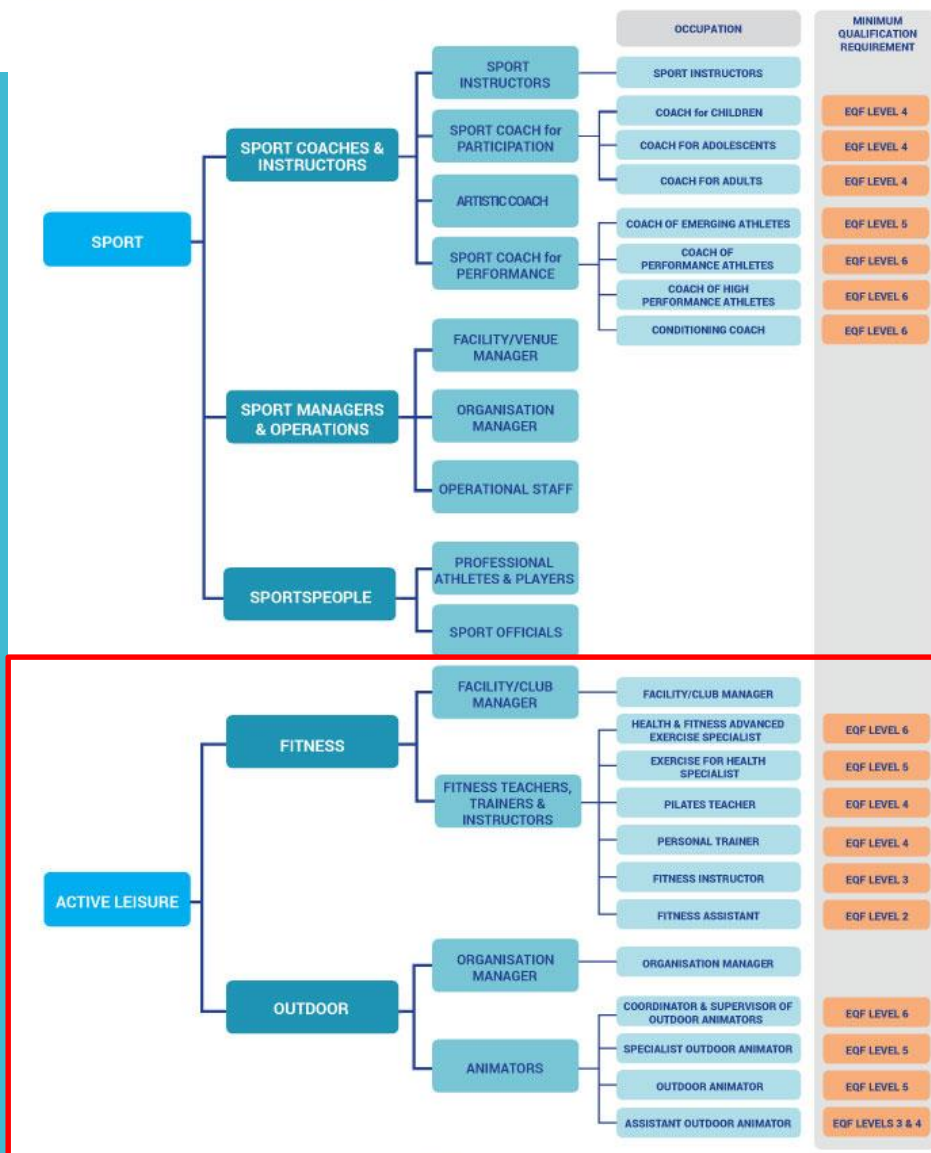
It is a “unitary” framework with no legal status and no direct connection to the EQF or NQFs.

Explicitly detailed in ESCO referencing and established in social dialogue, the SQF has been in development since 2009.

Clear definition of the sector(s)



**SPORT & ACTIVE LEISURE SECTOR**



ESCO – Sport and Active Leisure Organogram\_v12 April 2015

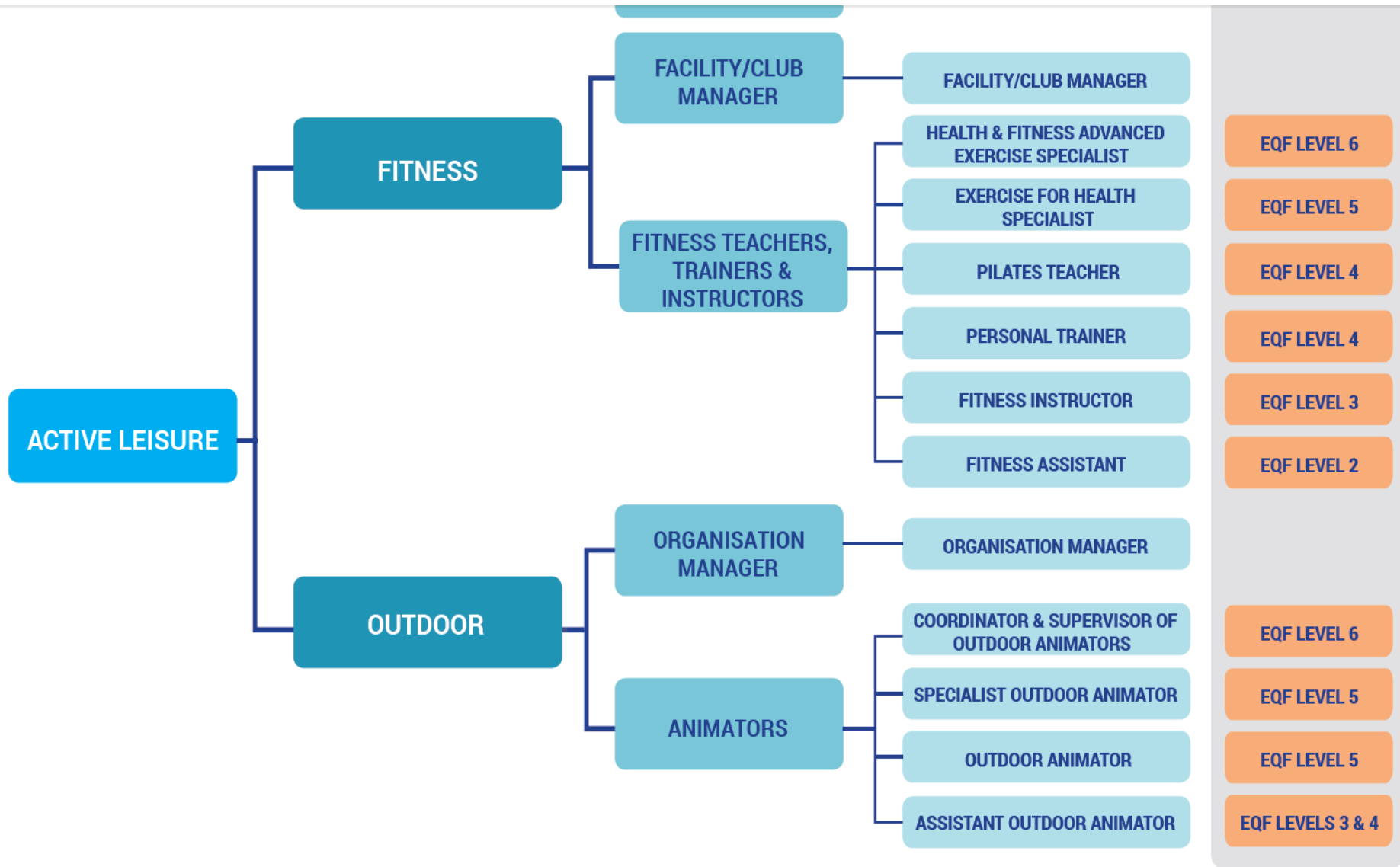


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Extract from the current review of the EQF as part of the New Skills Agenda

*“ The growing internationalisation of products and services value chains has triggered an increasing number of international (sectoral) qualifications industry-based training and certifications, based on **standards developed by international companies or sectoral organisations ...**”*



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*“The current Recommendation (of the EQF review) stipulates **that international sectoral organisations should be able to relate their qualifications systems to a common European reference point** and thus show the relationship between international sectoral qualifications and national qualifications systems.*

*However, the Recommendation did not create explicit provisions on how this direct relation to the EQF should be achieved.”*



Policy reform is led by DG EMPL

EuropeActive awarded an Erasmus+ project lasting for 2 years

In the context of Study prepared by ICF:

- sectoral initiatives = 254

- some high use of qualifications/standards

- some agree relationship with NQFs

- some already use EQF referencing

- nearly all based on learning outcomes

- most embed quality assurance processes



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## The three areas of action of the SIQAF project:

- 1. Propose how a sector/international qualification framework could be related to the EQF.** This will include identifying the conditions and characteristics that will be needed by a sector considering referencing and its relevance of its qualifications and/or framework to the EQF. This also addresses the key issue of transferability.
- 2. Quantify and qualify the criteria required,** and the way that they would have to be applied to the process, and such that they will embed convincing and plausible quality assurance criteria.
- 3. Explain how a sectoral qualifications system/framework needs to establish a body for the demonstration of good governance,** and to gain its validation from employers, employees, VET experts, accreditation bodies and other stakeholders in their sector.





Other big drivers of policy review and  
“harmonisation” at the European level:

Directive 2005/36 EC as amended by  
Directive 2013/55 EU – common training  
frameworks, test and professional card

European standards for fitness centres  
CEN/TC 136/WG 2 -  
recognition of “qualified”  
fitness trainer(s)



European Committee for Standardization



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We will be replicating the first 8 steps of an NQF referencing to the EQF

We need wide consultation and understanding with Member States

The idea is to improve understanding, transparency and quality assurance of qualifications in the active leisure sector

We will form a “contact group” with MS experts to give guidance, context and opinion .... Nothing can go forward without the tacit understanding and approval of the MS



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# Thank you

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