



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



TERMS OF REFERENCE

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

#9

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Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Introduction

Innovation and Technology is one of 10 Guidelines currently under development to support the ACQF. The guidelines aim to clarify how the given policy or mechanism relates to the ACQF and what are the related key requirements for countries engaging in referencing/alignment to the ACQF; and provide conceptual and technical orientations to countries/RECs to support improvement/consolidation of their own systems (for example, credit accumulation and transfer and links with NQF and the ACQF).

As part of the methodology of delivering on proposed outputs JET will undertake a series of engagements with a Community of Practice (CoP), designed to gather information on practices, identify key needs and expectations in the 2 thematic areas and later support with the dissemination of the Guidelines. These will be important contact points for communication and information sharing. This document outlines the scope and proposed activities of the CoP for Innovation and Technology, based on the proposal submitted to GIZ regarding the development of the Innovation Guideline and the outcomes of an inception meeting and other engagements with the members of the Steering Committee.

Background

Innovation and technology has created both new education landscapes and new opportunities for qualifications, credentials and the integration and recognition of learning experiences. Trends and innovations related to national and regional qualifications frameworks include but are not limited to:

- ‘Bread and butter’ issues such as the digitalisation of systems for capturing and storing credential and qualification information;
- The creation of interoperable systems for education, including work on semantic interoperability, to enable easy translation between or across education systems;
- Technology-enabled curriculum and course comparisons through a focus on declared learning outcomes;
- Identification of skills trends through the use of scraping technologies and big data analysis;
- Partially-automated curriculum reviews to decrease the time commitment and/or delays in curriculum revision processes;
- Innovations in the recognition of prior learning and integration of prior learning experience into qualification frameworks;
- The role of Open Educational Resources (OERs) in promoting and supporting lifelong learning and access to quality education;
- The use of technology in assessment and certification, particularly, but not limited to, competence-based assessments;
- The inclusion of micro-credentials and stackable and/or flexible frameworks to enable greater access and allow credentials to aggregate to qualifications and certificates; and
- The use of technologies such as the cloud, QVC codes, blockchain etc. to enable digital certificates and credential or qualification mobility.

While perhaps a majority of innovations are enabled by technological advancement, it must be noted that relevant innovations are not limited to technology-based. For example, internationally, Technical Vocational Education and Training Colleges (TVETs) are exploring curriculum innovations such as decentralised regional or local qualification development; improving relevance through an assigned percentage of ‘curriculum flexibility’; and the personalisation of learning through the integration of electives or streams and the inclusion of ‘flexi weeks’, in which students pursue projects of personal interest related to their studies but outside the formal curriculum.

Additionally, the opportunities and effects of innovation and technology should be considered for both national qualifications frameworks and regional qualifications frameworks.

Scope of Work for the Innovation and Technology Community of Practice

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly (Wenger and Trayner 2015).

The Innovation and Technology community of practice will assist the development team by providing a platform from which to gather information about current practices, review and comment on the contents of the Guideline and the completeness, usability and quality of the Training Module, and further disseminate knowledge and information gained from the COP to their respective networks.

Objectives of the COP

- To share information on current practices with regard to innovation and technology in NQFs and RQFs.
- To expose practitioners of member countries to the wide range of technologies available.
- To gather feedback on the feasibility of innovations that are proposed (constraints, enablers) from a wide range of countries.
- To create an inclusive network of interested, knowledgeable practitioners who can provide ongoing collaboration and support to peers after the tasks of the development team are completed.

Expectations of COP members

- To participate in up to three COP meetings or sessions
- To provide inputs into current practices, contextual considerations, the enablers of innovation and technology use for NQF and RQF, and the constraints likely to be encountered in implementing different types of innovations
- To review and provide inputs on work completed by the development team, including the Summary Guidelines, the Technical Guidelines, the Training Module and any tools developed to support the implementation of the Guideline for Innovation and Technology.
- To disseminate knowledge and the final, approved products or outputs of the development work widely within their networks

The CoP will have up to 15 members. database managed through the ACQF project. “Applications” will be vetted by JET, in collaboration with the ACQF Steering Committee to ensure distribution across the following criteria:

- Persons with strategic and/or operational responsibility for innovation and technology related to NQFs and RQFs in their respective countries and regions.
- Representatives from countries at varying stages of NGQ development (see background section).
- Representatives of NQFs and RQFs.

The COP will be conducted in English. JET to act as secretariat for each COP. This will include taking notes and producing and circulating a meeting summary for each meeting.

Proposed invitees:

It is important to ensure that the relatively small COP is representative of different regions, languages and stages of development. Proposed stakeholder categories are: 1) Country representatives working in/interested in I&T; 2) Representatives from RECs and regional associations; and/or 3) Key continental bodies/associations working in I&T.

Participation is based on an opt-in arrangement – we therefore ask people to apply using the link below to indicate that you are interested to be part of this COP. Please keep in mind that the following principles will apply:

- Geographical spread across Africa
- Persons with strategic and/or operational responsibility for innovation and technology related to NQFs and RQFs in their respective countries and regions

- Representatives from countries at varying stages of NGQ development (see background section)
- Representatives of NQFs and RQFs
- Gender balance
- Inclusion of both experienced and young people
- A maximum of 15 people
- First-come first-serve
- COP#9 will be conducted in English

Please respond by 17 October 2021 or sooner. Successful applicants will be informed by 22 October 2021.

Apply here:

<https://forms.gle/L3UroD968rZuaYSz7>

JET to act as secretariat for COP#7. This will include taking notes and producing and circulating a meeting summary for each meeting.

Timelines of the next meetings (provisional)

Meeting 1 – Orientation and information gathering (November 2021)

Meeting 2 – Presentation of and comments on draft guidelines (December 2021)

Meeting 3 – Presentation of and comments on draft training module (January 2022)

Further development sessions to be coordinated with the ACQF Peer Learning webinars held in 2022