

**ORDER OF THE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND SPORT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

No. 07-L

“19” February 2025

**ON APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM FOR ORGANIZING THE SELF-
CERTIFICATION PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Pursuant to the provision of Paragraph “c” of Sub-clause 5 of Clause 81 of the Annex approved by the Law “On Approving the State Education Development Plan of the Republic of Armenia until 2030,”

I HEREBY ORDER:

1. To approve the program for organizing the Self-Certification Process of the National Qualifications Framework for higher education of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the Annex hereto.

MINISTER

ZHANNA ANDREASYAN

PROGRAM
FOR ORGANIZING THE SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Since 2005, the Republic of Armenia has joined the Bologna Process, also undertaking the commitment to align the current qualifications system in the Republic of Armenia with the Pan-European qualifications. The self-certification of the National Qualifications Framework (hereinafter NQF) is a process during which the compliance of the NQF with Pan-European or international standards is evaluated and confirmed, such as the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) or the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).
2. If the self-certification of the NQF is not carried out, the Republic of Armenia cannot fully participate in the educational initiatives and integration processes of the European Union (EU).
3. Once the official confirmation of the compliance of the NQF of the Republic of Armenia with European Educational Standards is obtained, it will be reflected on the unified website of the ENIC-NARIC networks (European Network of Information Centres and National Academic Recognition Information Centres of the European Union). This will help increase the confidence of foreign universities and employers in the educational system and the qualifications of the Republic of Armenia. As a result, this will simplify processes for university admission abroad, student mobility, and alumni employment in foreign countries.
4. The self-certification of the NQF of the Republic of Armenia will also facilitate the accessibility of EU grants and educational projects for universities and researchers.
5. Self-certification of the NQF will also be significant for foreign students in terms of increasing the attractiveness of Armenia's universities. The official recognition of the NQF's compliance with European standards will enhance the competitiveness of Armenian universities and increase the number of foreign students.
6. The objectives of self-certification of the National Qualifications Framework are:
 - 1) Alignment of the NQF with international standards,

- 2) Increasing the transparency of qualifications, at the same time fostering academic and professional mobility,
 - 3) Ensuring trust mechanisms in the NQF of the Republic of Armenia among international partners.
7. The self-certification of the NQF is based on the Copenhagen and Bologna Processes and includes the following key principles:
- 1) Conformity of the NQF levels with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF),
 - 2) Conformity of higher education qualifications in the NQF with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA),
 - 3) Application of transparent standards and criteria,
 - 4) Involvement of national and international experts,
 - 5) Publicity and accessibility of the self-certification results.
8. The main stages of NQF self-certification are:
- 1) Analysis of the NQF's compliance with international standards (EQF, QF-EHEA),
 - 2) Preparation of the self-certification report (hereinafter "the Report"), which will include descriptions of qualification levels, their compliance with international frameworks, and mechanisms for awarding qualifications,
 - 3) Discussion of the self-certification report with domestic and international experts and stakeholders (public authorities, universities, employers),
 - 4) Publication of the results and international recognition (for example, presentation of the report to the Bologna Follow-up Group or to the EQF Advisory Group).

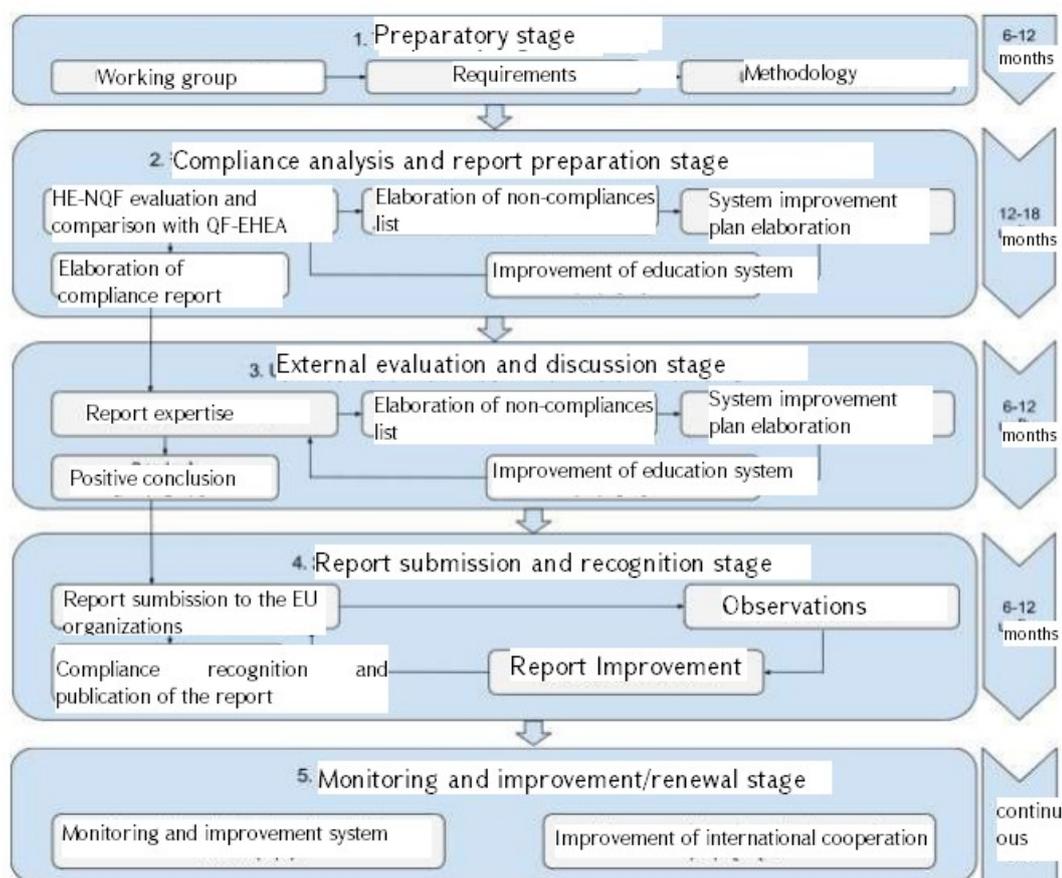
2. PURPOSE AND STAGES OF THE SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

9. The purpose of the self-certification of the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (hereinafter HE-NQF) provided by this Program is to ensure greater international transparency of higher education qualifications of the Republic of Armenia by aligning levels 6, 7, and 8 of the RA NQF corresponding to higher education with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), thus facilitating the academic mobility of students and professional mobility of graduates, and ensuring the international recognition of diplomas from the Republic of Armenia.

10. The HE-NQF self-certification process consists of the following five main stages (see Figure 1):

- 1) Preparatory stage (6–12 months),
- 2) Compliance analysis and report preparation stage (12–18 months),
- 3) External evaluation and discussion stage (6–12 months),
- 4) Report submission and recognition stage (6–12 months),
- 5) Monitoring and improvement/renewal stage (continuous process).

Figure 1. HE-NQF Self-Certification Process



11. The total implementation period of the HE-NQF self-certification process is from two and a half up to four and a half years (the duration is affected by identified shortcomings and how long/effectively it takes to correct them. Therefore, in certain scenarios, more time might be required for the complete implementation of the process).

12. The goals of the main stages of the HE-NQF self-certification process, together with expected outcomes and planned timelines, are presented in **Table 1**.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SELF-CERTIFICATION

13. As a result of the self-certification, the following outcomes will be ensured in relation to the development of the Republic of Armenia's higher education sector:

- 1) The HE-NQF will be confirmed to be in line with the QF-EHEA (the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area),
- 2) International recognition of the diplomas of the Republic of Armenia will expand,
- 3) Academic and professional mobility will become smoother,
- 4) The attractiveness of the Republic of Armenia's education system will grow,
- 5) The development of the national higher education system will be further promoted.

Table 1. Objectives and Expected Outcomes of the Main Stages of the Self-Certification Process

No.	Objective	Activities	Expected Outcomes of the Stage	Timeline
I. Preparatory Stage				
1.	Formation of the self-certification working group	1.1 Determining the organization(s) that will provide initial and ongoing consultation for the process, and obtain preliminary agreements (if necessary, sign a contract) 1.2 Determining the responsible bodies (Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Committee for Higher Education and Science, university associations, National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance, National Information Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility, etc.) 1.3 Forming the working group and appoint the process coordinator 1.4 Determining the mechanisms of cooperation with international experts (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ENQA, European University Association – EUA, Bologna Follow-up Group, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training – Cedefop)	1. The responsible authorities has been determined, 2.The working group has been formed; the analysis of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and international standards has been carried out, 3. The self-certification methodology has been developed.	2025, 2nd–4th quarters 2026, 1st quarter
2.	Analysis of international standards and national regulatory framework	2.1 Thorough study of the Dublin Descriptors (level descriptors), the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA), and requirements for self-certification 2.2 Analysis of defined levels in the HE-NQF and their alignment with international criteria 2.3 Evaluation of the national higher education quality assurance system		
3.	Development of the self-certification methodology	3.1 Determining the criteria and indicators for analyzing the alignment of the HE-NQF with international requirements 3.2 Developing the structure of the Report		

		3.3 Determining data sources (educational programs, recognition mechanisms for qualifications, etc.)		
II. Compliance Analysis and Report Preparation Stage				
4.	Evaluation of the HE-NQF	4.1 Describing the structure of the HE-NQF (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral) 4.2 Analyzing the alignment of the qualification-awarding system and learning outcomes of educational programs 4.3 Evaluating internal quality assurance in universities and accreditation procedures	1. The HE-NQF has been analyzed 2. The draft report has been prepared 3. Discrepancies have been identified	2026, 2nd–4th quarters 2027, 1st-3rd quarters
5.	Comparison of the HE-NQF with the QF-EHEA	5.1 Comparing the descriptors for levels of the QF-EHEA and the HE-NQF 5.2 Analyzing the alignment of levels 5.3 Identifying gaps, shortcomings, and inconsistencies		
6.	Preparation of the report	6.1 Describing the self-certification methodology and principles 6.2 Documenting the alignment of the QF-EHEA and the HE-NQF 6.3 Developing recommendations to address identified inconsistencies		
7.	Reforms necessary to ensure compliance	7.1 Implement the reforms proposed in the recommendations	If the reforms undertaken are sufficient to meet the required standards, then stage 3 begins; otherwise, reforms continue until the necessary level of compliance is reached.	The start of Stage 3 may be postponed until this point is fully implemented.
III. External Evaluation and Discussion Stage				
8.	Discussions at national level with stakeholders	8.1 Conducting discussions with universities, students, and employers 8.2 Making adjustments to the report based on the proposals received	1. Advice from Armenian and international experts has been obtained	2027, 4th quarter 2028, 1st–3rd quarters
9.	Involvement of international experts	9.1 Assessment of the report by independent experts from ENQA, EUA, Bologna Follow-up Group 9.2 Receiving consultation on improving the report	2. The report has been revised and approved	
10.	Public discussion of the report	10.1 Organization of seminars, roundtables, and presentations 10.2 Incorporation of received proposals into the final report		
IV. Report Submission and Recognition Stage				
11.	Submission of the report to	11.1 Submission of the report to the Bologna Follow-up Group	1. Official recognition of the HE-NQF within	2028, 4th quarter

	international organizations	11.2 Submission of the report to ENQA and EUA	the QF-EHEA	
12.	International recognition procedure	12.1 Analysis of the report by international experts 12.2 Final revisions 12.3 Adoption of the decision to recognize the HE-NQF	2. Enhancement of the international status of qualifications of the Republic of Armenia	2029, 1st-3rd quarters
13.	Publication of the results	13.1 Open publication/provision of open access to the report 13.2 Informing universities, employers, and the public		
V. Monitoring and Improvements (Renewals) Stage				
14.	Development of a monitoring system	14.1 Creation of a mechanism for periodic evaluation of the HE-NQF's compliance 14.2 Creation of a national database for higher education qualifications	1. A monitoring mechanism for the HE-NQF has been created 2. The alignment of the HE-NQF with international standards is implemented	2029, 4th quarter Continuously, upon necessity, based on the developed mechanism
15.	Improvement (renewal) of the HE-NQF	15.1 Recording changes occurring in the QF-EHEA and in international standards 15.2 Alignment of national educational standards accordingly		
16.	Development of international cooperation	16.1 Cooperation with foreign universities and accreditation agencies 16.2 Organization of conferences and exchange of experiences		