



SLOVENSKO
OGRODJE
KVALIFIKACIJ

10 YEARS

OF THE SLOVENIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA IZOBRAŽEVANJE,
ZNANOST IN ŠPORT



CPI
CENTER RS ZA
POKLICNO
IZOBRAŽEVANJE

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INTRODUCTION

Janez Damjan, MSc
Director of CPI

Slovenia started **developing the National Qualifications Framework** ten years ago, thereby starting to realize the Recommendations of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning. One of the first milestones on this development path was the **appointment of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI) as the SQF-EQF National Coordination Point**. In the first decade of its operation, the CPI implemented many activities related to the **Slovenian Qualifications Framework implementation** with the objective to **improve transparency and recognisability of qualifications** in Slovenia and the EU. The strategic objectives are:

- to support lifelong learning;
- to integrate and harmonise Slovenia's qualifications subsystems; and
- to improve transparency, accessibility and quality of qualifications with regard to the labour market and civil society.

In this period, the national coordination point SQF-EQF carried out many tasks related to: cooperation with the European Commission and national stakeholders in promoting and implementing the European Qualifications Framework Initiative and SQF in Slovenia and the EU; leading the activities of NCP EQF; providing expert support to the Inter-departmental working group (IWG); coordinating the work of stakeholders involved in referencing national qualifications to EQF through SQF; monitoring SQF implementation; ensuring SQF portal maintenance and SQF Register setup, and updating its connection to European platforms. Pursuant to the SQF Act, we are also responsible for managing the supplementary qualifications referencing to SQF procedure.

Whilst celebrating its tenth anniversary, the Slovenian Qualifications Framework, along with other national qualifications frameworks, faces **new challenges** in terms of its **impact and added value** for various groups of stakeholders during the active implementation phase.

Based on the monitored implementation of the Slovenian Qualifications Framework in 2019 and the Revised Council Recommendation on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning of 22 May, 2017, the NCP SQF-EQF's key future role seems to be the **continued provision of access to quality and transparent information about qualifications, connectivity of SQF with EQF and QF-EHEA** and collaboration with national and European institutions in the field of education and training. Likewise, support to the **development of various types of qualifications** that can be acquired inside and outside of formal education and training systems is essential, as well as simultaneous **strengthening of cooperation between various stakeholders** in the development of effective lifelong learning policies on the national level.

With such future-centred view, the Slovenian Qualifications Framework will contribute to the further development of Slovenian society and respond to future sustainability challenges of education and training systems in light of inevitable social change, continuously changing labour market, new technology development and activation of individuals in the civil society.

SQF DEVELOPMENT

PhD. Vinko Logaj, Interdepartmental Working Group for SQF

Slovenia's decision to prepare a national, that is, Slovenian Qualifications Framework, which will comply with the European Qualifications Framework, signifies an important step towards creating a unified qualifications system in Slovenia, and enables comparability with qualifications obtained in Europe.

Slovenia has this way joined a group of European countries which have built their national frameworks based on the European Qualifications Framework criteria and referenced them to the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and the Qualifications Framework of European Higher Education area.

Throughout the Slovenian Qualifications Framework preparation process, three milestones are especially important: appointment of the Interdepartmental Working Group for the Preparation of a National Qualifications Framework in 2010; approval of the final version of the

KEY MILESTONES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SQF

December 2005

National discussion about the European Qualifications Framework

The first discussions about the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) in Slovenia started in 2005, when the Ministry of Education and Sport, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, organised a national discussion about the European Qualifications Framework, primarily intended to obtain information about the EQF and the situation in the field in terms of establishing a national qualifications framework; based on the decision taken at the aforementioned national discussion, the Ministries consented to establish the *Slovenian Qualifications Framework* (SQF). Further development of the Slovenian Qualifications Framework resulted from the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning.

October 2009

CPI appointed the NCP SQF– EQF

In October 2009, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI) was appointed the EQF national coordination point. In line with its powers, CPI performs tasks as provided in the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April, 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and the revised Council Recommendation on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning of 22 May, 2017.

Final Report: *Referencing the Slovenian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area* by observing the written proposals of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and CEDEFOP in 2014, and; the adoption of the Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act in 2015, which has formally established the Slovenian Qualifications Framework, where all qualifications obtained in Slovenia, be they educational, vocational or other supplementary qualification, are referenced by levels based on learning outcomes. The Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act is predominantly technical in nature and determines, inter alia, that all qualifications obtained in Slovenia are classified into ten levels using the referencing methodology, depending on learning outcomes and knowledge, skills and competences descriptors.

With the consensus of the key stakeholders in the Interdepartmental working group, the Slovenian Qualifications Framework is prepared to also enable referencing the qualifications that the individuals obtained prior to the adoption of the Act and which are still sought for on the labour market. The Slovenian Qualifications Framework is predominantly informative, whilst the supplementary qualifications referencing procedure is the reformatory part.

January 2010

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia appoints an Interdepartmental working group for national qualifications framework preparation

In January 2010, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia appointed an Interdepartmental working group for national qualifications framework preparation (IWG NQF) which complies with the European Qualifications Framework. The group (IWG NQF) was comprised of representatives of the (then) Ministry of Education and Sport, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology; the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs; the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI); Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia; Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia; Association of Employers in Craft and Small Business of Slovenia; Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia; Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office; Slovenian Student Union, and Slovenian Secondary Schools Union. Furthermore, the government determined its tasks, from which it is understood that the IWG NQF is the highest SQF establishment and referencing to the EQF and EHEA decision-making body. The tasks were: determine NCP in accordance with the Recommendations on the introduction of the European Qualifications Framework; prepare the strategy and procedures for Slovenian qualification levels referencing to EQF pursuant to the criteria; prepare views for the European Commission's Consultative Group; approve expert bases for SQF preparation; prepare guidelines for implementation groups and contents for drawing earmarked resources of the European Social Fund (ESF); monitoring the SQF preparation process and the process of referencing individual qualification standards to it.

May 2010

IWG NQF appoints an SQF expert group

In 2010, the IWG NQF appointed an **SQF expert group**, comprising three experts in the field of education, higher education and the labour market, which prepared the first draft proposal for the SQF in November 2010 and the draft proposal for qualifications referencing to SQF, EQF and QF-EHEA (March 2012).

November 2010–May 2011

Consultations about SQF proposal with various stakeholders

The proposal for the SQF prepared by the appointed SQF expert group in November 2010 was discussed and coordinated by the IWG NQF by the end of January 2011. After the SQF proposal consultations were held with various stakeholders, the SQF proposal received its final version in May 2011. Foreign esteemed experts cooperated in the SQF to EQF referencing process: Edwin Mernagh from Ireland, Elizabeth Frank, MSc, from Austria, Dr Sirkka-Liisa Kärki from Finland, and Dr Mile Dželalija from Croatia. CPI appointed Edwin Mernagh, Elizabeth Frank, MSc, and Dr Sirkka-Liisa Kärki EQF international experts for Slovenia (pursuant to criterion 7 of EQF).

December 2015

Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act Adopted

The Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act (SQF Act) was adopted on 18 December, 2015. The new SQF Act established the SQF where all qualifications acquired with education, vocational and supplementary qualifications in the Republic of Slovenia are referenced by levels. The Act summarizes the procedures and competences relating to the referencing of qualifications obtained with education, vocational and supplementary qualifications to the SQF, and determines the main tasks of NCP SQF–EQF and the NCP SQF–EQF Expert Panel.

July 2016

SQF Act enters into force

The SQF Act became fully operational on 12 July, 2016. From that day onwards, the level of obtained qualification under SQF and EQF is recorded in all public education documents (diplomas, certificates), their supplements, NVQ certificates, certificates of completed training or advanced training programme, and supplementary qualifications certificates, and QF-EHEA levels for high and higher education qualifications. The competent ministries harmonised their implementing regulations referring to public documents with the SQF Act. The adoption of the SQF Act gave CPI, acting as the EQF National Coordination Point, the formal basis for its operation.

May 2013

Final report presented to the EQF Advisory Group

In May 2013, the Final Report “Referencing the Slovenian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area” was presented to the EQF Advisory Group).

October 2014

IWG NQF approves the final report “Referencing the Slovenian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework”

The written proposals of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and CEDEFOP were observed in the preparation of the final version of the Final Report: Referencing the Slovenian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area, which was approved by the Interdepartmental working group in October 2014 for the preparation of the national qualifications framework. With this report, SQF levels are referenced to EQF.

May 2018

Monitoring SQF implementation

Between May 2018 and December 2019, the National Coordination Point SQF–EQF, in cooperation with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) implemented the activity “Monitoring the Implementation of the Slovenian Qualifications Framework”, which will be the basis for further SQF implementation activities planning.

THE SLOVENIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (SQF)

The Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF) is a unified system of qualifications in the Republic of Slovenia for the classification of qualifications into levels with regard to learning outcomes.

It includes three categories of qualifications: education, vocational qualifications and supplementary qualifications. Qualifications are classified in ten levels. The ten SQF levels are linked to the eight EQF levels through the descriptors of both frameworks. Higher education qualifications are also categorised to the levels of the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).

SQF QUALIFICATIONS CATEGORIES

The SQF includes three categories of qualifications:

- **EDUCATION,**
demonstrated by a public document certifying completion of education;
- **VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION,**
demonstrated with an NVQ certificate issued in accordance with the regulations governing NVQs, or another document certifying completion of a further training programme, issued in accordance with the regulations governing vocational and higher education;
- **SUPPLEMENTARY QUALIFICATION,**
demonstrated with a certificate of acquired supplementary qualification.



SQF LEVELS AND DESCRIPTORS

The SQF's ten levels are determined by descriptors based on learning outcomes.

Descriptors include three learning outcome categories for every level: knowledge, skills, and competences. Every higher level also includes knowledge, skills and competences at a lower level. Every qualification in the framework includes all three categories, but it is not necessary for every category within a qualification to have the same weight.

SQF qualification levels are referenced to the EQF:

SQF	EQF
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	
6	5
7	6
8	7
9	8
10	

SQF qualification levels are referenced to the QF-EHEA:

SQF	QF-EHEA
6	Short cycle
7	First cycle
8	Second cycle
9	Third cycle
10	

In the SQF, qualifications are classified into

10

LEVELS
with regard to
learning outcomes.

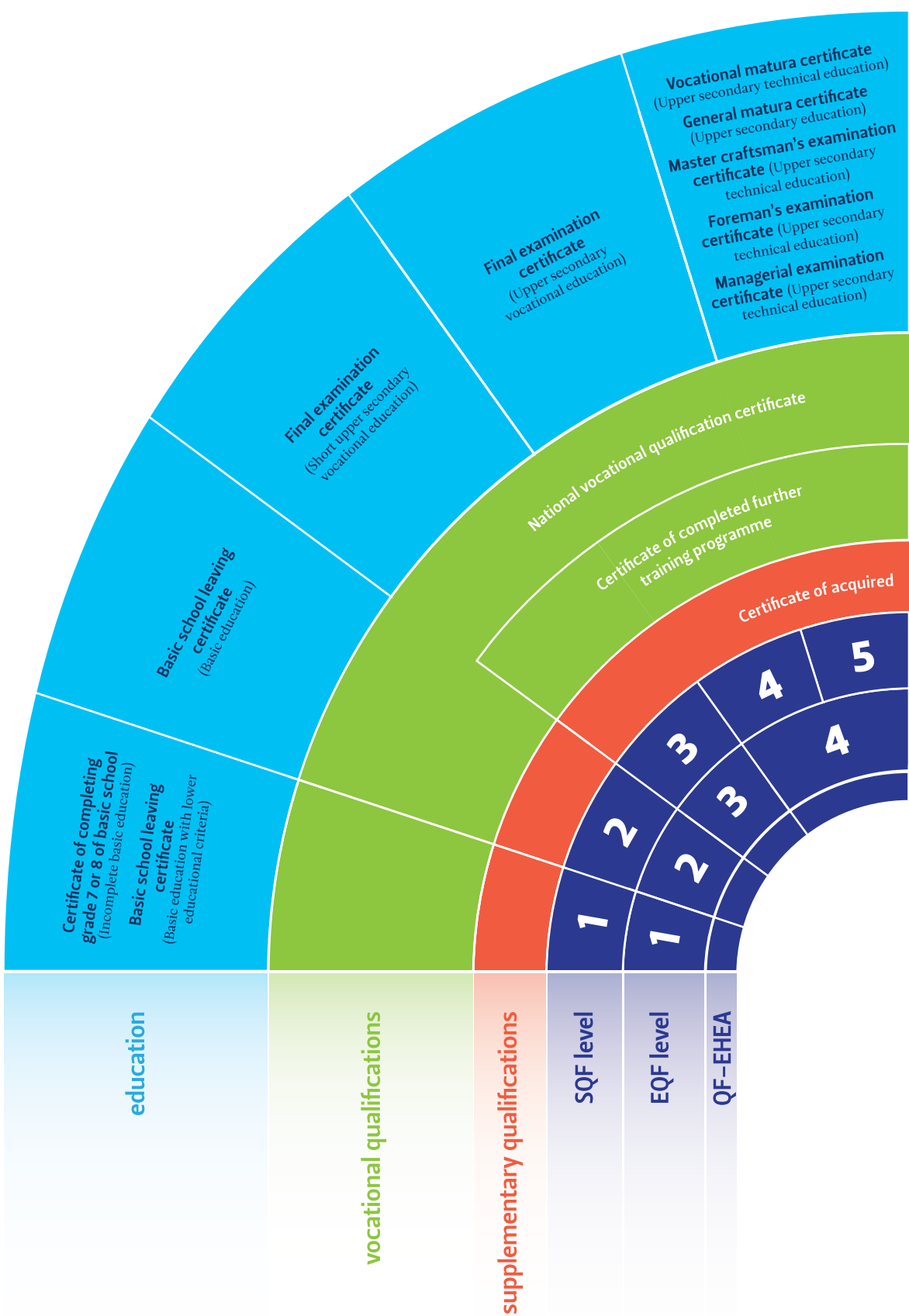
The ten SQF levels are linked to the

8

EQF LEVELS
through the
level descriptors
of both
frameworks.



SLOVENIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (SQF)





SC – QF-EHEA Short cycle, 1st – QF-EHEA First cycle, 2nd – QF-EHEA Second cycle, 3rd – QF-EHEA Third cycle

The scheme includes all the current qualifications which can be obtained in Slovenia. It also includes the qualification Magisterij znanosti/umetnosti, which is classified as an SQF level 9 qualification and was included into EQF level 8 during the referencing of SQF qualifications in the EQF.

Information about other qualifications included is available at www.nok.si/en/.

SQF PURPOSE, ROLE AND OBJECTIVES

The SQF's purpose is to achieve transparency and recognisability of qualifications in Slovenia and the EU.

Its essential objectives are:

- to support lifelong learning;
- to integrate and harmonise Slovenia's qualifications subsystems; and
- to improve transparency, accessibility and quality of qualifications with regard to the labour market and civil society.

The SQF is a communication framework with limited scope for reform. Sectoral legislation and classification system for education and training (hereinafter: KLASIUS) serve as a starting point for the classification of qualifications into the SQF.

The fundamental role of the Slovenian and other national qualifications tools is to explain horizontal and vertical relations between different types of qualifications and certificates/diplomas.

They are comprised of level descriptors, whereby every level descriptor is explained in terms of learning outcomes; learning outcomes are the **central concept of national qualifications frameworks** and should enable: comparability and transparency of qualification systems, lifelong learning, recognition of formal and informal learning, quality assurance and better connectivity between education and the labour market.

The SQF level descriptors include three categories of learning outcomes:
**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND
COMPETENCES**

All the information about the
NCP SQF–EQF is accessible
at www.nok.si/en



THE NATIONAL COORDINATION POINT SQF– EQF

The National Coordination Point SQF–EQF operates at
the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational
Education and Training (CPI).

Its tasks are determined by the Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act
(SQFA, Official Gazette, No 104/15):

- takes care of the development of SQF and its referencing EQF,
- provides access to information about SQF, EQF and QF–EHEA on its website,
- informs the public and promotes SQF and EQF,
- leads the process of referencing SQF to the EQF,
- leads the process of referencing supplementary qualifications in the SQF,
- prepares expert materials and coordinates the work of involved stakeholders in referencing national qualifications to EQF through SQF,
- cooperates with competent international bodies (European Commission, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, etc.) and with the EQF national contact point network,
- publishes and maintains the SQF Register and connections with the European platforms,
- issues certificates of SQF and EQF levels for NVQs,
- provides administrative and technical support for the functioning of the NCP SQF–EQF Expert Panel.

In terms of all issues relating to higher education, CPI and NCP SQF – EQF cooperate with the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA), the responsible and competent institution for higher education qualifications quality.

THE SLOVENIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK PORTAL



The SQF Register is available at

www.nok.si/en

Together with the SQF Register, the SQF Portal is a **publicly accessible information system of the Slovenian Qualifications Framework that provides insight into all of the individual qualifications** that can be obtained in Slovenia. Qualifications are described in the SQF Register in accordance with SQF methodology and the Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act (SQFA).

Furthermore, the SQF Register ensures the increased transparency and recognisability of qualifications in Slovenia and the EU to their populations through its connectivity with the European qualifications platform.


The development of Slovenia's SQF Register began on the initiative of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF) and various initiatives related to EQF implementation in 2013. Slovenia was **one of the first countries to begin connecting their national qualifications register with the emerging European portal**. In the period from 2013 to 2016, Slovenia established a *publicly accessible online SQF register*, added descriptions of individual qualifications to the register and connected it to the emerging EQF portal. The register enables **better comparability of Slovenian qualifications with the qualifications of other European countries**.

In December 2017, the SQF Register was first evaluated from the perspective of its professional audience. At the end of 2019, the second evaluation of the SQF register entitled *Final report: Monitoring the Implementation of the SQF Register* was conducted, monitoring the effects of SQF Register implementation to date in terms of its: (a) recognisability; (b) use by the general audience; and (c) use and (d) understanding of key stakeholders.

With the methodological support of CEDEFOP and the European Commission, we pilot **map qualification descriptions from the SQF and ESCO pillar of skills/competences**. A **video on the use of the SQF Register application** was prepared with the aim to improve user experience.

Thus far, 1,684 qualifications have been entered in the SQF Register*: 1,358 general, vocational and higher educational, 312 national vocational, and 13 supplementary qualifications.

* As at 14 January, 2020.



THE SLOVENIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK PORTAL PROVIDES:

1 INSIGHT INTO THE QUALIFICATIONS THAT CAN BE OBTAINED IN SLOVENIA

Qualifications are described in the SQF Register in accordance with the following legally determined parameters: type of qualification, category of qualification, type of education, duration, credits, admission requirements, ISCED 2013 field, qualification level, learning outcomes, assessment and completion, transition, condition for obtaining certificate, awarding body, awarding body URL.

All qualifications are presented in Slovenian and English.

Some qualifications are also presented in videos.



	
Elektrotehnik/elektrotehnika	
NAME OF QUALIFICATION	ELEKTROTEHNIKA/ELEKTROTEHNICA
Translated title (no legal status)	Electrotechnician
Type of qualification	Upper secondary technical education
Category of qualification	Educational Qualification
Type of education	Upper secondary technical education
Duration	2 years
Credits	120 credits
Admission requirements	<p>The programme can be attended by anyone who has completed the programme of secondary vocational education and acquired one of the following titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• electrician, electrician/energetic engineer, electrician/electronic engineer, industrial mechanic, computer operator, car mechanic, car mechanic or• has completed another secondary vocational programme and has a minimum of three years experience in electrical engineering or

2 VARIOUS METHODS TO SEARCH FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The basic and advanced search tools enable searching for current and archived qualifications by name, ISCED 2013 fields and subfields, types of qualifications, SQF/ EQF levels, type of education, and by providers.



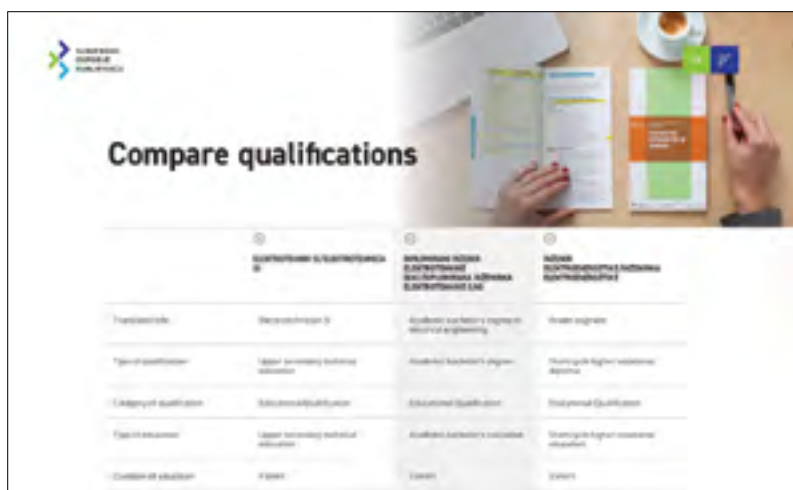
3 TRANSPARENT PRESENTATION OF THE QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The selected ISCED 2013 field's qualification structure presentation is a transparent list of types and levels of qualifications that can be acquired in the selected field.



4 COMPARISON BETWEEN QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications comparison tool enables users to compare two to three qualifications by various parameters.



5 CAREER PATH PRESENTATION

The presentation of career path with related qualifications of the selected field in the SQF enables users to more easily plan the further steps in their own career development.



6 CONNECTING QUALIFICATIONS WITH OCCUPATIONS

The new feature of the portal will enable users to obtain information about occupations relating to the selected qualification in the SQF.

The SQF register
includes **more than**

1,600 qualifications.

It offers a lot of practical and
useful information for **career
development.**

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