International Trends in Quality Assurance in NQFs: Relevance for Uzbekistan

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Why QA in NQFs Matters

QA builds trust, transparency, and relevance of qualifications.

Global QA systems are evolving rapidly.

Uzbekistan is reforming its NQF and sectoral standards.

This talk connects global trends to Uzbekistan's path.

Two Dimensions of Quality in NQS

Dimension	Focus	Main Actors	Indicators
Internal QA	Delivery & Procedures	Training Providers, QA Bodies	Curriculum, internal audits, teacher development
External QA	Relevance & Outcomes	Employers, Sector Councils	Employability, outcomes validation, LM feedback



Defines occupational and qualification standards



Validates learning outcomes and skills relevance

Private Sector in QA



Participates in assessments and certification

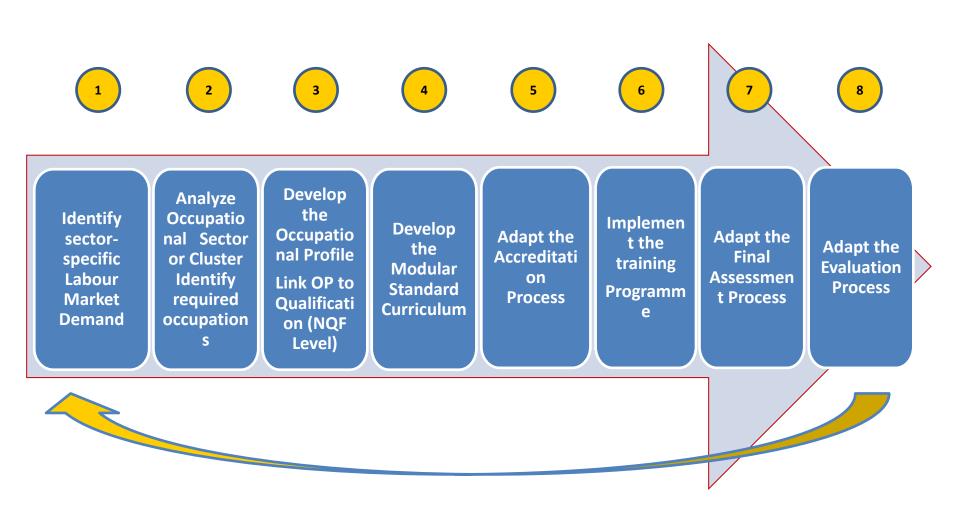


Provides labor market feedback to align programs



Recognizes accredited qualifications in hiring

Key building blocks for VET Curriculum Development





Shift to outcome-based qualifications

Key National QA Trends



Integration of lifelong and nonformal learning



Stronger stakeholder engagement including private sector



Introduction of digital QA tools and credentialing

International and Regional QA Trends

Alignment with EQF and APQF (regional qualification frameworks)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Independent
QA agencies
for external
quality review

Digital platforms and blockchain for verification

Trend 1 –
Learning
Outcomes &
CompetencyBased
Qualifications

Shift from input-based to outcome-based qualifications.

Focus on what learners can do, not just what they study.

Uzbekistan's reforms support this shift from Soviet-era models.

Trend 2 – Regional & International Alignment

Frameworks like EQF, ASEAN QF support mobility and recognition.

Uzbekistan aligns with international standards.

International development organizations support regional cooperation.

Trend 3 – Independent & Transparent QA Structures

Independent QA agencies like EQAVET, TEQSA lead the way.

Ensure consistency and reduce conflicts of interest.

Uzbekistan needs transparent, independent QA mechanisms.

Trend 4 – Private Sector & Recognition of Informal Learning

Employers are central to QA globally.

QA systems include RPL, micro-credentials.

Uzbekistan: limited employer role, RPL not yet systematized.

Avoiding the 'Quality Trap' – A Caution for Uzbekistan

Overly procedural QA can hinder reform and innovation.

Risk: compliance overtakes learning and relevance.

Uzbekistan's control-driven system may become too rigid.

Need flexibility, autonomy, and collaborative QA models.

Strategic Priorities for Uzbekistan

(Working groups)



Strengthen institutional QA capacity.



Introduce external QA mechanisms.



Empower employers in QA processes.



Support RPL, lifelong learning, data systems.

Conclusion

— QA as a

Reform

Enabler

'QA is not a control mechanism — it is a reform enabler.'

Uzbekistan is moving toward a modern NQF.

QA must support trust, relevance, and innovation.

Thank you for your attention