

PRESENTATION to NQF-SQF workshop

Malta

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***Experiences of sectoral framework
development in Ireland***



Contents

- Who started it?
- How did they do it?
- How the NQF contributed
- Attempts as sectoral level descriptors
- What worked well and what did not
- How things are developing now

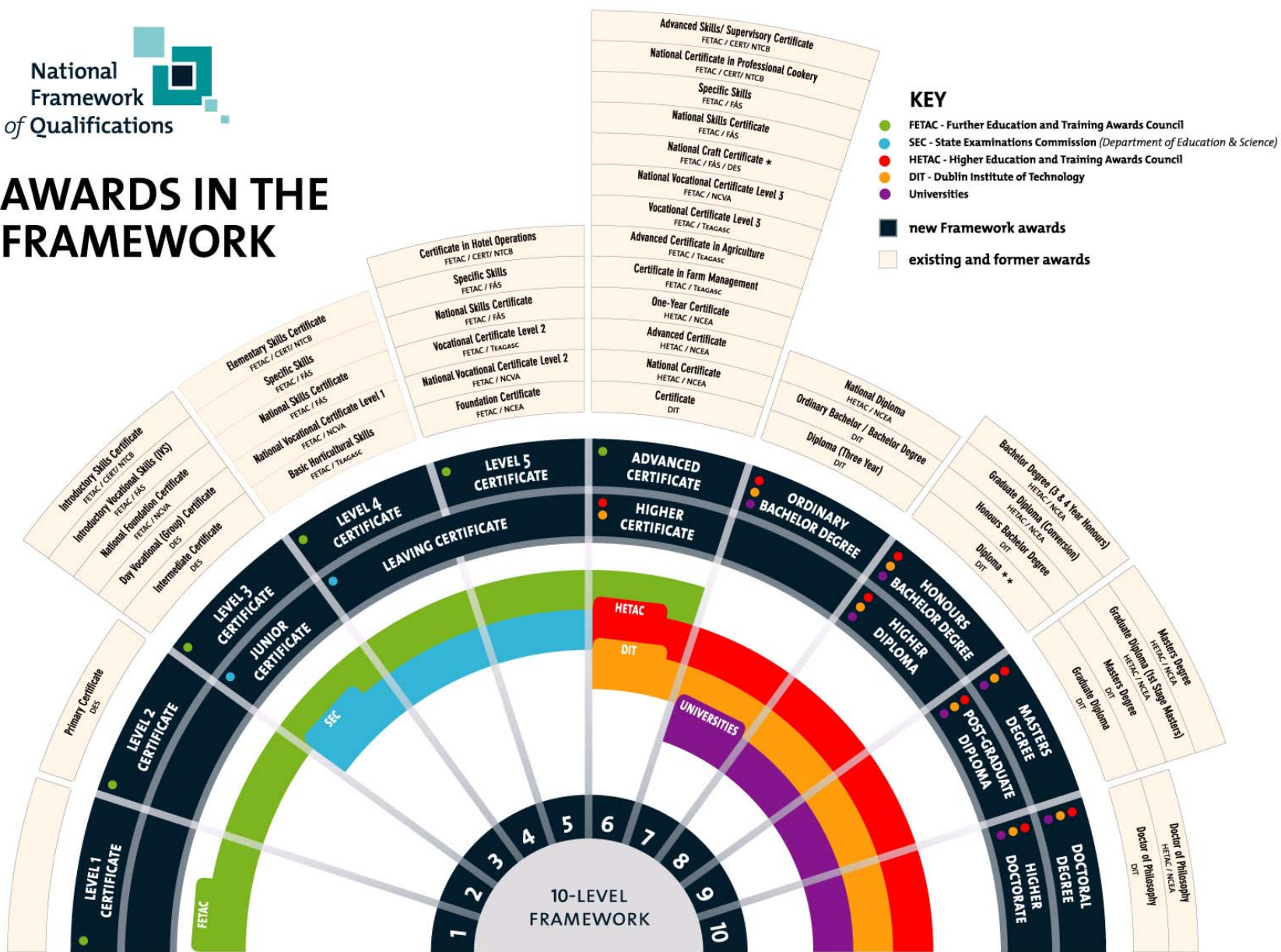
Who started it?

- **Apprentice** training
- **Professional bodies**: nursing, engineering
- **Regulatory authorities**: *health authority, fireservice, ...*
- **Sectors themselves**: *mechatronics, supply chain, security companies, private trainers...*

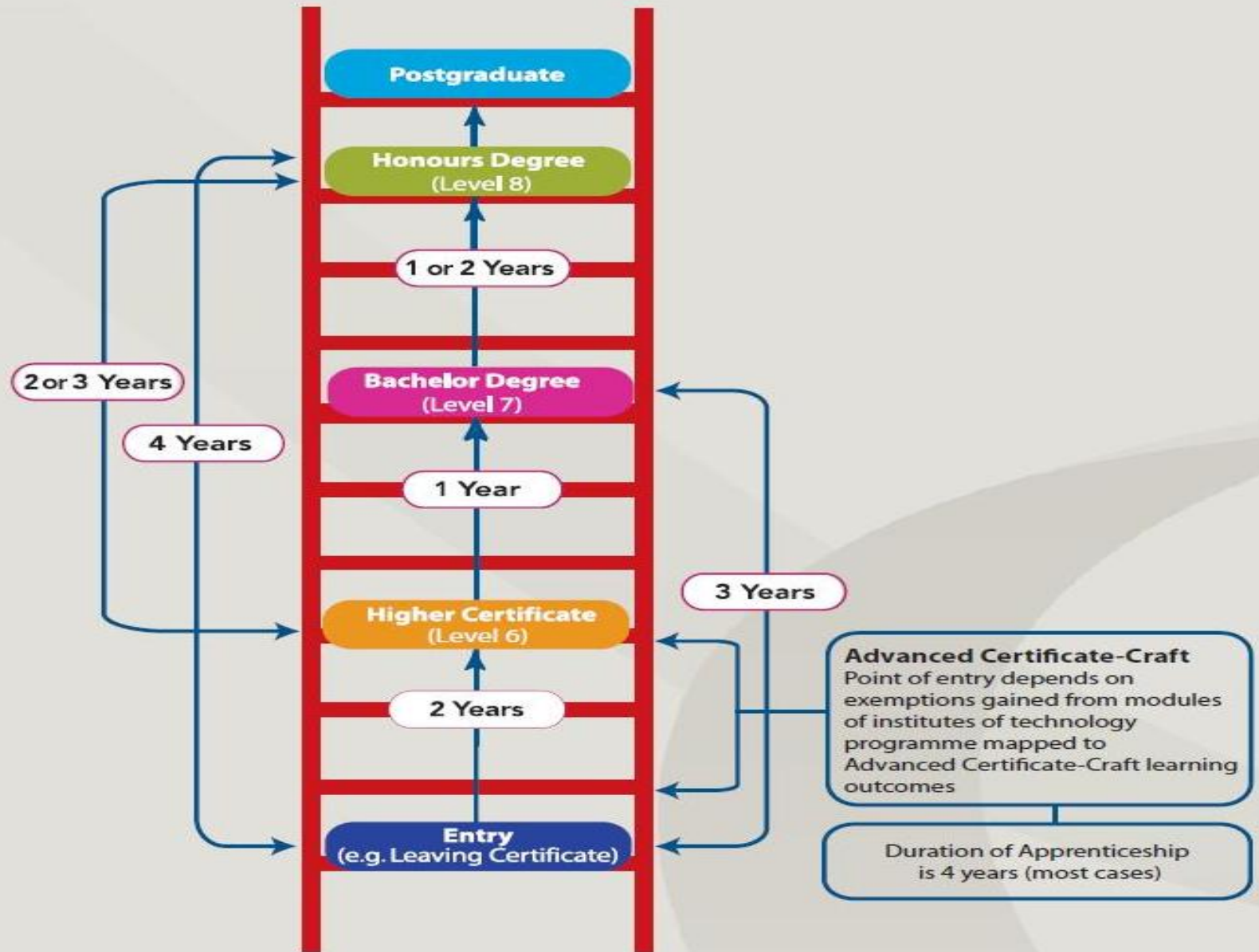
Apprentice training

- From '*time served*' to '*standards achieved*'
- Where do they fit on the NQF?
- How do they move in the NQF?

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK



<i>EQF Levels</i>	<i>EHEA Framework (Bologna)</i>	<i>Irish NFQ Levels</i>	<i>Irish NFQ Major Award-types</i>
1		1	Level 1 Certificate
		2	Level 2 Certificate
2		3	Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate
3		4	Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate
4		5	Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate
5	Short Cycle within First Cycle	6	Advanced Certificate (FET award)* Higher Certificate (HET award)
6	First Cycle	7	Ordinary Bachelors Degree
		8	Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma
7	Second Cycle	9	Masters Degree, Post-Graduate Diploma
8	Third Cycle	10	Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate



**Further Progression
Opportunities
HETAC Levels 8, 9 and 10**



HETAC Level 7 Degree –
expressed in terms of knowledge, skills and
competence in a broader related area

Entry point dependant on module exemptions
granted through mapping of the learning
outcome process.



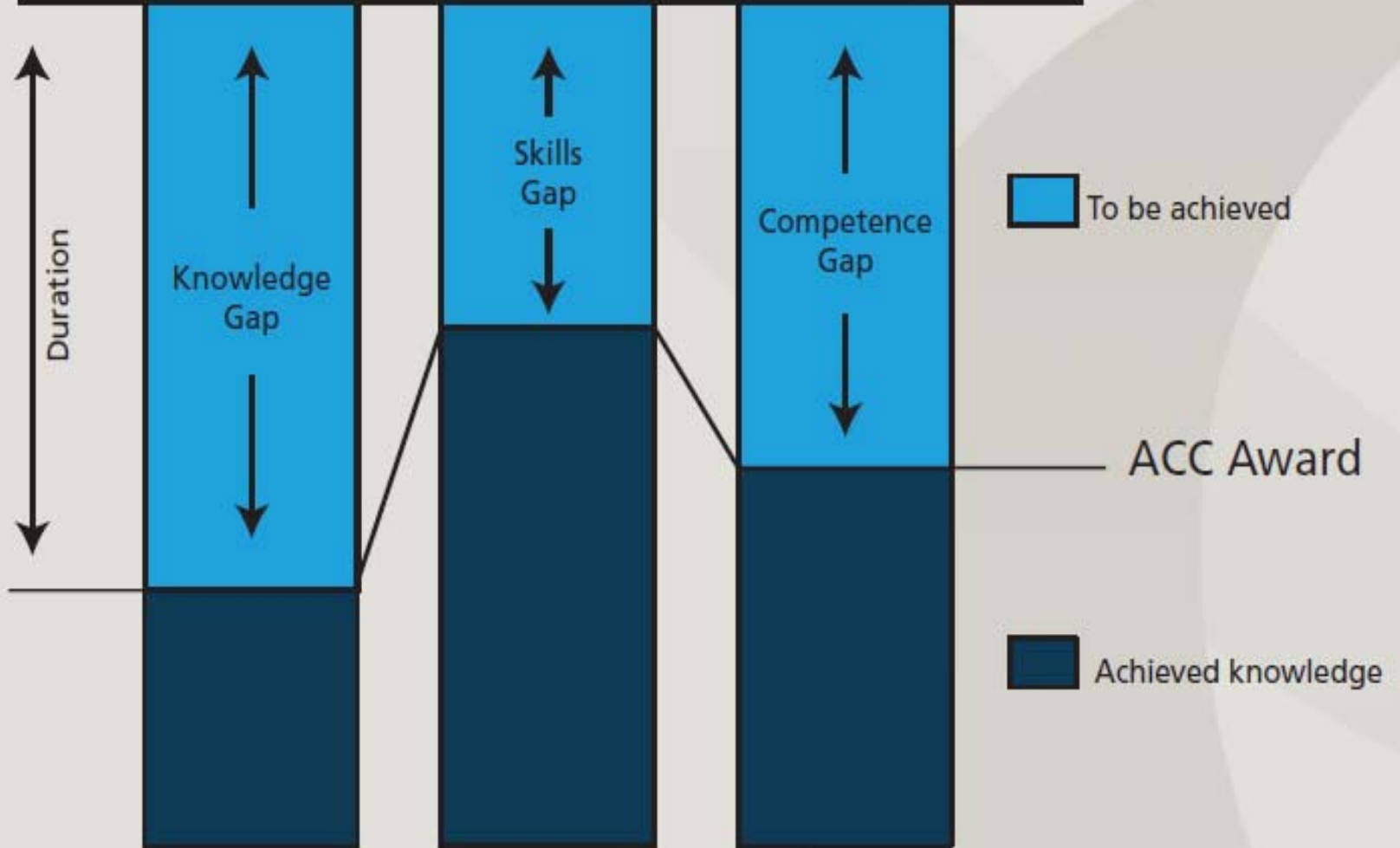
Mapping Process

Participating IOT will map the learning
outcomes of the AC-C to the learning outcomes
of the programme under consideration for
purpose of providing exemption from
modules of the IOT programme.



**Advanced Certificate –
Craft (AC-C) in a
specialised Skills area**

Level 7 Award Sought



Engineers Ireland

- <http://www.engineeringireland.ie/cpd/cpd-employer/e-guides-and-support/>

An Bórd Áltranais – Nursing Board

- <http://www.nursingboard.ie/en/homepage.aspx>

What the NQF did

- * Level descriptors
- * Alignment of existing and new awards
- * Recognition of foreign awards and qualifications

<http://www.nqai.ie/applications.html>

HETAC generic standards

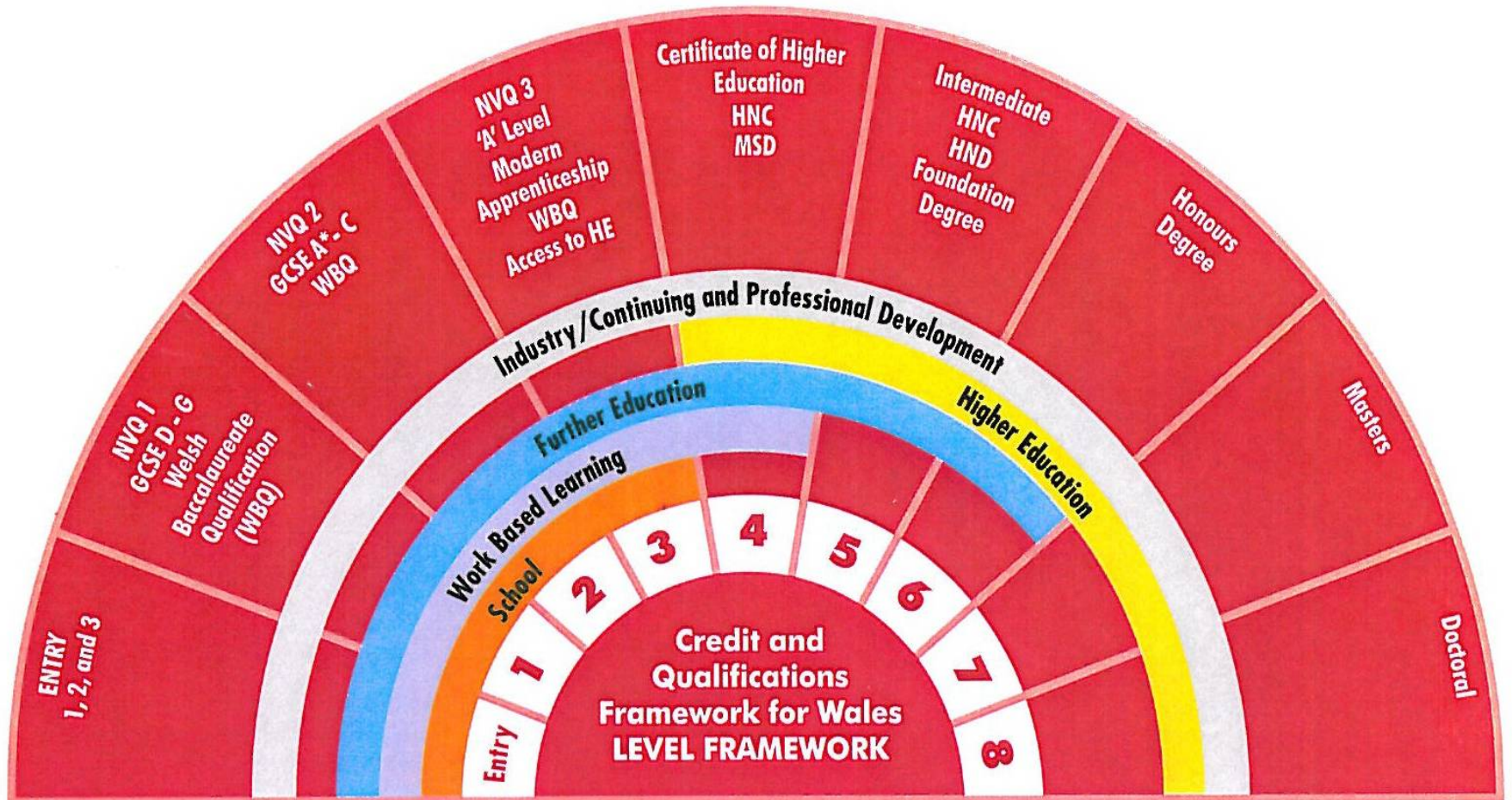
- <http://www.hetac.ie/docs/Engineering%20-%20Award%20Standards.pdf>
- Engineering * Nurses and Mid-wives
- Business * Computer Science
- Art & Design * Social Care

Sectors Themselves: *Why frameworks?*

- Need to **quality assure** services
- Need to **professionalise**
- Need for **structure of 'training'** for sector
- **Benchmark** against VET/FE and HE levels – not originally against the NQF and not the EQF
- Various **theoretical levels** of learning used

Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales

Learning and Progression Routes



What worked well

1. Higher education levels 9 (*3 cycle division*) with ECTS credits in design of new programmes
2. Frameworks that were started by sectors a long time ago and built on custom and practice as well as on new policies etc.
3. International 'recognition' systems for professional qualifications *eg The Washington Accord*
4. RPL becoming more understood

What did not work well

1. Clustering of too-many previous awards at Level 6 so that they were low down on the bachelor level.
2. No VET credits
3. No work-related credits
4. Framework for 'awards' only.....
5. No span across the levels for sectors – they MUST go through VET/FE and HE!!!!
6. Our NQF was before the EHEA or EQF were finalised

Emerging trends

- Private providers by-passing HE providers and getting approval through HETAC + -
- + - 'Colonisation' by international/borderless frameworks not under the NQF
- Increasing demand from international 'workers' for recognition +
- + - More links between labour-market/employability and HE

Advice?

- Include a wide range of 'worlds'
- Do not focus on formal 'awards' only
- Consider different types of credits for different purposes
- Do not be afraid of sectoral frameworks which are true for them but different to meta-frameworks

Sectors & EQF?

- Value of 'cross-border' levels?
- Who regulates and quality assures?
- Does the EQF matter?
- Does Bologna matter?
- Subsidiarity?

Examples from HEQ-Bridges Project

A. CITL – Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics

C. Institute of Mechanical Engineers – *using EQF*