

# ICDL AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS WORLDWIDE

In the globalised world, mobility is crucial to reduce skills mismatches in today’s workplace, help people acquire new qualifications and find jobs abroad.

Mobility facilitates the exchange of ideas and experience.

But mobility is often impeded in Europe and abroad by a lack of comparability between qualifications awarded in different countries. This affects **students** who want to study abroad, **employers** who are looking for employees, and **citizens** who would like to gain qualifications or find a job abroad, to name just a few.



## NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS

National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) describe qualifications of a national education system and explain how they interlink with each other.

International qualifications, such as ICDL, can be mapped to National Qualifications Frameworks and, in this way, become officially recognised in different countries in Europe and worldwide.



### QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS AROUND THE WORLD

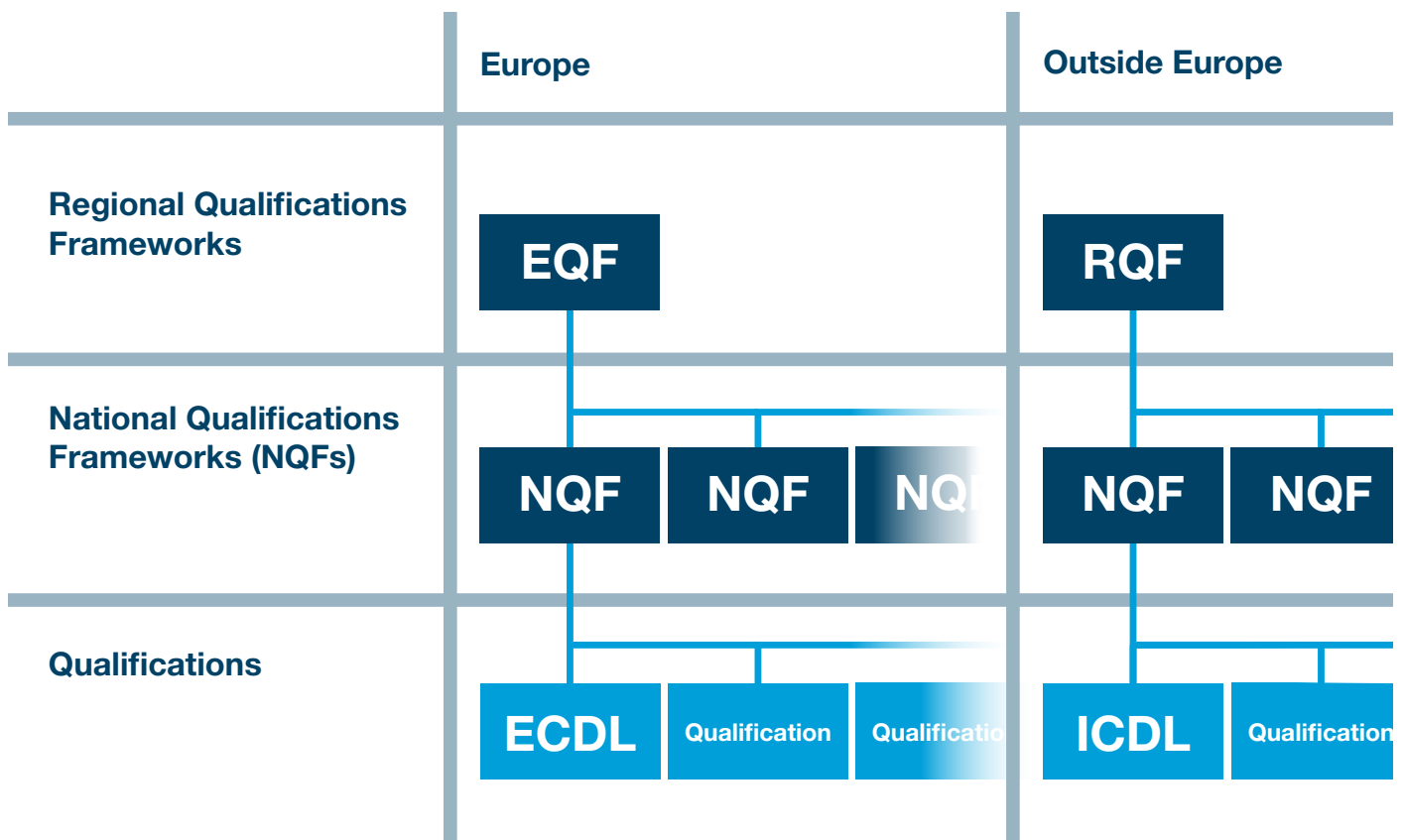
Worldwide, there are more than 150 countries and territories involved in developing qualifications frameworks. Many of them use the EQF as a reference point and an inspiration.

# THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) was created to facilitate mobility, both inside and outside of Europe. It works as a translation tool that helps comparison among qualification systems in Europe and enhances the transparency, comparability and portability of qualifications.

Thirty countries in Europe have a National Qualifications Framework, and many countries and regions around the world have, or are developing, qualifications frameworks.

ECDL and ICDL are mapped to a number of National Qualifications Frameworks, which are, in turn, mapped to the EQF in Europe and other Regional Qualifications Frameworks (RQFs) worldwide.



*The ICDL programme is known as ECDL in Europe.*





ICDL Foundation is an international organisation dedicated to raising digital competence standards in the workforce, education and society. Our certification programmes are delivered in more than 100 countries, in over 40 languages. More than 14 million people have already received ICDL certification. The ICDL programme is known as ECDL in Europe.

ICDL certificates have been recognised and endorsed by a number of governments in Europe and worldwide.

- > In Europe, the ECDL programme has been mapped to the National Qualifications Frameworks of Ireland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Malta and Scotland.
- > Outside of Europe, ICDL has been mapped or referenced to NQFs in Australia, Iran, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam.
- > The ICDL programme has also received endorsements from governments in a number of countries.

## SEVERAL EXAMPLES IN DETAIL

### United Kingdom



#### The NQF

ECDL is mapped to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), which replaced the Qualifications & Credit Framework and the National Qualifications Framework in October 2015.

#### Responsible Body

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)

#### Mapping Details

BCS Level 1 Award in IT User Skills (ECDL Essentials) is mapped to RQF Level 1. BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) is mapped to RQF Level 2. BCS Level 3 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Advanced) is mapped to RQF Level 3.

### Singapore



#### The NQF

Since 2011, the ICDL programme has been mapped to the Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) Employability Skills ICT Framework.

#### Responsible Body

The mapping has been carried out and recognised by the Workforce Development Agency (WDA).

#### Process

WDA consultants constructed the national digital competence standard based on the ICDL syllabus. They recognised ICDL as covering a general skillset, applicable to all industries and sectors, in other words, a foundational competence.

#### Mapping Details

All 18 ICDL modules were mapped to the WSQ Framework. ICDL modules fall under 'Level 1: WSQ Certificate' and 'Level 3: WSQ Advanced Certificate'.

### Malta



#### The NQF

ECDL has been mapped to the Malta Qualifications Framework since 2010. The mapping was updated in 2013 to reflect 'New ECDL'.

#### Responsible Body

The National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE)

#### Process

ECDL Malta approached the Malta Qualifications Council in 2010 to start the referencing process with the MQF. The following criteria were taken into account: the structure of the international qualification; the syllabus; the learning outcomes; and learning and assessment methods.

#### Mapping Details

ECDL Base is mapped to MQF Level 2, ECDL Standard is mapped to MQF Level 3, and ECDL Advanced, to MQF Level 4. ECDL certificates in Malta carry the NCFHE Quality Label and referencing.

### Vietnam



ICDL has been recognised as a qualified IT standard in Vietnam since November 2015 under Circular 03/2014/BTTTT of the Ministry of Information and Communication.

### Australia



ICDL is mapped to the Australian Qualifications Framework and the Queensland Certificate of Education. The intended target audience is vocational education.



ICDL is an international qualification recognised worldwide that facilitates the mobility of workers and students across borders.

- > The ICDL programme provides flexible learning pathways and facilitates lifelong learning.
- > The ICDL programme has been mapped to NQFs in a number of countries. In other countries, this process is ongoing. Referencing NQFs to Regional Qualifications Frameworks is a continuous process that requires countries to ensure that referenced information is up to date. In the same way, mapping ICDL to NQFs is a continuous process.
- > ICDL modules deliver the specific and measurable knowledge and skills that are needed to put into practice the broad descriptive competence areas of qualifications frameworks. Education systems value them because they provide clear learning outcomes that can help individuals to demonstrate mastery of different parts of a framework.

## ABOUT ICDL FOUNDATION

ICDL Foundation is an international organisation dedicated to raising digital competence standards in the workforce, education and society. Our certification programmes, delivered through an active network in more than 100 countries, enable individuals and organisations to assess, build and certify their competence in the use of computers and digital tools to the globally-recognised ICDL standard, known as ECDL in Europe.

As a nonprofit social enterprise, ICDL Foundation benefits from the unique support of experts from national computer societies and partners worldwide to develop vendor-independent standards which define the skills and knowledge required to use digital technology effectively. We work with education and training partners, local and regional authorities, national governments, international development organisations, as well as public and private sector employers in all sectors, in the delivery of our programmes.

The quality and reputation of ICDL is built on almost twenty years of experience in delivering our certification programmes to over 14 million people and in more than 40 languages worldwide, with more than 2.5 million ICDL tests taken annually. Our success is maintained by our ongoing innovation in certification programme development, our commitment to rigorous test design methodologies, and consistent adherence to our quality assurance standards.

ICDL Foundation supports the initiatives of National Operators of the programme in Europe and the Arab States from our headquarters in Dublin, Ireland and our European office in Brussels, Belgium. We have also established three regional operations – ICDL Africa (based in Rwanda), ICDL Asia (based in Singapore) and ICDL Americas (based in Panama). All ECDL Foundation operations work closely with regional, national and local partners to develop the global network of ICDL Accredited Test Centres.



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National Qualifications Frameworks describe qualifications of a national education system and explain how they interlink with each other. They are mapped to Regional Qualifications Frameworks such as the European Qualifications Framework.

International qualifications, such as ICDL, can be mapped to National Qualifications Frameworks and, in this way, become officially recognised in different countries in Europe and worldwide. ICDL certificates have been recognised and endorsed by a number of governments in Europe and worldwide, including the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malta, Vietnam and Australia.

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