



## Switzerland on the Way to a National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

Conference: Policy Transfer in VSD Revisited  
Session 4: Challenges and role of NQF  
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# 1. The Swiss Federation for Adult Learning





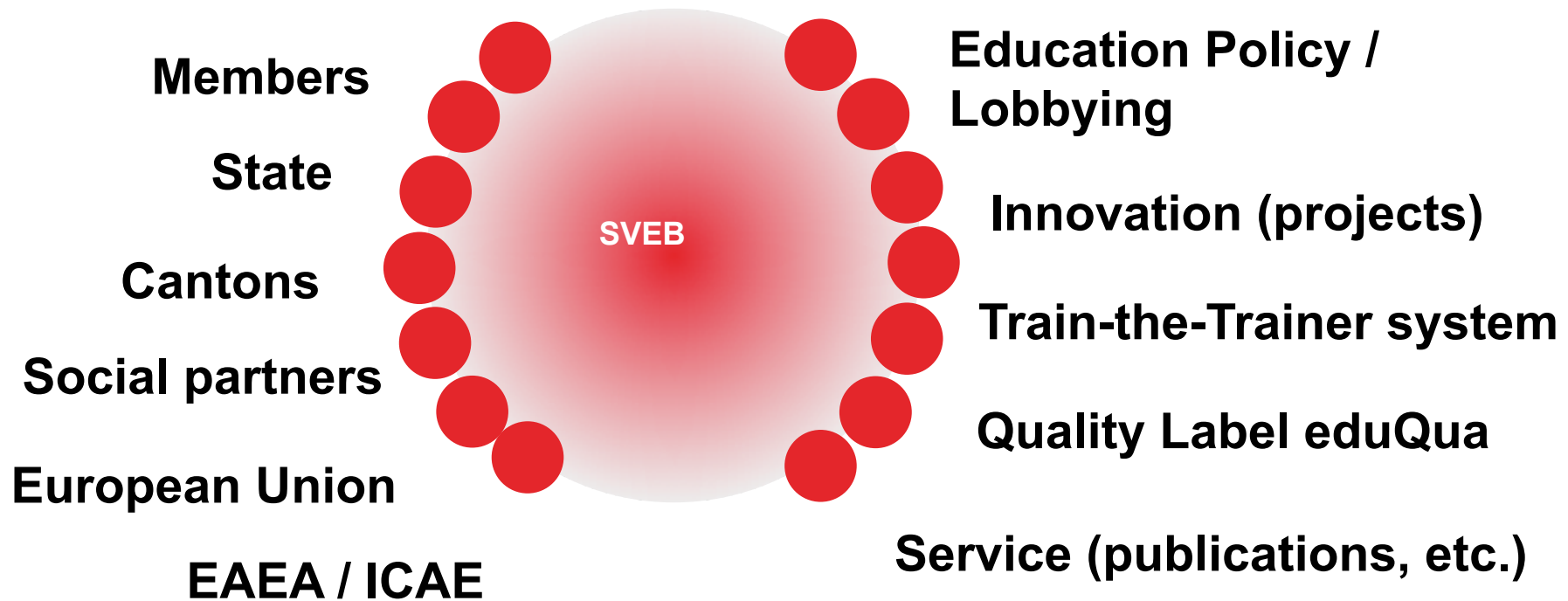
## What is SVEB? – Structure and Finances

- National umbrella organisation for Adult Learning
- Approximately 600 members: 300 organisations and 300 individuals
- Private non-profit organisation
- Funds: 80% self-funded, 20% public funds
- 1 national office (Zurich) and 2 regional branch offices (French and Italian speaking regions)

# SVEB – network and activities

## Network

## Activities



## 2. Switzerland and its role in the EU



## Switzerland: the country

S V E B  
F S E A

- Small landlocked country in Western Europe
- Population: 8 Million
- Federal Republic, 26 Cantons
- 4 linguistic regions, 4 national languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh

## Switzerland and the EU

- Not member of the European Union (EU), but in close cooperation with the EU through bilateral agreements
- Bilateral Contracts for European Lifelong Learning Programmes
- Copenhagen Process: ECVET, EQF



# 3. The EQF and the Swiss NQF



# Structure of the EQF/NQF

## Common structure EQF/NQF:

- 8 levels
- 3 dimensions: knowledge, skills, competences

## Differences:

- Swiss NQF uses the term „transfer competences“, EQF „competences“
- Swiss NQF excludes the non-formal sector, EQF allows inclusion of this sector
- University degrees are not part of the NQF (→ separate QF)

# EQF/NQF

CURIA CONFEDERATIONIS HELVETICAE



## NQF-CH

	Knowledge	Skills	Transfer competences
8	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
7	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
6	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
5	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
4	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
3	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
2	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
1	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors



## EQF

	Knowledge	Skills	Competence
8	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
7	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
6	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
5	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
4	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
3	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
2	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
1	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors



## DQR

	Professional competence		Personal competence	
	Knowledge	Skills	Social competence	Autonomy
8	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
7	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
6	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
5	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
4	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
3	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
2	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
1	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors

Swiss VET or PET qualification



German employer



## 4. Reasons: Why an NQF in Switzerland?





# Reasons

## Official reasons (Federal Office OPET):

- Dual system of vocational education and training (about 75% of the adult population have a vocational certificate)
- Raising the international profile of the Swiss VET/ PET (Vocational education and training / Professional education and training)
- Multinational companies – Swiss employees in competition to international academic employees
- Mobility of Swiss employees in Europe

# 5. Current situation and perspectives





## Current situation and perspectives

SVEB  
FSEA

- First draft of the Swiss NQF in Spring 2012
- Consultation process concluded in Mai 2012, results not available yet
- Final version of the NQF expected by 2013



## Critical considerations: policy/procedure

- Exclusion of the non-formal sector means: lack of transparency and permeability of the system
- The state should cooperate with professional organisations for the attribution of specific qualifications to the NQF
- Half-hearted policy → disadvantages for the individuals (mobility) and the organisations (lack of transparency)





## Critical considerations: content of the NQF

- Use of the wording „transfer competences“ instead of „competences“ confuses the users
- Existing approaches and solutions (like sectoral QF) should be linked with the NQF
- Common development of NQF for higher education and VET (vocational education and training)

## 6. Conclusions





## Conclusions - challenges

- The Swiss „professional education and training“ PET (Tertiary B) must become visible and understandable internationally
- Inclusion of certificates, diplomas of adult learning
- SQF – an idea?
- Diploma supplement
- Confusion between individual competence profiles and qualifications frameworks (→ systemic level)

# 7. Discussion



# Contact



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