



**Italian Coast Guard  
International Affairs Office**

# ECGFA-Net Project Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions

***13<sup>th</sup> Consultative Network on Technical Assistance  
EMSA, Lisbon – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018***



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# EUROPEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS ACADEMY NETWORK

Launched between 2014 - 2015

Within the European Coast Guard Functions Forum – bottom up approach

Co-financed by EU Commission

Consortium of partners from 10 countries

*founded on 2 main  
assumptions*

<http://ecgff-trainingportal.eu>



# ECGFA-Net Project : Goals



To support the establishment of a Coast Guard Functions Academies Network that would strengthen cooperation between CGF authorities

To increase student and expert exchange between CG authorities and academies

To plan and design the basis for a voluntary Sectorial Qualification Framework for Coast Guard Functions (CGFSQF)

To follow the specifications of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) for harmonising and improving educational collaboration and student/expert mobility.

# ECGFA-Net Project : Scope

## Cooperation on coast guard functions

### 11 Coast Guard Functions

- 1 • **Maritime safety, including VTS**
- 2 • **Maritime ship and port security**
- 3 • Maritime customs activities
- 4 • Trafficking and smuggling and Law Enforcement
- 5 • Border Control
- 6 • **Maritime monitoring and surveillance**
- 7 • **Maritime environmental protection and response**
- 8 • Maritime search and rescue
- 9 • **Ship casualty and maritime assistance service**
- 10 • **Maritime accident and disaster response**
- 11 • Fisheries inspection and control



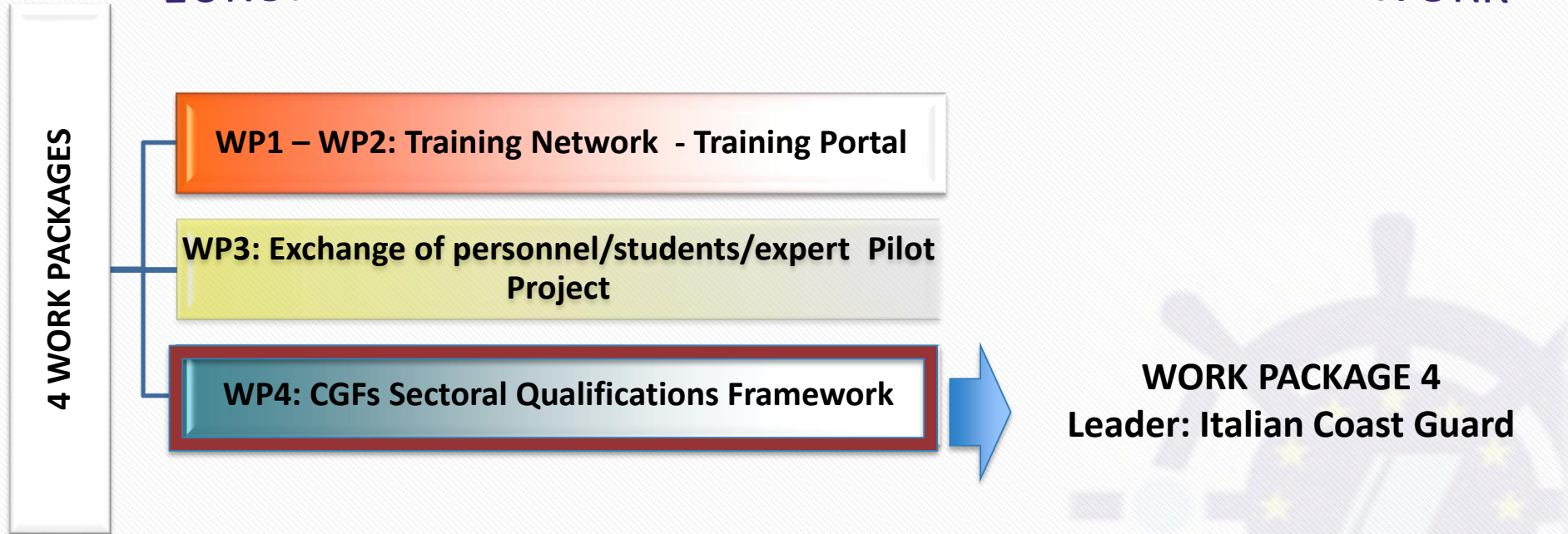
## European Coast Guard Functions Forum ITCG Chairmanship 2018-2019

## Interagency Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions





## EUROPEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS ACADEMY NETWORK



End goal: Development of the CGFSQF as a set of common standards for education to be applied on a voluntary basis in order to assure quality of training and education

# Qualification Framework



**Background**

**What is an SQF? What is not?**

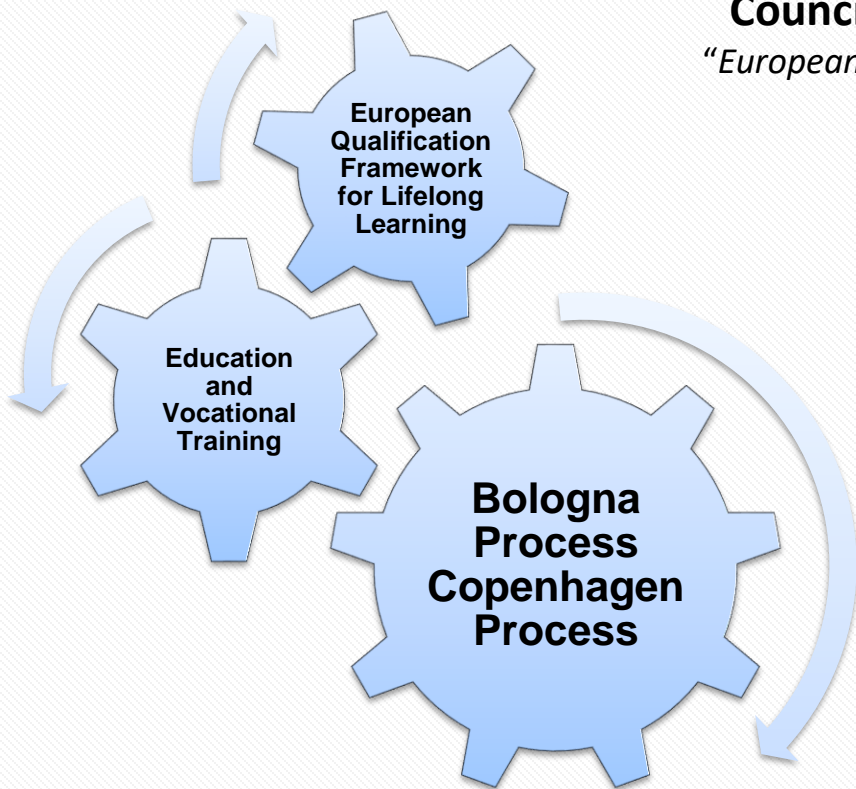
**What are its benefits?**



# Qualification Framework



## Background...



**Council Recommendation of 22 May 2017** on the EQF for LLL  
*"European Qualifications Framework increases employability, mobility and social integration of workers and learners"*

**EU Commission**



**central role** in the implementation of  
*Bologna and Copenhagen process*



# Qualifications Framework



A **qualification framework** is an *instrument for the development and classification of qualifications, which relates and **compares qualifications** using a **hierarchy of levels of learning outcomes, usually of increasing complexity as a learner progresses up the levels***  
(European Training Foundation, 2011)



# EUROPEAN Qualification Framework



EQF	KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS	COMPETENCES
Level 4	Factual and theoretical knowledge in broad contexts within a field of work or study	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to generate solutions to specific problems in a field of work or study	Exercise self-management within the guidelines of work or study contexts that are usually predictable, but are subject to change; supervise the routine work of others, taking some responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of work or study activities
Level 5	Comprehensive, specialised, factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of work or study and an awareness of the boundaries of that knowledge	A comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills required to develop creative solutions to abstract problems	Exercise management and supervision in contexts of work or study activities where there is unpredictable change; review and develop performance of self and others
Level 6	Advanced knowledge of a field of work or study, involving a critical understanding of theories and principles	Advanced skills, demonstrating mastery and innovation, required to solve complex and unpredictable problems in a specialised field of work or study	Manage complex technical or professional activities or projects, taking responsibility for decision-making in unpredictable work or study contexts; take responsibility for managing professional development of individuals and groups

# SECTORAL Qualification Framework



Level 4		
Knowledge	Skills	Competences
Level 5		
knowledge	Skills	Competences
Level 6		
knowledge	skills	competences
Level 7		
Knowledge	skills	competence

*A sort of EQF for a specific sector*



# Sectoral Qualifications Framework



## Learning Outcome approach

Knowledge, skills, competences

- *Shifting from teaching to learning*
- *Encompasses educational and vocational training*
- *Takes into account formal, non formal, informal learning regardless the type of administration/institute responsible for the specific sector*

### *Examples of learning outcomes:*

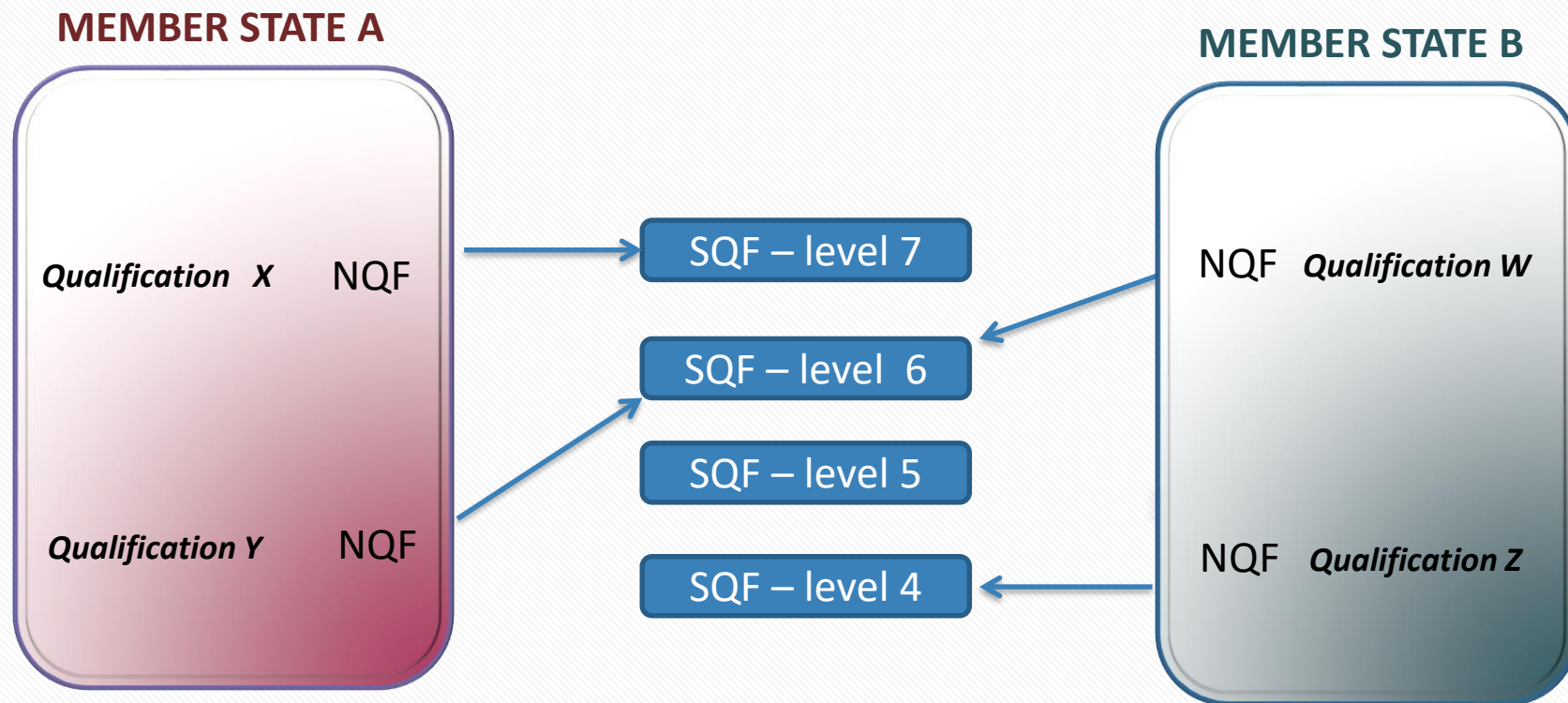
a) Operate **specific** equipment and technology available for “coast guard/maritime activities” and **assess** the results according to **defined guidelines**

b) **Effectively** operate **a broad range** of equipment and technology available for “coast guard/maritime activities” and **evaluate** results

# Sectoral Qualifications Framework



Translation device: what does it mean?



# Sectoral Qualifications Framework



## *What is it?*



- ☐ **Voluntary framework** setting common standards for CGF training
- ☐ **Learning outcomes** for a specific sector
- ☐ Reference system (**translation device**)

- ☐ **Not** aimed to **reform education** or replace national training
- ☐ **Not** a system for **certifications**
- ☐ **Not** a common **curriculum**



## *What is not?*

# SQF for Coast Guard Functions: phases



## PHASE I 2015/16

1. Basic elements and key recommendations

## PHASE II 2016/17

2. Official bodies involved and work plan
3. Development of the CGFSQF structure

## PHASE III 2018/19

4. Consultation Process
5. Quality assurance elements
6. Adoption of the CGFSQF
7. National QFs Recommendations

Dialogue, interoperability, cooperation:  
keys for success

**3 phases for an ambitious goal...**



# SQF for Coast Guard Functions: participants



Centro Informazioni  
Mobilità Equivalenze Accademiche **CIMEA**  
Un centro per la mobilità e il riconoscimento dei titoli



**SQF WG**



- ✓ External Expertise needed
- ✓ Support of the EU Agencies
- ✓ SQF for Border Guard as useful example
- ✓ SQF Working Group in charge of writing Learning Outcomes
- ✓ Involvement of ECGFF Members



**PROJECT MEETINGS**  
**SQF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**  
**COORDINATION ITCG – EXTERNAL EXPERT**



# SQF for Coast Guard Functions: EU Agencies



Phase I 2015-2016	• <b>Observation</b>
Phase II 2016-2017	• <b>Contribution</b>
Phase III 2018-2019	• <b>Active Involvement</b>

# SQF for Coast Guard Functions: Outcomes



- [10 tables](#) : one for each function
- **Identified levels** for each function/table
- Identified L.O. for each level in each function/table

Maritime Border Control  
Frontex

1	• Maritime safety, including VTS
2	• Maritime ship and port security
3	• Maritime customs activities
4	• Trafficking and smuggling and law enforcement
5	• Maritime monitoring and surveillance
6	• Maritime environmental protection and response
7	• Maritime search and rescue
8	• Ship casualty and maritime assistance service
9	• Maritime accident and disaster response
10	• Fisheries inspection and control



## *SQF Visual tool*



### *How was SQF built?*

- *Definition of CGF descriptors*
- *Identification of tasks*
- *Identification of job competences*
- *Mapping qualifications*
- *Identifications of levels*
- *Drafting learning outcomes*

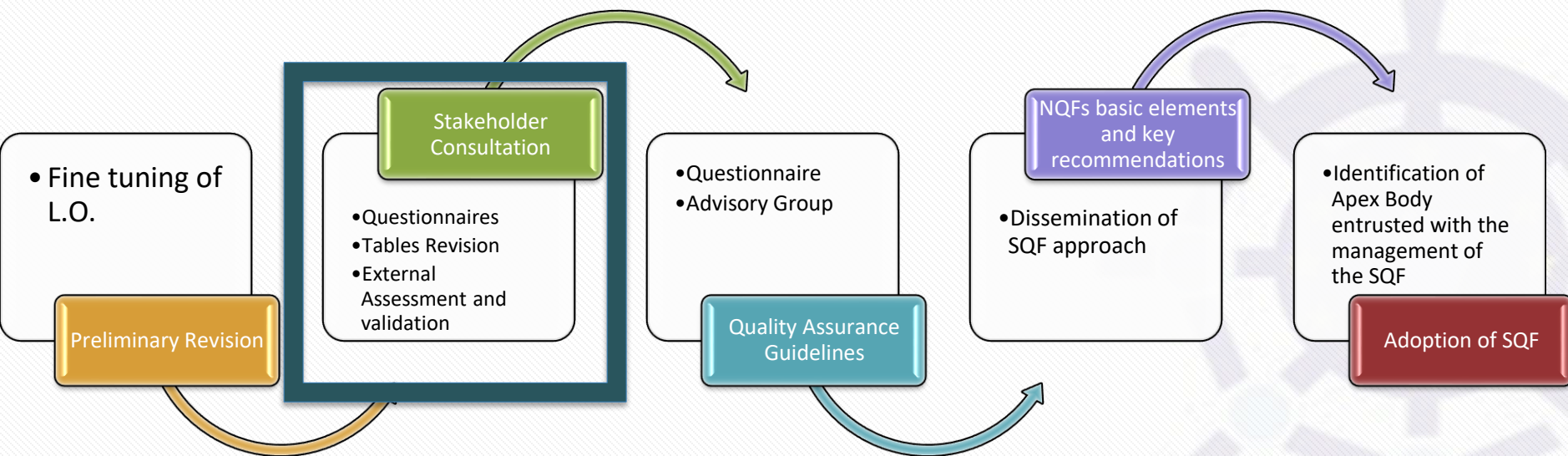
<http://www.educatio.it/GUARDIA-COSTIERA/>

*only for internal use*

# ECGFA-Net Phase III and way ahead



- *Grant signed*
- *Co-financed by EU Commission - FEAMP*
- *Duration: 15 months starting 1st June until August 2019*





- Quest.

WP 4 Team & external expert

- Quest. 2. Results elaborated SLP WG in dedicated meetings

## 2 online questionnaires

Selected list of Organisations

10



## Conclusions: added values

Implementing Bologna and Copenhagen principles

Adoption of L.O. approach that facilitates the description of learning and competences

Training of personnel under a common framework while respecting national training systems and needs

Describing different qualifications in a common language that makes them easily readable and comparable across EU

Contributing to quality assurance and certification systems

Increasing mobility and interoperability, cross-border training, **“Erasmus-like” training programme**

Sinergic platform for joint training initiatives

# Conclusions

## ECGFA-Net III

- Training Network



- Exchange Programme – also with Third Countries + Pilot Course + Training Portal



- Sectoral Qualifications Framework







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**Italian Coast Guard**  
International Affairs Office

Elisa Giangrasso  
[elisa.giangrasso@mit.gov.it](mailto:elisa.giangrasso@mit.gov.it)  
[wp4@mit.gov.it](mailto:wp4@mit.gov.it)

