



# EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE ASEAN REGION

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## Technical Assistance to the Lao PDR National Qualifications Frameworks (LNQF) and the Educational Standards & Quality Assurance Centre (ESQAC)

AND

## Technical Assistance to the Myanmar National Qualifications Frameworks (MNQF) and the National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Committee (NAQAC) of Myanmar

### Terms of reference for an international consultant

#### About SHARE

The EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE) programme has the overall objective of contributing to the regional cooperation, enhancing the quality, regional competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) contributing to an ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond.

The project has two specific objectives:

- To enhance the harmonisation of ASEAN higher education (HE) area through the formulation of ASEAN higher education frameworks taking into account the EU experience
- To support mutual recognition and student mobility among HEIs in ASEAN to strengthen people-to-people connectivity

For more details regarding the project, click: [SHARE](#)

DAAD is the technical lead for Result Area 2a – Qualifications Frameworks of SHARE's programme implementation.

#### **Background**

The ASEAN Charter, which was signed by the ten ASEAN Leaders in Singapore on 20 November 2007, provides the basis for an ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). The Charter aims to:

*“create a single market and production base which is stable, prosperous, highly competitive and economically integrated with effective facilitation for trade and investment in which there is free flow of goods, services and investment; facilitated movement of business persons, professionals, talents and labour; and free flow of capital” and “develop human resources through closer cooperation in education and life-long learning and in science and technology, for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for the strengthening of the ASEAN Community”.*

The ASEAN Member States (AMS) adopted the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, which called for cooperation, including the recognition of professional qualifications. Another important component of the AEC Blueprint was the creation of the free flow of skilled labour through ‘*harmonisation and standardisation*’. In the “ASEAN Regional Qualifications Framework” forum held in 2011 in Bangkok, the participants noted the need for an ASEAN common reference framework. The ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF), a common reference framework, will function as a device to enable comparisons of qualifications across AMS.

Within this context, each AMS is requested to develop a report describing actions that have been carried out for referencing its NQF to the AQRF. The state of development of NQFs in ASEAN varies, whereby some AMS have established comprehensive NQFs, others have sectoral frameworks in place, and others have yet to develop or implement qualifications frameworks.

All member states are expected to conduct referencing over the coming years. A prerequisite for these exercises is a functioning and final national qualifications framework. Myanmar and Lao PDR have embarked on this journey and developed NQFs over the last years. Now that both countries want to engage in referencing activities, it is crucial to finalise both NQFs and provide guidance on level descriptors, credit systems and the description of the countries' qualifications systems.

EU SHARE has been tasked by the governments of both countries to provide technical assistance to this process.

## Objectives

The main objective of the consultancy is to provide technical expertise and consulting support to ESQAC & NAQAC as the main bodies of accountability and implementation for the LNQF in Lao PDR and the MNQF in Myanmar. The specific objectives are to provide technical assistance to ESQAC & NAQAC in:

- Supporting the finalisation of the MNQF & LNQF while assuring that necessary components are based on Myanmar's and Lao PDR's education system, and aligned with regional & international good practices; and
- Supporting the development of an action plan for implementation of the LNQF & the MNQF.
- Develop a clean final draft of the level descriptors; and
- Ensure the alignment of the level descriptors to the AQRF.

One outcome and expected output of this assignment is a completion report that encompasses the aforementioned points and outlines and explains the methodology of the technical support provided, as well as a final draft document of both NQFs.

## Eligibility

Expert or consultant in Qualifications Framework Referencing, preferable having at least 10 years of experience in the field of:

- a) qualifications frameworks or education & training systems in Lao PDR, Myanmar and/or other ASEAN Countries (predominantly CLMV);
- b) experience in working with the AQRF;
- c) design and development of a regional framework (preferably European Qualifications Framework), including level descriptors and referencing process;
- d) experience in the development of a National Qualifications Framework in an international context; and
- e) experience as a member of a referencing committee.

## Scope of work

- a) The scope of this assignment includes the following activities:
  - Desk review of the current version of LNQF, MNQF and other relevant reports related to National Qualifications System and Quality Assurance Arrangements (provided by ESQAC and NAQAC);
  - Prepare revised and updated versions of the LNQF and MNQF;
  - Conduct discussion sessions via video conference with the Myanmar & Lao PDR NQF teams;
  - Intensive interaction with the EU SHARE and NQF teams through e-mail; and

- Submit a completion report as well as the NQF-related documents to EU SHARE (final draft, etc.).
- b) Attend meetings in Lao PDR and Myanmar, with the specific task of presenting the assistance methodology (methods and criteria of the support given) to NAQAC, ES-QAC and EU SHARE.

### Budget foreseen

<b>Daily Rate</b>	Please submit a comprehensive offer including indication of availability & timeline and expected daily fee
<b>Billable Days</b>	Maximum of 30, details to be agreed with EU SHARE project management
<b>Per diem rate</b>	Valid rates as stipulated by EU SHARE <sup>1</sup>
<b>Travel to ASEAN</b>	Economy Class (arranged by EU SHARE)

### Schedule

7 <sup>th</sup> calendar week	Submission of relevant documents to the consultant
13 <sup>th</sup> calendar week	Submission of the first version of the report by the consultant
18 <sup>th</sup> calendar week	Submission of feedback on the report to the consultant
30 <sup>th</sup> of April	Finalised report completed

Submit your offer (including CV, indicative project timeline, expected daily fee) to [qa-qt@share-asean.eu](mailto:qa-qt@share-asean.eu) until **26 January 2020 (23:59 hours GMT+7)** at the latest.

<sup>1</sup> See Annex I

ANNEX I: Valid per diem  
rates starting 1st January  
2020

Country	Subsistence rate	Accommodation allowance	Sum
	in Euro		
Brunei Darussalam	43	106	149
Indonesia	30	134	164
Cambodia	31	94	125
Lao PDR	27	96	123
Malaysia	28	88	116
Myanmar	29	98	127
Philippines	27	116	143
Singapore	45	197	242
Thailand	31	110	141
Vietnam	34	86	120
<b>Average</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>145</b>