

## **The study of Taiwan Qualification Framework for Higher Education: the development of draft level descriptors**

Under the impact of globalization, national qualifications framework (NQF) becomes an essential bridge for education, labor market, talent mobility between nations around the world. This is due to great differences of the education systems and occupational tracks of different nations which are rooted deeply in the culture and history of the countries. Thus, NQF which creates the common and transparent structure of different educational and occupational system becomes critical for all nations. In 2018, the Ministry of Education started to develop the draft of the Taiwan Qualifications Framework in higher education (TWQF-HE), and used both the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) as reference framework in order to connect the higher education of Taiwan with the world.

This study carries on the pilot study in 2018 and development the descriptors of the TWQF-HE. Using the theoretical framework of neo-liberalism and the implantation of NQF as policy tool, and this study explore 6 NQFs across Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The study also compares the level descriptors between the 6 nations using the data analysis software MAXQDA. Overall, 4 focus groups and 1 expert consultant meeting were held to collect data and discuss the appropriateness of the descriptor of level 8 to level 5. In addition, the study drafted the TWQF-HE with three domain: knowledge, skills and autonomy and responsibility. Also, this study aims to promote the concept of NQF to the public through publications. Finally, the findings of this study suggests that the TWQF-HE shall be a flexible framework which should change according to the need of the nation and society. Furthermore, this study also suggests that the concept of life-long learning should be included in the descriptor in the near future.