

## **SAQA cements its pioneering position internationally**

9 November 2017

European countries will be gathered in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 9 to 10 November 2017 at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) [Peer Learning Conference](#) to discuss the impact and challenges of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) implementation. Given that the South African NQF is one of the first in the world, it is fitting that lessons can be learnt from the South African experience.

It is for this reason that the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Mr Joe Samuels, will be delivering the keynote address on the impact of the South African NQF, particularly focusing on challenges and opportunities. Mr Samuels' address will explore the lessons learned from the evaluation of the NQF Act implementation as well as the NQF impact study.

This is not the first time SAQA has been invited to share its experience at this conference. In January 2009, SAQA was invited to present on the lessons learnt in overseeing the development and implementation of the South African NQF as well as its involvement in the development of the Southern African Development Community Qualifications Framework (SADCQF). The SAQA CEO was recently (July 2017) invited to present the South African NQF at the Global Follow up Conference on Technical Vocational and Training in Tangshan, China.

SAQA also collaborates with international bodies such as the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It also sits on the Advisory Group of the Lumina Foundation, the World Reference Levels (WRLs) Expert Group, the SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA), the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN), and is also a founding member of the African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN). With all these collaborations and expert advice and international work, the South African experience is often sought as one of the pioneering NQFs in the world.

Before he left for the conference, Mr Samuels, said "SAQA's role includes actively contributing to the development of qualifications frameworks internationally, identifying and contributing to new and critical thinking related to qualifications frameworks, and reflecting on international best practice to inform the further development and implementation of the South African NQF." This, he concluded, ensures that SAQA is at the cutting edge of the development and implementation of NQFs.

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### **SAQA'S MISSION**

*To ensure the development and implementation of a National Framework which contributes to the full development of each learner and to the social and economic development of the nation at large*

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