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### ■ **Co-operative EQF Implementation and Testing in 7 Countries: Launch of Leonardo Project "TransEQFrame"**

The European Commission elaborated a European Qualifications Framework draft in September 2006 to promote lifelong learning, transparency of qualifications and mobility. This draft will be adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2007. The EQF will be implemented and tested by the EU Member States on the basis of Leonardo da Vinci projects during the forthcoming implementation phase (2007-2009).

BIBB recently launched the EQF implementation project TransEQFrame (2007/8) on behalf of its partner organisations in 6 EU Member States and one associated Member State. This project aims to bring together partners in countries in the process of developing their National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs). By means of a range of trans-national co-operative activities the NQFs are to be given a strong European dimension and help to raise awareness of EQF and also improve its effectiveness. The partner organisations from Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland share the following project objectives:

- To take account of the EQF conceptual framework in the development of emerging NQFs and test its validity,
- To enhance articulation between the NQFs of the partner countries by using EQF as a translation medium for promoting the transparency and recognition of qualifications and
- To contribute to the further development and implementation of the EQF conceptual framework by ensuring that it reflects national/transnational realities.

The partnership comprises countries whose government ministries or state sponsored bodies are involved in national qualifications systems and the emerging frameworks. There is a mixture of countries with federal structures and centralised structures. Whilst some have already begun setting up qualification frameworks, the majority have started from scratch. Most of the countries have dual VET structures that are dependent on a high level of social partner dialogue.

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