Terms of Reference

CONTRACTING OF SERVICE PROVIDER(S) FOR THE ARTICULATION BETWEEN OQSF, GENFETQSF AND HEQSF SUB-FRAMEWORKS.

1. Brief background

1.1. The National Qualifications Framework Act (Act 67 of 2008) gives effect to the development of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the three related sub-frameworks for General and Further Education and Training, Higher Education, and Trades and Occupations. Each sub-framework is managed by a Quality Council (QC) and has responsibilities to develop qualifications and part qualifications, quality assure qualifications and develop and implement Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT), and Assessment policies. Moreover, the QCs have the responsibility to recommend qualifications to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) for registration on the NQF.

1.2. The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a single integrated system for the "classification, registration, publication, and articulation of quality-assured national qualifications," as stated in Section 4 of the NQF Act, 2008 (Act 67 of 2008). The NQF Act mandates the SAQA as a governing body with a job to coordinate the three sub-frameworks and move the NQF's goals forward. In accordance with Section 8(2)(b) of the NQF Act, 2008, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) gazetted the Draft Articulation Policy on March 30, 2016. Subsequently, the articulation policy for the post-school education and training system of South Africa was also published on January 13, 2017. It is outlined in the Draft Articulation Policy that SAQA must ensure that all new qualifications and those submitted for registration have statements about NQF levels and level descriptors and clear articulation routes and learning pathways.

1.3. Therefore, articulation remains an essential component of the education and training system, just as it does in the development of good education systems worldwide. To achieve an effective post-secondary education and training system in South Africa, there must be a high level of articulation and coherence within and between the sub-frameworks, learning programmes, and institutions. Accordingly, the present study sets out to determine articulation pathways between the OQSF and two other sub-frameworks; the GENFETQSF and HEQSF.

1.4. The research will investigate the possibilities for articulation between the three sub-frameworks. As a starting point, the legislation, regulations, and policies that govern articulation in Post School Education and Training (PSET) will be used to provide an overview of the policy and regulatory basis for articulation. The SAQA National Articulation Baseline Study will be used, together with any other already available research, to provide qualitative and quantitative data for analysis. Additionally, a survey will be conducted of the HEIs to determine which occupational qualifications are proving to be a pathway into HEIs; that is; can the graduates with occupational qualifications make a way into Higher Education and for which qualifications?

1.5.   The project is intended to be concluded by the end of the 2023/2024 financial year to meet outcome 1, indicator 1.2 of the Revised Strategic Plan 2020/2021 to 2024/2025.

2. Technical specifications

2.1.   The service provider must ensure that the lead staff member assigned to this project is in possession of at least a Master's Degree in Education/Social Sciences or equivalent with research experience in articulation and the NQF in general.

2.2.   The service provider must also have experience with working with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in South Africa.

2.3.   The project involves:

2.3.1.   Compiling a literature review on the legislation, regulations, and policies that govern articulation in the PSET.

2.3.2.   Use the SAQA baseline study and other existing research available to provide qualitative and quantitative data for the study.

2.3.3.   Conduct a survey of the HEIs to determine which occupational qualifications are proving to be a pathway into HEIs.

2.3.4.   Provision of the complete dataset to the QCTO in an agreed-upon format.

3. Work schedule

3.1.   The service provider will report to the Deputy Director: Statistical Reporting and will consult with them regarding the analysis and format of the final dataset to be gathered and submitted.

3.2.   Delivery of the final dataset will take place on or before 30 June 2024.

4. Pricing Schedule

a) Agreement Term   :   up to 6 Months
b) Payment Frequency   : Upon receipt of the approved final report

Technical queries via email to:

Deputy Director: Statistical Reporting Mx. Nthabeleng Lepota on Email: Lepota.N@qcto.org.za