

# Example of good practice: Austria

## Including of non-formal qualifications in Austrian NQF (NQR)

Referencing of international qualifications with  
National Qualification Frameworks

**Karl Andrew Müllner, OeAD/NCP for the NQF in Austria**

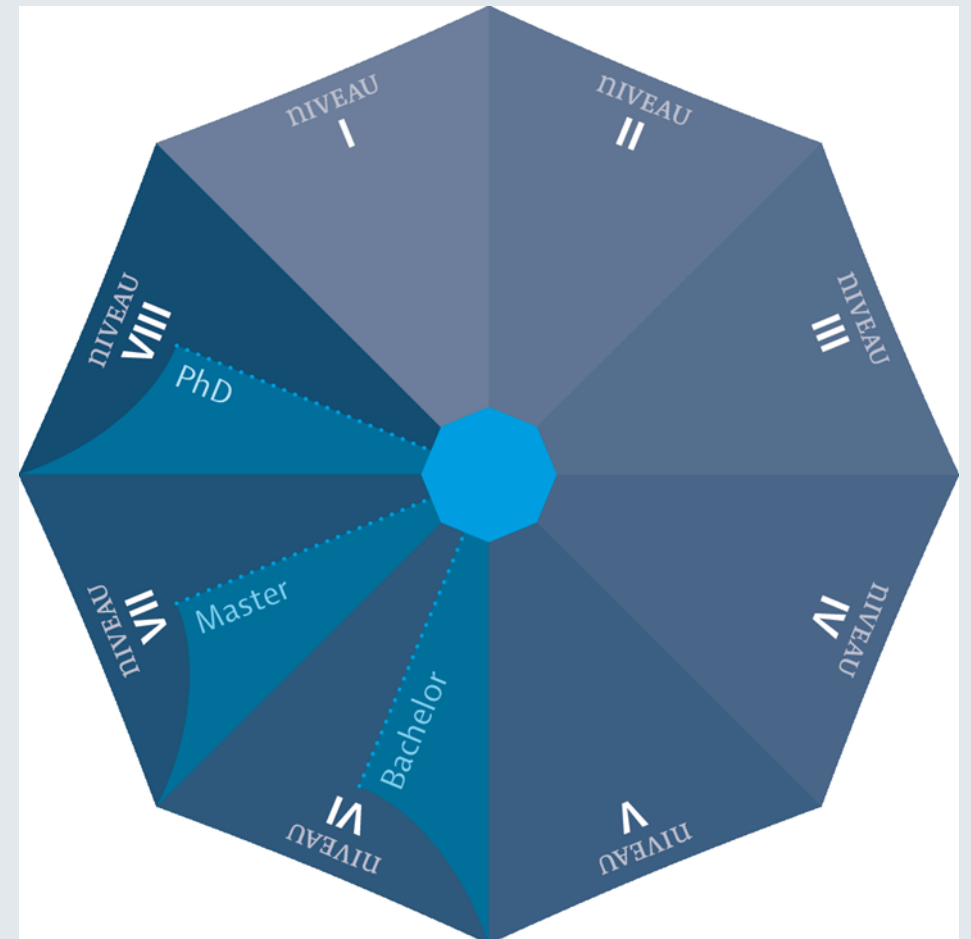
Via Zoom, 23.03.2021

## Overview

- The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in Austria
- Legal Framework in Austria (NQF-Act)
- Definition formal vs. non-formal qualifications
- The request for the mapping of a qualification – basis for the mapping
- Mapping of formal qualifications
- Mapping of non-formal qualifications
- Challenges

## The National Qualifications Framework in Austria

- Levels I – VIII
- Not legally binding
- All areas of education
- Splitting the NQF table of descriptors at levels VI – VIII
- Dimensions: Knowledge, Skills, Competences/Responsibility and Autonomy
- Integration of formal, non-formal and informal learning



## Legal Framework in Austria

- NQF-Act went into effect on 15 March 2016
- Contains main definitions
- Composition and tasks of the relevant bodies (NCP, NQF-Advisory Board, NQF-Steering Group, NQF-Service Points)
- Reference to further supporting documents (Rules of procedure, NQF-Manual, guidelines)
- Aims of the NQF-Act
- NQF-Register

## Definition formal qualifications vs. non-formal qualifications

### Formal qualifications

- Based on a legal document (e.g. Act, law, regulation)
- On federal or regional level
- A public authority is directly responsible for the qualification, content, quality, etc.

### Non-formal qualifications

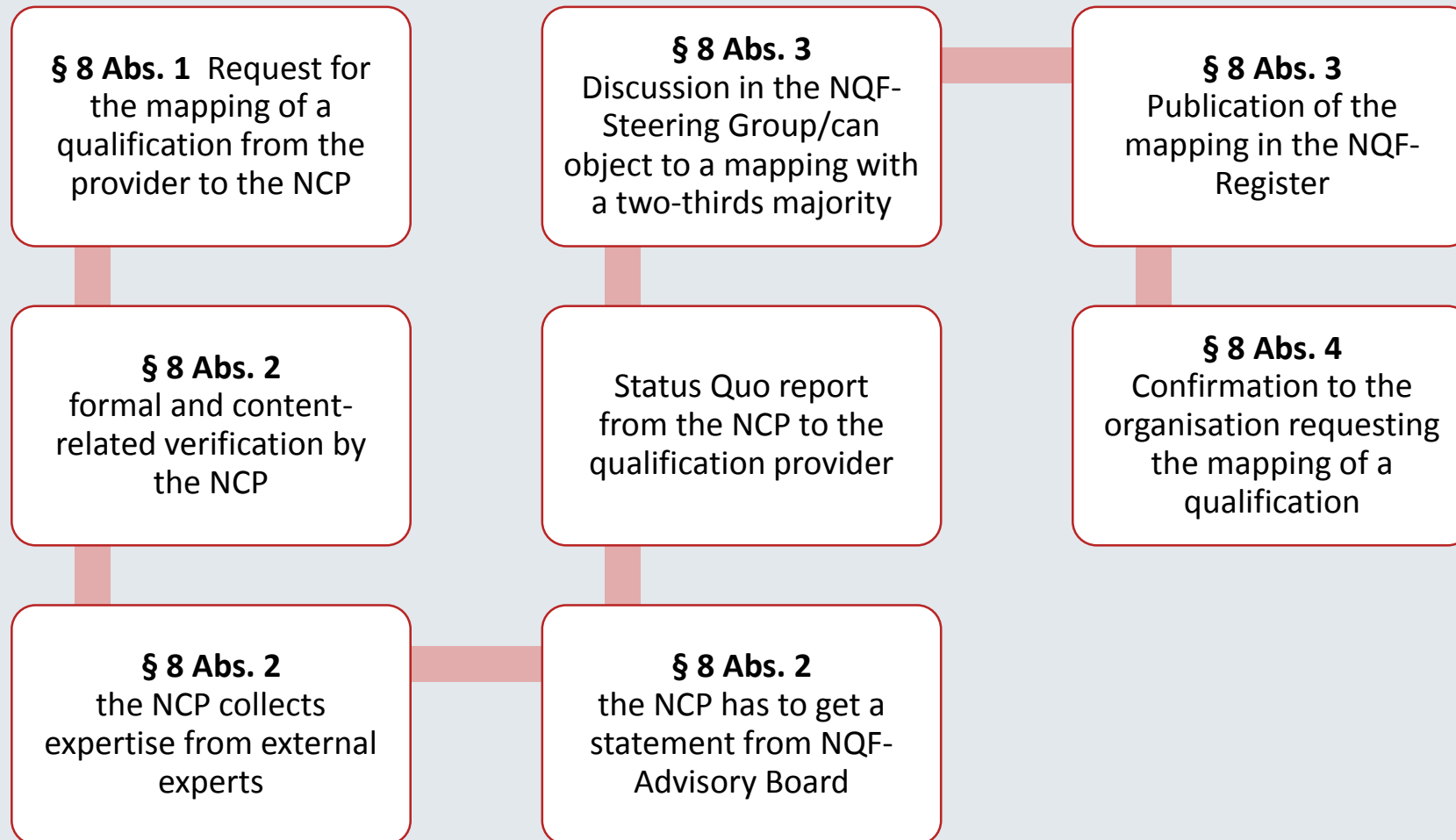
- Not based on a legal document
- Mostly „owned“ by a private body
- Responsibility for the qualification, content, quality, etc. lies outside of a public authority

## The request for the mapping – basis for the mapping decision

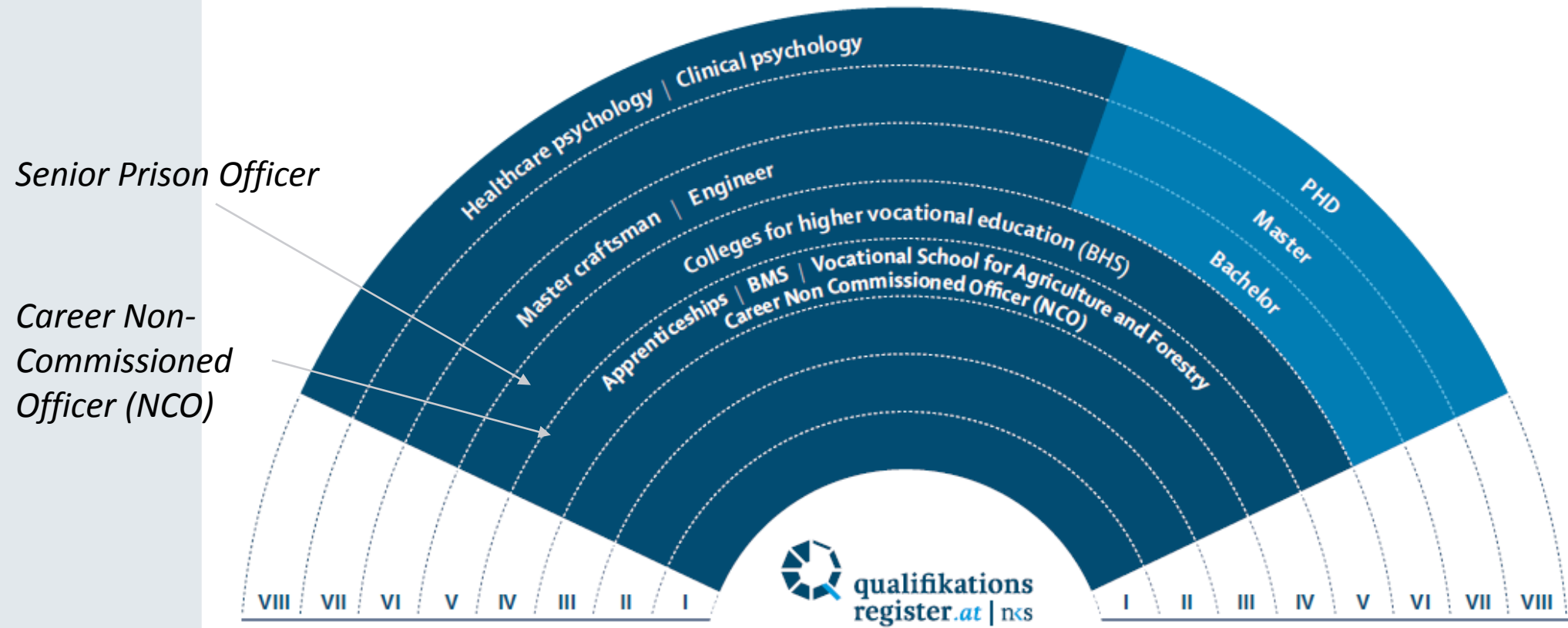
- Description of the qualification
- Learning outcomes
- Justification for the requested level
- Matching with the NQF-Descriptors
- Comparison to other qualifications/ matching in the system
- Determination procedure
- Genesis and quality assurance

***Standardised form with fill-in-help***

# Mapping of formal qualifications



# National Qualifications Framework Austria





## Mapping of non-formal qualifications

- NQF-Act foresees NQF-Service Points
- Appointment of the NQF-Service Points by the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research
- Support of qualification-providers for non-formal qualifications in the mapping process
- Six NQF-Service Points in operation since 2020 (social partners, youth, agriculture, higher education and a private provider)

## First non-formal Qualifications in the Austrian NQF

**nQR<sup>III</sup>**

Family group leader

**nQR<sup>III</sup>**

Youth leader

**nQR<sup>IV</sup>**

Alpine education course

**nQR<sup>IV</sup>**

EBC\*L Business Administration

**nQR<sup>V</sup>**

EBC\*L Certified Manager

**nQR<sup>V</sup>**

Certified Adult Educator

**nQR<sup>V</sup>**

Duale Akademie (DA) Professional – Mechatronics – Automation technology

**nQR<sup>VI</sup>**

Certified Master Chef

## Challenges

- The Austrian way of mapping qualifications
- Duration of the process
- Necessary resources
- Development of trust
- Effects
- Target groups

# Thank you for your attention!

## Do you have a question?

Karl Andrew Müllner, OeAD/NCP for the NQF in Austria

[karl.muellner@oead.at](mailto:karl.muellner@oead.at)

[www.qualifikationsregister.at](http://www.qualifikationsregister.at)

Via Zoom, 23.03.2021