
ACT
of 22 December 2015
on the Integrated Qualifications System

Prepared on the
basis of the
consolidated text
of the Journal of
Laws of 2017
items 986, 1475

Chapter 1

General provisions

Article 1. 1. The Act defines:

- 1) the qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications System and the aims of the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 2) the Polish Qualifications Framework;
 - 3) the standards of describing qualifications;
 - 4) the principles of assigning Polish Qualifications Framework levels to qualifications;
 - 5) the principles of including qualifications in the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 6) the principles of including Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks in the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 7) the requirements of entities conducting validation and certification, as well as the principles of attaining certification authority;
 - 8) the principles of ensuring the quality of validation and certification;
 - 9) the principles of supervising validation and certification;
 - 10) the Integrated Qualifications Register;
 - 11) the coordination of operating the Integrated Qualifications System.
2. The Act does not define the requirements for validation and certification, the principles of the quality assurance of awarding qualifications, and the principles of the supervision of awarding qualifications for those qualifications attained in the formal general, vocational and higher education systems.

Article 2. The terms used in the Act shall be defined as follows:

- 1) certification – the process by which a learner, after having achieved a positive validation result, receives a formal document from an authorised awarding body stating that a qualification has been awarded;
- 2) formal education – education provided by public and non-public schools and other institutions of the formal general, vocational and higher education systems within the framework of programmes leading to the attainment of full qualifications, qualifications awarded upon completion of post-graduate studies, as defined in Art. 2, para. 1, pt. 11 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher

Education (Journal of Laws of 2016 items 1842, 1933, 2169 and 2260, as well as of 2017 items 60 and 777), or the qualifications specified for a given profession/occupation referred to in Art. 10, para. 3, pt. 1 of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System (Journal of Laws of 2016 items 1943, 1954, 1985 and 2169 as well as of 2017 item 60);

- 3) non-formal education – education and training provided within the framework of programmes that do not lead to the attainment of full qualifications or the qualifications referred to in pt. 2;
- 4) learning outcomes – knowledge, skills and social competence attained through the learning process;
- 5) evaluation – the analysis of the functioning of awarding bodies for the purpose of diagnosing the processes relating to certification to ensure and improve the quality of the qualification
- 6) awarding body – an entity that has been granted certification authority.
- 7) social competence – the ability developed during the learning process to shape one's own development, as well as the autonomous and responsible participation in professional life and society, taking into account the ethical context of one's own behaviour;
- 8) qualification – a set of learning outcomes in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence, attained through formal education, non-formal education or informal learning, in accordance with the given qualification's requirements, whose attainment was assessed through validation and formally confirmed by an authorised awarding body;
- 9) partial qualification – a qualification specified for a given profession/occupation referred to in Art. 3 pt. 19 of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System; qualifications confirmed by master's diplomas and journeyman certificates awarded after having conducted vocational examinations, as referred to in Art. 3 para. 3a of the Act of 22 March 1989 on the Craft Trades (Journal of Laws of 2016 item 1285, as well as of 2017 item 60); qualifications awarded after completing post-graduate studies referred to in Art. 2 para. 1 pt. 11 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education; qualifications awarded after having completed the continuing education courses and training referred to in Art. 6 para. 1 pt. 5 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education; qualifications awarded after having completed the other forms of education referred to in Art. 2 para. 2 pt. 3 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences (Journal of Laws of 2016 items 572, 1311, 1933 and 2260, as well as of 2017 item 624), or other forms of education, including continuing education training and courses referred to in Art. 2 para. 3 pt. 2 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on Research Institutions (Journal of Laws of

2016, items 371, 1079, 1311 and 2260, as well as of 2017 item 202); statutory qualifications and market qualifications;

- 10) full qualifications – qualifications awarded only in the formal general and vocational education system after having completed defined stages of education, as well as first-, second-, and third-cycle qualifications as defined by the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education;
- 11) market qualifications – qualifications that are not regulated by legal provisions and are awarded on the basis of the freedom of economic activities;
- 12) statutory qualifications – qualifications established by separate regulations that are awarded in accordance with the principles set forth in those regulations, excluding qualifications awarded in the formal general, vocational and higher education systems;
- 13) minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System – the minister responsible for issues relating to school and character education;
- 14) competent minister – the minister referred to in the regulations of the Act of 4 September 1997 on the departments of government administration (Journal of Laws of 2016 item 543, as amended ¹⁾;
- [15) *entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register – the legal entity, body or organisational unit named in separate regulations;*]
- 16) Polish Qualifications Framework – the description of the eight distinguished levels of qualifications in Poland corresponding to the relevant levels of the European Qualifications Framework as referred to in Annex II of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of a European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (OJ C 111, 06.05.2008, p. 1), formulated with the use of general descriptors of the learning outcomes for qualifications at specific levels, expressed in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence;
- 17) Polish Qualifications Framework level – the scope and degree of complexity of the learning outcomes required for a qualification of a given level, formulated with the use of the general descriptors of learning outcomes;
- 18) assignment of a Polish Qualifications Framework level to a qualification – the decision made in accordance with the principles set forth in the Act to determine the Polish Qualifications Framework level of a given qualification on the basis of comparing the learning outcomes required for that qualification with the Polish Qualifications Framework level descriptors.

**The provision
repealing pt. 15 in
Art 2 will come
into force on
1.01.2018 (Journal
of Laws of 2017
item 1475).**

¹⁾ Changes to the consolidated text of the act referred to were announced in the Journal of Laws of 2016 items 749, 1020, 1250, 1579, 1923, 1948, 1954, 1961, 2003 and 2260, as well as of 2017 item 624).

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- 19) Sectoral Qualifications Framework – a description of the levels of qualifications functioning in a given sector or industry; the levels of a Sectoral Qualifications Framework correspond to the appropriate levels of the Polish Qualifications Framework.
 - 20) informal learning – attaining learning outcomes by various types of activities outside of formal education and non-formal education;
 - 21) skills – the ability to perform tasks and solve problems specific to a field of learning or professional activity attained through a learning process.
 - 22) validation – assessing whether a person seeking to have a qualification awarded has attained a distinct part or all of the learning outcomes required for that qualification, regardless of the person's learning path;
 - 23) knowledge – a collection of descriptions of objects and facts, principles, theories, and practices attained through a learning process relating to a field of learning or professional activity;
 - 24) Integrated Qualifications Register – a public register as understood in Art. 3, pt. 5 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks (Journal of Laws of 2017 item 570), functioning in an information technology system, recording the qualifications entered in the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 25) Integrated Qualifications System – a separate part of the National Qualifications System, which requires the use of standards specified in the Act for describing qualifications and assigning Polish Qualifications Framework levels to qualifications, principles for including qualifications in the Integrated Qualifications System and recording them in the Integrated Qualifications Register, as well as principles and standards for awarding qualifications and ensuring the quality of awarded qualifications.

Article 3. Full qualifications and partial qualifications are included in the Integrated Qualifications System in accordance with the principles set forth in the Act.

Article 4. The Integrated Qualifications System ensures:

- 1) the quality of awarded qualifications;
- 2) the ability to recognise learning outcomes attained through non-formal education and informal learning;
- 3) the ability to successively accumulate credits and have them recognised;
- 4) access to information about the qualifications that can be attained in the Republic of Poland;
- 5) the ability to compare the qualifications attained in the Republic of Poland with qualifications awarded in other Member States of the European Union.

Chapter 2

The Polish Qualifications Framework and assigning a Polish Qualifications Framework level to qualifications

Article 5. 1. The Polish Qualifications Framework is established. The purpose of the Polish Qualifications Framework is to classify qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications System in accordance with the specific levels of the Polish Qualifications Framework.

2. The general descriptors of learning outcomes for qualifications at specific levels of the Polish Qualifications Framework consist of:

- 1) first stage, universal descriptors for levels 1–8;
- 2) second stage descriptors for levels 1–8, further detailing the first stage, universal descriptors, consisting of:
 - a) second stage level 1–4 descriptors typical for general qualifications attained through formal education, non-formal education and informal learning,
 - b) second stage level 5 descriptors typical for qualifications attained after having achieved a full qualification at level 4,
 - c) second stage level 6–8 descriptors typical for qualifications attained in higher education after having achieved a full qualification at level 4,
 - d) second stage level 1–8 descriptors typical for vocational qualifications attained through formal education, non-formal education and informal learning.

Article 6. First stage, universal descriptors for levels 1–8 are defined in the Annex to the Act.

Article 7. 1. The minister responsible for school and character education determines, by means of a regulation, the second stage level 1–4 descriptors typical for general qualifications, formulated in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence, in which:

- 1) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for knowledge at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of language and communication – the structures and principles of formulating statements,
 - b) in the area of mathematics and natural sciences – concepts and dependencies as well as interpretations,
 - c) in the area of social functioning – the principles of functioning, social roles and identity;

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- 2) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for skills at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of language and communication – understanding and formulating statements, as well as using a foreign language,
 - b) in the area of mathematics and natural sciences – selecting and using tools, making observations and performing experiments,
 - c) in the area of social functioning – expressing membership in communities,
 - d) in the area of learning – organisation and planning;
 - 3) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for social competence at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of language and communication – the culture of communicating,
 - b) in the area of health and the environment – attention to health and safety, as well as attitude towards the environment,
 - c) in the area of social functioning – assuming responsibility, involvement and cooperation.
 3. The minister responsible for school and character education and the minister responsible for higher education determine, by means of a regulation, the second stage level 5 descriptors typical for qualifications attained after having achieved a full qualification at level 4, formulated in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence, in which:
 - 1) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for knowledge at the given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) scope and depth – completeness of the cognitive perspective and dependencies,
 - b) context – conditions, effects;
 - 2) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for skills at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of using knowledge – solving problems and carrying out tasks,
 - b) in the area of communication – understanding and formulating statements, disseminating knowledge in the academic community, and using a foreign language,
 - c) in the area of organising work – planning and team work,
 - d) in the area of learning – planning personal development and the development of others;

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- 3) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for social competence at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of evaluation – a critical approach,
 - b) in the area of responsibility – fulfilling social obligations and acting in the public interest,
 - c) in the area of professional role – autonomy and development of an ethos.
 4. The minister responsible for higher education determines, by means of a regulation, the second stage level 6-8 descriptors typical for qualifications attained in higher education after having achieved a full qualification at level 4, formulated in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence, in which:
 - 1) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for knowledge at the given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) scope and depth – completeness of the cognitive perspective and dependencies,
 - b) context – conditions, effects;
 - 2) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for skills at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of using knowledge – solving problems and carrying out tasks,
 - b) in the area of communication – understanding and formulating statements, disseminating knowledge in the academic community, and using a foreign language,
 - c) in the area of organising work – planning and team work,
 - d) in the area of learning – planning personal development and the development of others;
 - 3) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for social competence at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of evaluation – a critical approach,
 - b) in the area of responsibility – fulfilling social obligations and acting in the public interest,
 - c) in the area of professional role – autonomy and development of an ethos.
 5. The minister responsible for school and character education determines, by means of a regulation, the second stage level 1-8 descriptors typical for vocational qualifications, formulated in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence, in which:

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- 1) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for knowledge at the given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of theories and principles – methods and solutions, business activities, and ethics,
 - b) in the area of phenomena and processes – characteristics and conditions,
 - c) in the area of organising work – methods and technologies, organisational solutions, as well as occupational health and safety,
 - d) in the area of tools and materials – use and properties;
 - 2) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for skills at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of information – documentation, calculating, analysing, synthesising and predicting,
 - b) in the area of organising work – planning and revising plans, doing, revising activities and information flow,
 - c) in the area of tools and materials – using and selecting,
 - d) in the area of learning and professional development – personal development and supporting the development of others;
 - 3) the descriptors of the learning outcomes for social competence at a given Polish Qualifications Framework level specify:
 - a) in the area of following rules – rules, instructions and laws,
 - b) in the area of cooperation – communication and professional relations,
 - c) in the area of responsibility – ethical norms.
6. The regulations referred to in para. 1–4 indicate the need to ensure that the first stage, universal descriptors of levels 1–8 are consistent with the current state of knowledge and technological advancements in specific fields.

Article 8. Full qualifications are assigned to the following levels of the Polish Qualifications Framework:

- 1) a certificate of completion of a six-year primary school, a certificate of completion of a stage I music school, and a certificate of completion of a six-year stage I general music school – confirms the awarding of a qualification at level 1 of the Polish Qualifications Framework;
- 2) a certificate of completion of an eight-year primary school and a certificate of completion of lower secondary school – confirms the awarding of a qualification at level 2 of the Polish Qualifications Framework;

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- 3) a diploma confirming vocational qualifications:
- a) after having completed basic vocational school or after having met the conditions set forth in Art. 10, para. 3, pt. 2, letter a of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System,
 - b) after having completed a first stage sectoral school or after having fulfilled the conditions set forth in Art. 10, para. 3, pt. 2, letter b of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System,
 - as well as after having passed the examinations confirming qualifications specified for a given profession/occupation,
 - confirms the awarding of a qualification at level 3 of the Polish Qualifications Framework, unless the minister responsible for school and character education issues a regulation pursuant to Art. 46, para. 1 of the Act of 14 December 2016 – the School Education Act (Journal of Laws of 2017 item 59) to determine a different Polish Qualifications Framework level for the given qualification;
- 4) a journeyman's certificate issued after the completion of basic vocational school or first stage sectoral school after having passed the examinations for the occupations referred to in Art. 3 para. 3b of the Act of 22 March 1989 on the Craft Trades – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 3 of the Polish Qualifications Framework unless the minister responsible for school and character education issues a regulation pursuant to Art. 46 para. 1 of the Act of 14 December 2016 – the School Education Act to determine a different level of the Polish Qualifications Framework for a given qualification;
- 5) a diploma confirming vocational qualifications:
- a) after having completed vocational upper secondary school or post-upper secondary school or after having fulfilled the conditions set forth in Art. 10 para. 3 pt. 2 letter d of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System, or
 - b) after having completed second stage sectoral school or after having fulfilled the conditions set forth in Art. 10 para. 3 pt. 2 letter c of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System,
 - as well as after having passed the examinations confirming qualifications specified for a given profession/occupation,
 - confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 4 of the Polish Qualifications Framework, unless the minister responsible for school and character education issues a regulation pursuant to Art. 46 para. 1 of the Act of 14 December 2016 – the School Education Act to determine a different Polish Qualifications Framework level for the given qualification;

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- 6) a diploma of completion of a fine arts school confirming the attainment of a professional title – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 4 of the Polish Qualifications Framework, unless the minister responsible for school and character education issues a regulation pursuant to Art. 46 para. 1 of the Act of 14 December 2016 – the School Education Act to determine a different Polish Qualifications Framework level for the given qualification;
 - 7) matura certificate* – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 4 of the Polish Qualifications Framework;
 - 8) a diploma of completion of a teacher training college, a diploma of completion of a foreign language teacher training college, and a diploma of completion of a college of social services – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 5 of the Polish Qualifications Framework;
 - 9) a diploma of completion of first cycle studies – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 6 of the Polish Qualifications Framework;
 - 10) a diploma of completion of second cycle studies, as well as a diploma of completion of long cycle master's degree studies – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 7 of the Polish Qualifications Framework;
 - 11) doctorate diploma – confirms that a qualification has been awarded at level 8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework.

Article 9. 1. Levels of the Polish Qualifications Framework are assigned to partial qualifications, if:

- 1) the learning outcomes required for the given qualification are written in a manner that includes:
 - a) a synthesized description of the learning outcomes,
 - b) differentiated sets of learning outcomes,
 - c) specific learning outcomes in sets, as well as the assessment criteria for attaining individual learning outcomes;
 - 2) a comparison has been made of the learning outcomes required for the given qualification with the first and second stage level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework.
2. The condition referred to in para. 1 pt. 1 does not pertain to the comparison of the required learning outcomes with the level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework for the qualifications specified for a given profession/occupation referred

* Translators note: awarded after having passed the matura examinations, taken at the same time by graduates of general and vocational upper secondary schools, but not required to attain a secondary school completion certificate

to in Art. 3 pt. 19 of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System, and the qualifications awarded after having completed post-graduate studies referred to in Art. 2 para. 1 pt. 11 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education.

Article 10. 1. Assigning a Polish Qualifications Framework level to a qualification authorises an awarding body to include a graphic mark informing about the assigned Polish Qualifications Framework level on the documents confirming that a given qualification has been awarded.

2. The graphic mark shall be placed only on documents confirming that a qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System has been awarded.
3. The graphic mark informing about the assigned Polish Qualifications Framework level of a qualification differs for full qualifications and for partial qualifications.
4. The minister responsible for school and character education, by means of a regulation, determines the design of the graphic marks informing about the Polish Qualifications Framework level assigned to qualifications, taking into account the need to adapt them to the existing designs of school diplomas, certificates, as well as other documents confirming that qualifications have been awarded.

Article 11. 1. The descriptors of selected second stage Polish Qualifications Framework levels typical for vocational qualifications referred to in the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 7 para. 4 may be further developed with the use of Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks, which take into account the specificity of a given industry or sector.

2. The competent minister, of his/her own initiative or at the request of an interested party, initiates actions to include Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks in the Integrated Qualifications System if the initial assessment of the purpose for including the Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks in the Integrated Qualifications System is positive.
3. The request referred to in para. 2 shall include:
 - 1) the name of the sector or industry;
 - 2) a description of the basic types of activities referred to in the Sectoral Qualifications Framework;
 - 3) descriptors of learning outcomes for the levels of the Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks formulated in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence, taking into account the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 7 para. 4;
 - 4) an assessment of the purpose of including Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks in the Integrated Qualifications System, as well as the opinions of representatives of the industry or sector on this issue;

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- 5) an assessment of the compatibility of Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks with the Polish Qualifications Framework, particularly in terms of the consistency of Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks with the descriptors of the relevant second stage level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework typical for vocational qualifications, set forth in the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 7 para. 4;
 - 6) a positive opinion of the Stakeholders Council of the Integrated Qualifications System on the purpose of including the Sectoral Qualifications Framework in the Integrated Qualifications System and its compatibility with the Polish Qualifications Framework.
4. Upon the request of the relevant minister, the minister responsible for school and character education shall include the Sectoral Qualifications Framework in the Integrated Qualifications System by means of a regulation.
 5. The regulation referred to in para. 4 shall include:
 - 1) the name of the sector or industry;
 - 2) the basic types of activities that the qualifications prepare [a person] to carry out, which are referred to in the Sectoral Qualifications Framework,
 - 3) descriptors of learning outcomes for the levels of the Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks formulated in the categories of knowledge, skills and social competence
 - taking into account the needs of a given industry or sector and the development needs of a given industry or sector.

Chapter 3

The inclusion of qualifications in the Integrated Qualifications System and the review of qualifications functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System

Article 12 Full qualifications and the qualifications specified for a given profession/occupation referred to in Art. 3 para. 19 of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System shall be included in the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 13 1. Higher education institutions, the research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and research institutes may include qualifications in the Integrated Qualifications System that are awarded after the completion of the post-graduate studies referred to in Art. 2 para. 1 pt. 11 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education, if a Polish Qualifications Framework level has been assigned to those qualifications.

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2. To assign a Polish Qualifications Framework level to the partial qualifications referred to in para. 1, Art. 21 shall apply accordingly.
 3. Higher education institutions, the research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and research institutes inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register about the inclusion in the Integrated Qualifications System of the partial qualification referred to in para. 1.

Article 14 1. An entity implementing organised activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training may submit an application to the competent minister to request the inclusion of a market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System.

2. If the entity referred to in para. 1 conducts business activities, it may submit an application for the authorisation to award a given market qualification together with the application referred to in para. 1.

Article 15 1. The application referred to in para. 1 shall include:

- 1) information on the entity referred to in Art. 14 para. 1:
 - a) name or firm or given name and surname, in the case of a natural person,
 - b) headquarters and address or address of residence and address for service, in the case of a natural person,
 - c) tax identification number (TIN), personal identification number PESEL or, in the case of a foreign person referred to in Art. 5 pt. 2 of the Act of 2 July 2004 on the Freedom of Economic Activity (Journal of Laws of 2016 items 1829, 1948, 1997 and 2255 as well as of 2017 item 460), a different number issued for tax identification purposes in the country of headquarters or residence,
 - d) identification number in the national register of official entities of the national economy (REGON), if issued,
 - e) number in the register of entrepreneurs in the National Court Register (KRS) or the number in the Central Register and Information on Business, if issued,
 - f) identification of persons authorised to represent in the case when the entity is a legal person or organisational unit that is not a legal person, for which a separate law provides its legal capacity,
 - g) electronic mail address of the person submitting the application;
- 2) the description of the market qualification, consisting of:
 - a) the name of the qualification,

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- b) the name of the document confirming that the qualification has been awarded, the period of its validity, and if needed, the conditions of its renewal,
 - c) the notional workload expressed in hours needed to attain the qualification,
 - d) a brief description of the qualification, inclusive of information on the activities or tasks a person with this qualification is able to perform,
 - e) entitlements/powers conferred by having attained the qualification,
 - f) information on the groups of persons who may be interested in attaining the qualification,
 - g) if needed, the conditions required of a person to proceed with validation, in particular, the level of education required,
 - h) the requirements for validation and the entities conducting validation,
 - i) the need for the qualification, presented in the context of labour market trends, new technology developments, needs of society, as well as national or regional development strategies,
 - j) typical uses of the qualification,
 - k) a reference to qualifications of a similar nature and an indication of the qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications Register containing common sets of learning outcomes;
- 3) the learning outcomes required for the given qualification, presented pursuant to Art.9 para.1 pt.1;
 - 4) proposals for a Polish Qualifications Framework level for the given qualification and a reference to the level in the Sectoral Qualifications Framework, if a Sectoral Qualifications Framework exists for the given sector or industry;
 - 5) information on the estimated cost of the document confirming that a given qualification has been awarded;
 - 6) educational subject code, as described in the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 40 para. 2 of the Act of 29 June 1995 on Public Statistics (Journal of Laws of 2016 item 1068 and of 2017 item 60);
 - 7) code of the Polish Classification of Activities (PKD).

2. The following shall be attached to the application:

- 1) in the case of an entity that does not conduct business activities – documents confirming fulfilment of the condition of implementing organised activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training, in particular, a

statute, resolution, agreement or statement indicating the area in which the entity operates;

- 2) a declaration of the following text: "I declare that the information contained in the application to have a market qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System is true.";
- 3) proof of payment of the fee referred to in Art. 17 para. 1.
3. The declarations referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 and 2 shall be authenticated using the mechanisms set forth in Art. 20a para. 1 or 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks.
4. The declarations referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 and 2 are made under penalty of perjury. The person making the declaration is obliged to include a clause of the following text: "I am aware of the criminal liability for making a false declaration." This clause replaces the caveat of criminal responsibility for making false testimony.

Article 16. 1. The application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 is submitted to the competent minister through the portal of the Integrated Qualifications Register.

2. The application shall be authenticated using the mechanisms set forth in Art. 20a para. 1 or 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks.

Article 17. 1. A fee is charged for submitting the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1. A fee in the amount of 2000 PLN is paid to the bank account indicated on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System. The fee constitutes revenue of the national budget. The fee is non-refundable.

2. The amount referred to in para. 1 is subject to a five-year valorisation of the forecasted average annual price index of consumer goods and services, as defined in the budget acts for the given calendar year of the last five years.
3. Every five years, the minister responsible for school and character education announces in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski" the amount of the fee referred to in para. 1, applicable for the following five years, calculated in accordance with para. 2.

Article 18. 1. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register performs the formal assessment of the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 within 14 days of the date the application is submitted.

2. The formal assessment consists of determining that the application complies with the requirements referred to in Art. 15, 16 and Art. 17 para. 1.
3. An incorrect identification of the competent minister in the application shall not result in the application being returned by the entity operating the Integrated

Qualifications Register. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register assists the entity referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 in identifying the competent minister.

4. If there is confirmation of a failure to meet the formal requirements, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately summon the entity referred to in Article. 14 para. 1 to remedy this within 30 days. The period referred to in para. 1 begins from the date the corrected application is submitted by the entity.
5. If the failure to meet the formal requirements is not remedied within the period referred to in para.4, the application is not suitable for further processing.
6. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately send a formally correct application to the competent minister.

Article 19. 1. The competent minister consults the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 with interested parties. The competent minister shall react to the opinions expressed during the consultations.

2. After conducting the consultations, the competent minister requests the opinions of specialists, who:
 - 1) have practical experience in the area relating to the given market qualification;
 - 2) represent specific stakeholder groups that will be affected by the given qualification;
 - 3) have the competence enabling them to assess the specific learning outcomes of the given market qualification presented in the application.
3. The specialists prepare an opinion on the social and economic need for including the given market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System.
4. When using the services provided by specialists, Art. 24 of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure shall apply accordingly (Journal of Laws of 2016 items 23, 868, 1985, 996, 1579 and 2138).

Article 20. 1. The competent minister assesses the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1.

2. The assessment of the application consists of:
 - 1) an assessment of the learning outcomes required for the given market qualification in relation to the tasks performed by persons who have the given qualification, as well as an assessment of the adequacy of the requirements for the validation of those learning outcomes;
 - 2) an assessment of the purpose of including the given market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System, which particularly takes into account:

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- a) the congruence of the given market qualification with social needs, labour market needs and the expectations of employers,
 - b) the adaptation of the requirements of the given market qualification to objective conditions and the ability to attain the ascribed learning outcomes in a predictable period of time,
 - c) the similarity of the given market qualification to qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 3) conclusions on including the market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 21. 1. If the application is positively assessed, the competent minister shall assign a Polish Qualifications Framework level to the market qualification after comparing the learning outcomes required for the qualification with the first and second stage descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework.

2. The comparison of the required learning outcomes for the given qualification with the first and second stage level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework is performed by a panel of experts appointed by the competent minister.
3. The panel of experts presents a recommendation to the competent minister on assigning a Polish Qualifications Framework level to the given market qualification. The recommendation contains the learning outcomes required for this qualification, described pursuant to Art. 9 para. 1 pt. 1, which is the basis for the assignment of the level, as well as a reference to the level of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework, if such a Sectoral Qualifications Framework has been established for the sector or industry concerned.
4. The competent minister shall submit the recommendation referred to in para. 3 to the Stakeholders Council of the Integrated Qualifications System for an opinion.
5. If the recommendation indicates that the given qualification should be assigned to level 6, 7 or 8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework, the competent minister may request an opinion from the minister responsible for higher education on the validity of the comparison carried out between the required learning outcomes for the given qualification and the level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework.
6. If the opinion of the Stakeholders Council referred to in para. 4 is:
 - 1) positive – the competent minister shall assign the level of the Polish Qualifications Framework to the given market qualification in accordance with the recommendation referred to in para. 3;
 - 2) negative – the team of experts shall re-draft the recommendation referring to the opinion of the Stakeholders Council, and then the competent minister assigns

the level of the Polish Qualifications Framework to the market qualification in accordance with the content of the re-drafted recommendation.

7. When using the services provided by experts, Art. 24 of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure shall apply accordingly.
8. The minister responsible for school and character education shall determine by means of a regulation:
 - 1) the conditions to be met by the experts appointed to the panel of experts referred to in para. 2
 - 2) the manner of appointing experts to a panel of experts,
 - 3) the procedure for comparing the learning outcomes required for a qualification with the first and second stage level descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework and how to document the course of this procedure – taking into account the proper substantive preparation of the experts and the prevention of conflicts of interest.

Article 22. When determining the competent minister referred to in Art. 18 para. 3, the consultation of the application referred to in Art. 19 para. 1, the preparation of the opinion referred to in Art. 19 para. 3, the evaluation of the application referred to in Art. 20 para. 1, and the comparison of the required learning outcomes for the given market qualification referred to in Art. 21 para. 2, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register, the competent minister, specialists and the panel of experts shall cooperate as needed with the entity referred to in Art. 14 para. 1.

Article 23. 1. The competent minister shall inform the entity referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 of a negative assessment of the application and the justification for the negative assessment of the application.

2. A negative assessment cannot be appealed by filing a complaint to the administrative court.

Article 24. The competent minister shall assess the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 within four months of the date a formally correct application is received, pursuant to Art. 18 para. 6. The time period may be extended once by four months.

Article 25. 1. The competent minister provides information about the inclusion of a market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System by means of an announcement. The announcement is published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

2. The announcement provides information on:
 - 1) the name of the market qualification;

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- 2) the name of the document confirming that the market qualification has been awarded, as well as the period of its validity and, if needed, the conditions for its renewal;
 - 3) the level of the Polish Qualifications Framework assigned to the market qualification and the level of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework if a Sectoral Qualifications Framework has been established for the given sector or industry, pursuant to Art. 21 para. 6;
 - 4) the learning outcomes required for the market qualification, pursuant to Art. 21 para 6;
 - 5) the requirements for validation and the entities conducting validation,
 - 6) if needed, additional requirements resulting from the specificity of the given qualification, concerning:
 - a) the scope and frequency of the internal evaluation referred to in Art. 64 para. 1 and 2,
 - b) the scope and frequency of producing the external quality assurance reports referred to in Art. 68 para. 1 and 2,
 - c) the scope and frequency of submitting the activity reports referred to in Art. 76 para. 1–3;
 - 7) if needed, additional conditions to be met by entities seeking to attain certification authority pursuant to Art. 14 para. 2 or Art. 41 para. 1;
 - 8) if needed, the conditions to be met by a person to proceed with validation, in particular, the level of education required;
 - 9) the period when the qualification referred to in Art. 27 para. 1 is reviewed, not less than once every ten years.
3. The market qualification is considered to be included in the Integrated Qualifications System on the date of publication of the announcement referred to in para.1.
 4. The competent minister shall immediately notify the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register on the inclusion of the given market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 26. 1. Immediately after publication of the announcement referred to in Art. 25 para. 1, the competent minister:

- 1) provides information on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System about the possibility of submitting applications to attain the authorisation to award the given market qualification;
- 2) assesses the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 2.

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2. In the case referred to in para.1 pt. 2, the provisions of Art. 41–45 shall apply, except that the fee referred to in Art. 43 para. 1 is 5000 PLN. The fee is payable after publication of the announcement referred to in Art. 25 para. 1.
 3. If the announcement contains the information referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 7, the entity referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 is obliged to provide the missing information in the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 2.

Article 27. 1. The competent minister, within the period referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 9, reviews the market qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System.

2. Art. 19 shall apply accordingly to the review of the market qualification, except that the specialists referred to in Art. 19 para. 2 shall prepare a report recommending the extension of the functioning of the given market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System, the modification of the qualification, or the lack of justification for having it awarded.
3. In cases justified by socio-economic needs, the competent minister may review the market qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System within a period other than that specified in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 9.
4. As a result of the review, the competent minister:
 - 1) confirms that the market qualification is functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System within the scope defined in the announcement referred to in Art. 25 para. 2;
 - 2) by means of an announcement, informs about the modifications to the given market qualification;
 - 3) by means of an announcement, informs that the market qualification has been given the status of an archival qualification if:
 - a) during the three years preceding the review, no document has been issued confirming that this qualification has been awarded, or
 - b) awarding the qualification is not justified for socio-economic reasons.
5. The announcement referred to in paragraph 4, points 2 and 3 shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

Article 28. Modifications to a given market qualification referred to in Art. 27 para. 4 pt. 2 cannot be made to:

- 1) the name of the qualification,
- 2) the Polish Qualifications Framework level assigned to the qualification;
- 3) the learning outcomes required for the qualification if the change in learning outcomes would result in the need to change the name of the market qualification

or to assign another level of the Polish Qualifications Framework to that qualification.

Article 29. 1. A given market qualification that has received the status of an archival qualification results, by the power of law, in the expiration of the awarding bodies' ability to award that qualification and, by the power of law, in the expiration of the contracts referred to in Art. 60 para. 1 with respect to those awarding bodies.

2. Persons who, on the date of publication of the announcement referred to in Art. 27 para. 4 pt. 3, have begun the validation process for a given market qualification, are issued a document confirming that the qualification has been awarded if the validation result is positive.

3. A given market qualification that has received the status of an archival qualification does not invalidate the documents confirming that such a qualification was awarded, issued before publicising the announcement referred to in Art. 27 para. 4 point 3.

Article 30. The competent minister shall immediately send information on the modifications to a given market qualification, as well as that a given market qualification has received the status of archival qualification, to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 31. 1. With respect to a market qualification that has received the status of archival qualification, an entity implementing organised activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training may submit an application to the competent minister to have the qualification restored to the status of a market qualification functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System.

2. The application contains:

1) data of the entity referred to in para. 1:

- a) name or firm or given name and surname, in the case of a natural person,
- b) headquarters and address or address of residence and address for service, in the case of a natural person,
- c) tax identification number (TIN), personal identification number PESEL or, in the case of a foreign person referred to in Art. 5 pt. 2 of the Act of 2 July 2004 on the Freedom of Economic Activity, a different number assigned for tax identification purposes in the country of headquarters or residence,
- d) identification number in the national register of official entities of the national economy (REGON), if issued,
- e) number in the register of entrepreneurs in the National Court Register (KRS) or the number in the Central Register and Information on Business, if issued,

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- f) identification of persons authorised to represent in the case when the entity is a legal person or organisational unit that is not a legal person, for which a separate law provides its legal capacity,
 - g) electronic mail address of the person submitting the application;
 - 2) the information referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter i.
 3. The following shall be attached to the application referred to in para. 1:
 - 1) in the case of an entity that does not conduct business activities – documents confirming fulfilment of the condition of implementing organised activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training, in particular, a statute, resolution, agreement or statement indicating the area in which the entity operates;
 - 2) a declaration of the following text: "I declare that the information contained in the application to have the given market qualification restored to the status of functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System is true".
 4. The declarations referred to in para. 3 shall be authenticated using the mechanisms set forth in Art. 20a para. 1 or 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks.
 5. The declarations referred to in para. 3 are made under penalty of perjury. The person making the declaration is obliged to include the following clause: "I am aware of the criminal liability for making a false declaration." This clause replaces the caveat of criminal responsibility for making false statements.
 6. The application is submitted to the competent minister through the portal of the Integrated Qualifications Register.
 7. The application shall be authenticated using the mechanisms set forth in Art. 20a para. 1 or 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks.

Article 32. 1. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register performs the formal assessment of the application referred to in Art. 31 para. 1 within 14 days of the date of submission of the application.

2. The formal assessment consists of determining compliance of the application with the requirements referred to in Art. 31 para. 2–7.
3. If there is confirmation of a failure to meet the formal requirements, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately summon the entity referred to in Article. 31 para. 1 to remedy this within 30 days. The period referred to in para. 1 begins from the date the corrected application is submitted by the entity.

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4. If the failure to meet the formal requirements is not remedied within the period referred to in para. 3, the application is not suitable for further processing.
 5. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately send a formally correct application to the competent minister.

Article 33. 1. The competent minister shall examine the application referred to in Art. 31 para. 1 after consultation with the specialists referred to in Art. 19 para. 2.

2. Specialists prepare an opinion on the socio-economic needs of the functioning of the given market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System.
3. After a positive assessment of the application referred to in Art. 31 para. 1, the competent minister, by means of an announcement, notifies that the archival market qualification has been restored to the status of a market qualification functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System. The announcement is published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".
4. The competent minister shall inform the entity referred to in Art. 31 para. 1 of a negative assessment of the application and the justification for the negative assessment of the application.
5. A negative assessment cannot be appealed by filing a complaint to the administrative court.
6. The competent minister shall assess the application referred to in Art. 31 para. 1 within four months of the date of receipt of a formally correct application pursuant to Art. 32 para. 5.

Article 34. 1. Immediately after publicising the announcement referred to in Art. 33 para. 3, the competent minister provides information on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System about the possibility of submitting applications to attain the authorisation to award the given market qualification, which was restored to the status of a market qualification functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System.

2. The competent minister shall immediately send information on the restoration of the archival market qualification to the status of a market qualification functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 35. 1. If the authorisation of all awarding bodies qualified to award the given market qualification has expired pursuant to Article 77 para. 2 or was withdrawn pursuant to Art. 80 para. 2, the given qualification, by the power of law, receives the status of a suspended market qualification until at least one entity is granted the authorisation to award the qualification.

2. The competent minister, by means of an announcement, informs that the given market qualification has received the status of a suspended market qualification. The

announcement is published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

3. The competent minister shall immediately send information on the change in status of the given market qualification to a suspended qualification to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.
4. If, for socio-economic reasons, the functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System of a given market qualification that has received the status of a suspended qualification is justified, the competent minister shall provide information on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System about the possibility of submitting applications to attain the authorisation to award this qualification under Art. 41 para. 2.
5. The competent minister shall immediately send information on the change of the status of the given market qualification from suspended to functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.
6. Persons who, on the date of publicising the announcement referred to in para. 2, have begun the validation process for a given market qualification and the validation result is positive, are issued a document confirming that the qualification has been awarded after the market qualification has been recognized as functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System.
7. If, for socio-economic reasons, there is no justification for the functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System of a given market qualification that has received the status of a suspended qualification, or if there is no awarding body authorised to award this qualification under Art. 41 para. 1 to persons who, on the date of publication of the announcement referred to in para. 2, have begun the validation process for the given market qualification, Art. 48 and 49 shall apply.

Article 36. 1. The minister in charge of the department of government administration may, by means of a regulation, authorise a subordinate or supervised body or director of an organisational unit, a professional self-governed body or a body of an economic organisation to:

- 1) assess the applications referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 and Art. 31 para. 1,
- 2) review the market qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System referred to in Art. 27 para. 1,
 - having regard to the effective conduct of the proceedings referred to in points 1 and 2.
2. Art. 24 and Art. 25 of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure shall apply accordingly in the process of considering the applications referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 and Art. 31 para. 1.

Article 37. 1. Qualifications confirmed by master's diplomas and journeyman certificates issued after conducting the examinations for the occupations referred to in Art. 3 para. 3a of the Act of 22 March 1989 on the Craft Trades may be incorporated into the Integrated Qualifications System by the competent minister at the request of the Polish Craft Association. Articles 15 and 16 shall apply for the process of submitting an application.

2. Articles 17–25 shall apply for the process of considering the application.
3. Craft chambers are authorised to award the partial qualifications referred to in para. 1.
4. As regards craft chambers, the function of the external quality assurance entity referred to in Art. 51 para. 1 is performed by the Polish Craft Association.
5. The partial qualification referred to in para. 1 shall be deemed as functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System as of the date of publicising the announcement referred to in Art. 25 para. 2.
6. The competent minister shall immediately inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register that the given partial qualification referred to in para. 1 has begun to function in the Integrated Qualifications System.
7. Articles 26–36, Art. 48–50, Art. 63–71 and Art. 75–80 shall apply accordingly to the partial qualifications referred to in para. 1.

Article 38. 1. The relevant minister may include a statutory qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System, if the description of the given qualification contains:

- 1) the learning outcomes described pursuant to Art. 9 para.1 pt. 1;
- 2) the requirements for validation and the entities conducting validation;
- 3) the institutions that have been granted certification authority or information on whether certification authority is granted pursuant to Art. 41 para. 1;
- 4) if needed, additional requirements to be met by entities applying for certification authority pursuant to Art. 41 para. 1;
- 5) institutions authorised to function as external quality assurance entities, or information on whether the external quality assurance entity is appointed from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1;
- 6) if needed, additional requirements resulting from the specific character of the given qualification, relating to:
 - a) the scope and frequency of the internal evaluation referred to in Art. 64 para. 1 and 2,

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- b) the scope and frequency of producing the external quality assurance reports referred to in Art. 68 para. 1 and 2,
 - c) the scope and frequency of submitting the activity reports referred to in Art. 76 para. 1–3;
- 7) if needed, the conditions required of a person to proceed with validation, in particular, the level of education required;
 - 8) the period of validity of the document confirming that the qualification has been awarded and, if needed, the conditions for extending the validity of this document.
2. The competent minister assigns a level of the Polish Qualifications Framework to a statutory qualification after comparing the learning outcomes required for the given qualification with the first and second stage descriptors of the Polish Qualifications Framework. Art. 21 shall apply.
 3. The competent minister, by means of an announcement, informs that a level of the Polish Qualifications Framework has been assigned to a statutory qualification and that the statutory qualification has been included in the Integrated Qualifications System. The announcement is publicised in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".
 4. A statutory qualification is considered to be included in the Integrated Qualifications Register as of the date of publicising the announcement referred to in para. 3.
 5. The competent minister shall inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register of the inclusion of the statutory qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System immediately after the announcement referred to in para. 3 is publicised.

Article 39. 1. Separate provisions specify the institutions referred to in Art. 38 para. 1 pt. 3 and 5, if they meet the requirements referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1 and 2 and Art. 53 para. 2 pt. 1–3.

2. If the separate provisions specify the institutions referred to in Art. 38 para. 1 pt. 3, the provisions of Art. 46–50, Art. 63–73 and Art. 75–81 shall apply accordingly to these institutions, except when:
 - 1) the separate provisions also define the institutions referred to in Art. 38 para. 1 pt. 5, or
 - 2) the external quality assurance entity is appointed from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1, and when separate provisions indicate that no fees are charged for validation and certification – Art. 46 does not apply.
3. If separate provisions specify the institutions referred to in Art. 38 para. 1 point 5, the provisions of Art. 50, Art. 66–73 and Art. 75–81 shall apply accordingly to these

institutions, and financing for external quality assurance shall be provided by the competent minister of the statutory qualification.

4. If authorisation to award a statutory qualification is granted pursuant to Art. 41 para. 1, or if the external quality assurance entity has been designated from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1, the provisions of Art. 41–81 shall apply accordingly to the given statutory qualification.
5. If the external quality assurance entity has been appointed from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1, and the separate provisions indicate that no fees are charged for validation and certification, Art. 46 does not apply.
6. In the case referred to in para. 5, financing for external quality assurance shall be provided by the competent minister of the given qualification.
7. If authorisation to award a statutory qualification is granted pursuant to Art. 41 para. 1, or if the external quality assurance entity has been designated from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1, the statutory qualification shall be deemed to be functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System following the appointment of an external quality assurance entity for the given awarding body pursuant to Art. 60 para. 1.

Article 40. 1. Art. 14–25 shall apply accordingly to the inclusion in the Integrated Qualifications System of the qualifications awarded after completion of the continuing education courses and training referred to in Art. 6 para. 1 pt. 5 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education, other forms of education referred to in Art. 2 para. 2 pt. 3 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences, and other forms of education, including the continuing education and training courses referred to in Art. 2 para. 3 pt. 2 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on Research Institutes.

2. Art. 26–36 and Art. 41–81 shall apply to the partial qualifications referred to in para. 1.

Chapter 4

Requirements for entities conducting the validation and certification of market qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications System and the rules for attaining certification authority

Article 41. 1. The competent minister, by means of an administrative decision, grants certification authority for a given market qualification:

- 1) functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 2) about which the information referred to in Art. 26 para. 1 pt. 1, Art. 34 para. 1 and Art. 35 para. 3 was announced in the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.

2. An entity conducting business activities may apply for the authorisation to award a given market qualification if it:

- 1) ensures the organisational and staffing conditions that enable validation to be conducted in accordance with the requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 5;
- 2) meets the additional condition set forth in Article 25 para. 2 pt. 7;
- 3) has not ended or suspended its business activities, or has not had liquidation proceedings initiated against it, or has not declared bankruptcy;
- 4) has no arrears of taxes, social insurance payments, health insurance payments, and Labour Fund and Employee Wages Guarantee Fund payments, to the extent that it was obliged to pay them.

Article 42. 1. The application referred to in Art. 41 para 2 contains:

- 1) information on the entity referred to in Art. 41 para. 2:
 - a) name or firm or given name and surname, in the case of a natural person,
 - b) headquarters and address or address of residence and address for service, in the case of a natural person,
 - c) tax identification number (TIN), personal identification number PESEL or, in the case of a foreign person referred to in Art. 5, pt. 2 of the Act of 2 July 2004 on the Freedom of Economic Activity, a different number assigned for tax identification purposes in the country of headquarters or residence,
 - d) identification number in the national register of official entities of the national economy (REGON), if issued,
 - e) number in the register of entrepreneurs in the National Court Register (KRS) or the number in the Central Register and Information on Business, if issued,
 - f) identification of persons authorised to represent in the case when the entity is a legal person or organisational unit that is not a legal person, for which a separate law provides its legal capacity,
 - g) electronic mail address of the person submitting the application;
- 2) name of the market qualification to which the application pertains;
- 3) information on the organisational and staffing conditions and on the fulfilment of the additional conditions referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 7.

2. The following shall be attached to the application:

- 1) declarations of the following text:

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- a) "I declare that I have no arrears of taxes, social insurance payments, health insurance payments or Labour Fund and Employee Wages Guarantee Fund payments.",
 - b) "I declare that the information contained in the application to attain the authorisation to award a market qualification is true.";
- 2) proof of payment of the fee referred to in Art. 44 para. 1.
 3. The declarations referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 shall be authenticated using the mechanisms set forth in Art. 20a para. 1 or 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of the Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks.
 4. The declarations referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 are made under penalty of perjury. The person making the declaration is obliged to include a clause of the following text: "I am aware of the criminal liability for making a false declaration." This clause replaces the caveat of criminal responsibility for making false testimony.
 5. The application is submitted to the competent minister through the portal of the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 43. 1. A fee is charged for submitting the application referred to in Art. 41 para.

2. A fee in the amount of 10 000 PLN is paid to the bank account indicated by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System. The fee constitutes revenue of the national budget. The fee is non-refundable.

2. The amount referred to in para. 1 is subject to a five-year valorisation of the forecasted average annual price index of consumer goods and services, as defined in the budget acts for the given calendar year of the last five years.
3. Every five years, the minister responsible for school and character education announces in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski" the amount of the fee referred to in para. 1, applicable for the following five years, calculated pursuant to para. 2.

Article 44. 1. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register performs a formal assessment of the application referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 within 14 days of the submittal date of this application.

2. The formal assessment of the application consists of assessing its compliance with the requirements referred to in Art. 42 and Art. 43 para. 1.
3. If there is confirmation of a failure to meet the formal requirements, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately summon the entity referred to in Article. 41 para. 2 to remedy this within 30 days. The period referred to in para. 1 begins from the date the corrected application is submitted by the entity.

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4. If the failure to meet the formal requirements referred to in para. 3 is not remedied, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register immediately sends the application to the competent minister together with information on the scope of the failure to meet the formal requirements.
 5. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately send a formally correct application to the competent minister.
 6. The period referred to in Art. 35 para. 3 of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure begins from the day the competent minister receives the formally correct application referred to in para. 5.

Article 45. 1. The minister in charge of the department of government administration may, by means of a regulation, authorise the decisions referred to in Art. 41 para. 1 to be made by a subordinate or supervised body or director of an organisational unit, a professional self-governed body or body of an economic organisation, having regard to the effective conduct of the proceedings in issuing such decisions.

2. In the case of granting the authorisation referred to in para. 1, the competent minister is the proper authority to consider appeals against a first instance decision that has been issued.

Article 46. The awarding body pays a quarterly fee of 3% of the revenue collected from validation and certification fees, however, not less than PLN 1, from each document issued to confirm the awarding of the market qualification, which the body is authorised to award.

Article 47. 1. Validation is carried out by the awarding body in a manner consistent with the requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 5.

2. The awarding body may authorise another entity to perform validation if it ensures that validation is carried out in a manner consistent with the requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 5.
3. Authorisation of the entity referred to in para. 2 does not exempt the awarding body from responsibility for the propriety of the validation performed by that entity.
4. The awarding body provides detailed information on the website about how validation for a given market qualification is organised and conducted.

Article 48 1. The credits required for a given market qualification, acquired at different places and times, can be accumulated in stages and are the basis for awarding a qualification in the course of certification.

2. The credits, referred to in para. 1 and Art. 49, should be understood as distinguished sets of learning outcomes whose attainment has been confirmed through validation, and are part of the requirements for a given market qualification.

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3. The credits required for a given market qualification may be validated at different times and places if the validation requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 5 do not provide otherwise.

Article 49 1. In the course of certifying a given market qualification, the awarding body may recognize the credits accumulated from an already awarded qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System as equivalent to the credits that form part of the requirements for the given market qualification being certified, on the basis of a document confirming that the other qualification has been awarded.

2. In the course of certifying a given market qualification, the awarding body may recognize credits other than those referred to in para. 1 as equivalent to the credits that are part of the requirements for the given market qualification, if the attainment of those credits has been assessed in a validation process.
3. In the case referred to in para. 2, recognition of the credits is based on a discussion with the person having the given market qualification certified and on the basis of the assessment of the documentation presented by that person.
4. Credits recognized in the manner specified in para. 1 or 2 are not subject to re-validation.

Chapter 5

The quality assurance of the validation and certification of market qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications System

Article 50. 1. Validation and certification conducted by the awarding body shall be quality assured.

2. The quality assurance system of validation and certification consists of:
 - 1) an external quality assurance system;
 - 2) an internal quality assurance system.

Article 51. 1. The external quality assurance of validation and certification conducted by awarding bodies is performed by an entity implementing organised activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training that has been included in the list of entities authorised to function as external quality assurance entities for awarding bodies, hereinafter referred to as the "list".

2. The list is maintained by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System.
3. The list is made public on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 52. 1. Inclusion in the list of entities referred to in Art. 51 para. 1 occurs by an administrative decision, after recruitment to the list has been conducted.

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2. The decision referred to in para. 1 indicates the groups of market qualification from specific government departments, for which a given entity may function as an external quality assurance entity for awarding bodies.

Article 53. 1. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System announces recruitment to the list at least once every three years. Information about recruitment to the list is provided on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.

2. An application for inclusion in the list may be made by an entity referred to in Art. 51 para. 1 if it:
 - 1) has appropriately prepared staff to perform the tasks referred to in Art. 66;
 - 2) has an internal quality assurance system for the processes conducted;
 - 3) is not an awarding body for market qualifications belonging to the groups of qualifications referred to in Art. 52 para. 2;
 - 4) has at least 10 years of experience in implementing activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training;
 - 5) has not ended or suspended its business activities, or has not had liquidation proceedings initiated against it, or has not declared bankruptcy;
 - 6) has no arrears of taxes, social insurance payments, health insurance payments and Labour Fund and Employee Wages Guarantee Fund payments, to the extent that it was obliged to pay them.
3. The staff referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 is understood as employees who, as a team, have:
 - 1) general knowledge of the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 2) knowledge of the principles of validation and experience in validating learning outcomes attained through formal and non-formal education and informal learning;
 - 3) knowledge of the principles of internal and external quality assurance in the area of awarding market qualifications belonging to the groups of qualifications referred to in Art. 52 para. 2, and experience in performing evaluations or audits.

Article 54. 1. The application referred to in Art. 53 para 2 contains:

- 1) information on the entity referred to in Art. 51 para. 1:
 - a) name or firm or given name and surname, in the case of a natural person,
 - b) headquarters and address or address of residence and address for service, in the case of a natural person,

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- c) tax identification number (TIN), personal identification number PESEL or, in the case of a foreign person referred to in Art. 5, pt. 2 of the Act of 2 July 2004 on the freedom of economic activity, a different number assigned for tax identification purposes in the country of headquarters or residence,
 - d) identification number in the national register of official entities of the national economy (REGON), if issued,
 - e) number in the register of entrepreneurs in the National Court Register (KRS) or the number in the Central Register and Information on Business, if issued,
 - f) identification of persons authorised to represent in the case when the entity is a legal person or organisational unit that is not a legal person, for which a separate law provides its legal capacity,
 - g) electronic mail address of the person submitting the application;
- 2) identification of the groups of market qualifications from the specific departments of government administration referred to in Art. 52 para. 2, for which the entity is applying to function as an external quality assurance entity;
 - 3) the names and surnames of employees of the given entity, together with information on their education and professional experience in performing the tasks referred to in Art. 66;
 - 4) other information influencing the assessment of the ability of the given entity to perform the tasks of external quality assurance.
2. The following shall be attached to the application:
- 1) in the case of an entity that does not conduct economic activities – documents confirming fulfilment of the condition of implementing organised activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training, in particular, a statute, resolution, agreement or statement indicating the area in which the given entity operates;
 - 2) declarations of the following text:
 - a) "I declare that I have at least 10 years of experience in implementing activities in an area of the economy, labour market, education or training and have an internal quality assurance system in place for the processes being conducted."
 - b) "I declare that I have no arrears of taxes, payments for social insurance, health insurance, the Labour Fund and Employee Wages Guarantee Fund.",

c) "I declare that the information contained in the application for authorisation to award a given market qualification* is true.";

3) proof of payment of the fee referred to in Art. 55 para. 1.

3. The declarations referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 and 2 shall be authenticated using the mechanisms set forth in Art. 20a para. 1 or 2 of the Act of 17 February 2005 on the Computerization of Activities of Entities Performing Public Tasks.

4. The declarations referred to in para. 2 pt. 1 and 2 are made under penalty of perjury. The person making the declaration is obliged to include a clause of the following text: "I am aware of the criminal liability for making a false declaration." This clause replaces the caveat of criminal responsibility for making false testimony.

5. The application is submitted to the competent minister through the portal of the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 55. 1. A fee is charged for submitting the application referred to in Art. 53 para.

2. A fee in the amount of 2000 PLN is paid to the bank account indicated by the Minister Coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System. The fee constitutes revenue of the national budget. The fee is non-refundable.

2. The amount referred to in para. 1, is subject to a five-year valorisation of the forecasted average annual price index of consumer goods and services, as defined in the budget acts for the given calendar year of the last five years.

3. Every five years, the minister responsible for school and character education announces in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski" the amount of the fee referred to in para. 1, applicable for the following five years, calculated pursuant to para. 2.

Article 56. 1. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register performs a formal assessment of the application referred to in Art. 53 para. 2 within 14 days of the submittal date of this application.

2. The formal assessment of the application consists of assessing its compliance with the requirements referred to in Art. 54 and Art. 55 para. 1.

3. If there is confirmation of a failure to meet the formal requirements, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall immediately summon the applicant to remedy this within 30 days.

4. If the failure to meet the formal requirements is not remedied within the specified time period referred to in para. 3, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications

* Translator's note: This statement requires amending, as it should refer to being included in the list of external quality assurance entities, not to attaining the authorisation to award a qualification.

Register immediately sends the application to the competent minister together with information on the scope of the failure to meet the formal requirements.

5. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register immediately sends a formally correct application to the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System.
6. The period referred to in Art. 35 para. 3 of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure begins from the day the minister coordinator receives the formally correct application referred to in para. 5.

Article 57. 1. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System appoints a commission to assess the application referred to in Art. 53 para. 2.

1. The commission consists of:
 - 1) a representative of the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System, as chairperson of the commission;
 - 2) one representative of each competent minister for the departments of government administration referred to in Art. 54 para. para. 1 pt. 2;
 - 3) three representatives of the Stakeholders Council of the Integrated Qualifications System.
7. The commission presents the assessment of the applications to the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 58. 1. The given entity is included in the list for a period of six years.

2. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System may, of his/her own motion, extend the entry of the entity on the list once for a further six years if the given entity performs its external quality assurance function properly.
3. Before extending the entry referred to in para. 2, the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System shall consult the competent ministers of the departments of government administration referred to in Art. 52 para. 2.

Article 59. 1. If the administrative decision on granting certification authority to a given awarding body referred to in Art. 41 para. 1 is final, the competent minister shall indicate an external quality assurance entity from the list to be entrusted to perform external quality assurance for that awarding body.

2. No more than five entities included in the list may function as external quality assurance entity for the certification of a given qualification by the awarding bodies authorised to award that qualification.
3. When nominating an entity from the list, the competent minister shall take into account:

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- 1) the condition referred to in para. 2;
 - 2) the economic rationality and effectiveness of using existing resources;
 - 3) the principle of the even distribution of tasks among the listed entities.

Article 60. 1. The competent minister, by means of a contract, shall entrust the entity chosen from the list to fulfil the function of performing external quality assurance for the awarding body.

2. Entities entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance for the awarding bodies of a given market qualification are obliged to cooperate to ensure a consistent standard of quality in the certification of the given market qualification.
3. An entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance may terminate the contract referred to in para. 1 for significant reasons with a three-month period of notice.
4. The competent minister immediately informs the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register about the termination or expiration of the contract referred to in para. 1.
5. The minister responsible for school and character education shall determine by means of a regulation:
 - 1) the commission's bylaws, referred to in Art. 57 para. 1,
 - 2) a model of the contract referred to in para. 1,
 - 3) the method of determining the amount of remuneration under the contract referred to in para. 1 for the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance for the given awarding body, the period for which the contract may be concluded, and the detailed conditions for termination or expiration of the contract
 - taking into account the need to ensure the smooth conduct, proper and effective performance of external quality assurance tasks, and differences in the external quality assurance resulting from the specificity of the particular qualifications.
6. To the extent not regulated by the Act, the provisions of the Act of April 23, 1964 – The Civil Code (Journal of Laws of 2017 item 459) on service contracts shall apply to the contract referred to in para. 1.

Article 61. 1. The market qualification is considered to be functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System as of the date of concluding the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1.

2. The competent minister shall immediately inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register that a given market qualification has begun functioning in the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 62. The awarding body begins the certification of a given market qualification from the date the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1 is concluded.

Article 63. 1. The awarding body develops and uses an internal quality assurance system.

2. The internal quality assurance system encompasses the rules of conduct, procedures, methods and organisational mechanisms for ensuring the propriety of validation and certification, as well as for improving validation and certification.

3. The internal quality assurance system of the awarding body consists of, in particular:

- 1) solutions ensuring the separation of education and training processes from validation;
- 2) continuous monitoring and ongoing assessment of validation and certification;
- 3) internal evaluation of validation and certification.

4. The entity authorised to carry out validation referred to in Art. 47 para. 2 shall have an internal quality assurance system.

Article 64. 1. The awarding body performs an internal evaluation for each market qualification that it is authorised to award at least once every three years.

2. The awarding body prepares an internal evaluation report, containing:

- 1) an analysis of the documentation from the course of validation and certification;
- 2) an assessment of the validation methods used in terms of their compliance with the requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 5 and the relevance of the methods and criteria used;
- 3) information about the activities undertaken to improve validation and certification methods;
- 4) information on the activities undertaken to improve the internal quality assurance system.

3. The awarding body shall send the internal evaluation report without delay to the entity entrusted with performing its external quality assurance activities and to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 65. 1. At the end of each quarter, the awarding body shall provide information to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register on:

- 1) the number of documents issued confirming the awarding of specific qualifications;
- 2) the amount of the fees for validation and certification;
- 3) the amount of income received in the given quarter from fees for validation and certification.

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2. The provided information referred to in para. 1 is current to the day it is submitted.
 3. The information referred to in para. 1 pt. 2 is provided to the public on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 66. The external quality assurance of awarding bodies shall consist of:

- 1) monitoring the internal quality assurance system used in a given awarding body;
- 2) monitoring compliance by a given awarding body with the requirements referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1–3;
- 3) performing an external evaluation of the validation and certification conducted by a given awarding body, as well as the functioning of the internal quality assurance system of the given awarding body.

Article 6. The external quality assurance entity monitors the internal quality assurance system referred to in Art. 66 pt. 1 used in a given awarding body by analysing:

- 1) reports from the internal evaluations referred to in Art. 64 para. 2;
- 2) the information referred to in Art. 65 para 1;
- 3) the activity reports referred to in Art. 76 para 1;
- 4) the notifications referred to in Art. 77.

Article 68. 1. The external quality assurance entity prepares an external quality assurance report of the given awarding body encompassing the scope referred to in Art. 66.

2. The external quality assurance report of a given awarding body consists of:
 - 1) the results of the verification that the given awarding body is complying with the requirements referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1 and 2;
 - 2) an analysis of the validation and certification conducted by the given awarding body;
 - 3) an analysis and assessment of the functioning of the internal quality assurance system of the given awarding body;
 - 4) a description of the irregularities detected in the activities conducted by the awarding body, if such were confirmed, as well as the scope, causes and effects of the confirmed irregularities;
 - 5) recommendations of changes for the purpose of improving the quality of validation and certification conducted by the given awarding body, as well as the functioning of its internal quality assurance system.
3. The external quality assurance entity shall immediately send the external quality assurance report on the given awarding body to the given awarding body and the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 69. 1. To the extent necessary to implement the tasks referred to in Art. 66 pt. 2 and 3:

- 1) the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance may demand that the awarding body provide information and access to the documentation in its possession;
- 2) persons designated by the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance, after prior notification to the awarding body, have the right:
 - a) to enter the headquarters of the awarding body or the places where it conducts activities and to the places where validation is performed to assess the compliance of the awarding body with the requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 5 and Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1 and 2,
 - b) to participate as an observer in the tasks relating to validation conducted by the awarding body.

2. The person designated by the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance shall prepare minutes of the activities referred to in para. 1 pt. 2. The minutes are signed by that person, as well as by a person representing the awarding body.

Article 70. The entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance for a given awarding body shall immediately notify the competent minister of any irregularities found in the activities of the awarding body, as well as the non-compliance of the awarding body with the conditions referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1–3.

Article 71. 1. Every three years, the external quality assurance entity presents a report to the competent ministers of the departments of government administration, referred to in Art. 52 para. 2, on the performance of external quality assurance tasks for the specific groups of market qualifications of those departments of government administration, which includes:

- 1) a list of activities carried out in the performance of its function as an external quality assurance entity for specific awarding bodies;
- 2) the conclusions of the external evaluations of specific awarding bodies;
- 3) information on the scope and results of the cooperation referred to in Art. 60 para. 2.

2. The external quality assurance entity shall submit the report referred to in para. 1 to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 72. 1. The external quality assurance entity is obliged to immediately notify the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System and the competent minister about:

- 1) failure to meet the conditions referred to in Art. 53 para. 2 pt. 1 and 2, as well as the actions taken to fulfil these requirements;
 - 2) the termination or suspension of undertaking business activities, as well as the initiation of liquidation or announcement of bankruptcy.
2. the termination or suspension of undertaking business activities, or the initiation of liquidation or announcement of bankruptcy of a given entity results, by the power of law, in the expiration of the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1 relating to specific awarding bodies. As regards those awarding bodies, the competent minister is obliged to immediately indicate an external quality assurance entity from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1.
3. The external quality assurance entity is obliged to immediately inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register about the change of information referred to in Art. 83 para. 1 pt. 4 letter a.

Article 73. 1. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System, at the request of the competent minister or on his/her own initiative, may conduct an inspection of the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance for specific groups of market qualifications of the specific departments of government administration referred to in Art. 52 para. 2 on the propriety of the performance of external quality assurance tasks.

2. On the basis of the results of the inspection, the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System is entitled to summon the entity, under pain of its removal from the list, to remedy the irregularities found in the performance of external quality assurance tasks within a prescribed period of time.
3. The provisions of the Act of 15 July 2011 on Control in Government Administration shall apply to the inspection referred to in para. 1 (Journal of Laws item 1092).

Article 74. 1. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System, at his/her own initiative or at the request of a competent minister, shall remove an external quality assurance entity from the list if:

- 1) the entity has twice refused to conclude the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1;
- 2) the given entity has not remedied the confirmed irregularities within the time limit referred to in Art. 73 para. 2;

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- 3) contrary to the obligation referred to in Art. 70, the entity has not notified that irregularities were found at an awarding body or that an awarding body no longer meets the requirements referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 points 1–3;
 - 4) the given entity has ceased to meet the conditions referred to in Art. 53 para. 2 pt. 1–3 and 5.
2. Removal from the list is made by an administrative decision. The decision is immediately enforceable.
 3. Removal from the list results, by the power of law, in the expiration of the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1 with specific awarding bodies. As regards those awarding bodies, the competent minister is obliged to immediately indicate an external quality assurance entity from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1.
 4. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System shall immediately inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register of the administrative decision referred to in para. 2.

Chapter 6

Supervision of the validation and certification of market qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications System

Article 75. Supervision of the validation and certification of market qualifications is conducted by the competent ministers.

Article 76. 1. The awarding body shall submit a report on its activities to the competent minister at least once every two years.

2. The first report shall include:
 - 1) information confirming the compliance of the awarding body with the requirements referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1 and 2;
 - 2) a description of the significant elements of validation;
 - 3) a description of the significant elements of the functioning of the internal quality assurance system.
3. Successive reports on activities include:
 - 1) the changes that took place in relation to the previous report within the scope referred to in para. 2;
 - 2) conclusions from the internal evaluation referred to in Art. 64 para. 1, if an internal evaluation was performed during the period since the submittal of the previous report;

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- 3) the conclusions of the external evaluation referred to in Art. 68 para. 1, if an external evaluation was performed during the period since the submittal of the previous report;
 - 4) information on the actions taken on the basis of the conclusions of the internal evaluation and external evaluation, if the evaluations were performed in the period since the submittal of the previous report;
 - 5) information on meeting the obligation referred to in Art. 77.
4. The report of activities of the awarding body shall also be submitted to the external quality assurance entity and the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 77. 1. The awarding body is obliged to immediately notify the competent minister, the entity entrusted with the function of performing its external quality assurance, and the entity managing the Integrated Qualifications Register about:

- 1) the failure to meet the conditions referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 1 and 2, as well as the actions taken to fulfil these requirements;
 - 2) the termination or suspension of business activities and the initiation of liquidation or announcement of bankruptcy.
2. The termination or suspension of business activities, or the initiation of liquidation or announcement of bankruptcy by the awarding body results, by the power of law, in the expiration of certification authority and, by the power of law, in the expiration of the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1 with respect to that awarding body.
3. The awarding body is obliged to immediately inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register about changes to the information referred to in Art. 83 para. 1 pt. 3 letter a, as well as about the granting of authority referred to in Art. 47 para. 2.

Article 78. 1. If there is substantiated suspicion of serious irregularities in the certification process conducted by the awarding body, the competent minister may:

- 1) commission the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance for the awarding body to conduct an extraordinary external evaluation;
 - 2) conduct an inspection of the given awarding body.
2. The external quality assurance entity shall prepare the external evaluation report referred to in para. 1 pt. 1, which presents the established facts, including confirmed irregularities in the activities of the awarding body, and defines recommended corrective actions to improve the validation and certification conducted by the awarding body or states that validation and certification are being properly conducted by the awarding body.

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- Article 79.** 1. The competent minister may conduct an inspection at the premises of the awarding body or at its place of business, demand the documentation in the possession of the awarding body and request the awarding body to provide information relating to the organisation and the course of validation and certification.
2. The competent minister shall notify the awarding body of its intention to conduct an inspection not later than 7 days before the date of commencing the inspection.
 3. The inspection shall be conducted by the person or persons appointed by the competent minister on the basis of a personal authorisation issued by the competent minister and upon presentation of their employee identification card.
 4. An inspector shall be excluded from participating in the inspection at his/her request or ex officio, if the inspection could concern his/her rights or obligations, the rights or obligations of his/her spouse, the person actually living with him/her, relatives or relatives to the second degree or person related by means of adoption, care or guardianship. The reasons for the exclusion continue despite the cessation of marriage, common habitation, adoption, care or guardianship.
 5. Prior to the commencement of the inspection, the inspector shall submit a written declaration on the absence or existence of circumstances justifying his/her exclusion from the inspection.
 6. The inspector is also subject to exclusion in the event of circumstances arising during the inspection that could cause reasonable doubt as to his/her impartiality.
 7. The competent minister shall decide about the exclusion referred to in para. 4 and 6.
 8. The inspector shall have the right to enter the premises where the awarding body operates to inspect the records in the possession of the awarding body, to make copies of the documentation, and to demand oral or written explanations.
 9. Inspection activities shall be carried out in the presence of an authorised representative of the awarding body, hereinafter referred to as the "authorised person". The authorised person is obliged to give the inspector all the information he/she needs and to ensure the conditions of an efficient inspection.
 10. The inspector shall prepare an inspection protocol, which shall contain:
 - 1) the name of the awarding body and its contact details;
 - 2) the first name, surname and position of the person conducting the inspection;
 - 3) start and end date of inspection activities;
 - 4) location of the inspection;
 - 5) scope of the inspection;

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- 6) a description of the determined facts, including confirmed irregularities in the activities of the awarding body;
 - 7) scope, causes and consequences of the confirmed irregularities;
 - 8) names, surnames and functions of the persons responsible for the irregularities, and whether the irregularities found are serious;
 - 9) recommended corrective actions;
 - 10) a statement on the rights, procedure and deadline for objecting to the findings contained in the inspection protocol and on the right to refuse to sign this protocol.
11. The inspection protocol is signed by the inspector and the authorised person. In the case when the authorised person refuses to sign the protocol, the inspector shall record this fact in the protocol.
 12. An authorised person has the right to submit a written substantiated objection to the findings contained in the inspection protocol within 7 days from the date of its receipt.
 13. Within 7 days from the date of objecting to the findings contained in the inspection protocol, the competent minister shall inform the authorised person in writing of whether full or partial or no consideration will be given to those objections, together with the reasons for doing so.
 14. When it is determined that the objections to the findings contained in the inspection protocol are well founded in whole or in part, the inspector shall amend or supplement the inspection protocol.
 15. In the event of rejecting all of the objections to the findings of the inspection protocol, the inspector shall make no changes to the inspection protocol.
 16. In the absence of specific provisions in para. 1–15, the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Act of 2 July 2004 on the Freedom of Economic Activity shall apply.

Article 80. 1. As a result of the external evaluation referred to in Art. 78 para. 2, or as a result of the inspection referred to in Art. 79, the competent minister may set a deadline by which the awarding body is required to take corrective actions on pain of revoking certification authority for a given qualification.

2. The competent minister shall, by administrative decision, revoke the certification authority of the awarding body for a given market qualification if:
 - 1) documents awarding the specific qualification have been issued by the awarding body to persons who have not passed a proper validation process;
 - 2) the awarding body no longer fulfils the conditions referred to in Art. 41 para. 2 pt. 2 and 3;

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- 3) the awarding body has not taken corrective actions within the time limit referred to in para. 1;
 - 4) as a result of the external evaluation referred to in Art. 78 para. 2, or as a result of the inspection referred to in Art. 79, serious irregularities were confirmed in the awarding body.
3. The administrative decisions referred to in para. 2 are immediately enforced.
 4. The competent minister shall immediately inform the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register of the administrative decisions referred to in para. 2.
 5. The issuance of the decisions referred to in para. 2 results, by the power of law, in the expiration of the contract referred to in Art. 60 para. 1, with regard to the awarding body whose authority has been revoked.

Article 81. In matters not regulated in the Act by Art. 41–45, Art. 51–58, Art. 74 and Art. 80, the provisions of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure shall apply.

Chapter 7

The Integrated Qualifications Register

- Article 82.** 1. The Integrated Qualifications Register is developed. The Integrated Qualifications Register is made available through the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.
2. The Integrated Qualifications Register is an open register.
 3. Information for the Integrated Register of Qualifications is provided by an information technology system.

<Article 82a The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register is the Educational Research Institute in Warsaw.>

The added Art. 82a enters into force on 1.01.2018 (Journal of Laws of 2017 item 1475).

Article 83. 1. Information on market qualifications is collected in the Integrated Qualifications Register:

- 1) general information about the qualification:
 - a) name of the qualification referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 1,
 - b) name of the document confirming that the qualification has been awarded, as well as the period of its validity, and if needed, the conditions of its renewal, referred to in Art. 25 para 2 pt. 2,
 - c) level of the Polish Qualifications Framework assigned to the qualification, referred to in Art. 25, para. 2 pt. 3,

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- d) reference to the level of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 3, provided that a relevant sectoral framework exists and is included in the Integrated Qualifications System,
 - e) the notional workload referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter c, expressed in hours, needed to attain the qualification,
 - f) a brief description of the features of the qualification, including information on the activities or tasks that a person is able to do with the qualification, referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter d,
 - g) entitlements/powers conferred by having attained the qualification, referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter e,
 - h) information on the groups of persons who may be interested in attaining the qualification, referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter f,
 - i) the conditions required of a person to proceed with validation, referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 8,
 - j) the requirements for validation and the entities conducting validation, referred to in 25 para. 2 pt. 5,
 - k) additional conditions to be met by entities applying for certification authority pursuant to Art. 14 para. 2 or Art. 41 para. 1, referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 7,
 - l) the need for the qualification, presented in the context of labour market trends, new technology developments, needs of society, as well as national or regional development strategies, referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter i,
 - m) typical uses of the qualification referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter j,
 - n) a reference to qualifications of a similar nature and an indication of the qualifications included in the Integrated Qualifications Register containing common sets of learning outcomes, referred to in Art. 15 para. 1 pt. 2 letter k,
 - o) summary of opinions received during the consultation of the application, referred to in Art. 19 para. 1,
 - p) additional requirements referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 6,
 - q) the date of reviewing qualifications, referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 9,
 - r) the authorisation granted, referred to in Art. 47 para. 2;

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- 2) the learning outcomes required for the qualification, referred to in Art. 25 para. 2 pt. 4;
 - 3) information on the awarding body:
 - a) the information referred to in Art. 42 para. 1 pt. 1 letters a–f,
 - b) date of granting certification authority,
 - c) date of revoking certification authority, the expiration date of this authority;
 - 4) information on the entity entrusted with the function of performing external quality assurance for the awarding body referred to in point 3;
 - a) information referred to in Art. 54 para. 1 pt. 1 letters a–f,
 - b) date of removal from the list,
 - 5) date of termination or expiration of the contract referred to in Art. 60 para 1;
 - 6) date of inclusion of the qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 7) qualification code in the Integrated Qualifications Register;
 - 8) name or business name or given name and surname, in the case of a natural person, that applied to have the market qualification included in the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 9) information on the status of the qualification: functioning qualification, suspended qualification, archival qualification.
2. The Integrated Qualifications Register collects information on the full qualifications referred to in Art. 8 pt. 1–8, and qualifications specified for a given profession/occupation referred to in Art. 3 pt. 19 of the Act of 7 September 1991 on the School Education System, in the scope referred to in para. 1 pt. 1 letters a–c, letter i, pt. 2 and 3 letter a.
 3. The Integrated Qualifications Register shall collect information on the full qualifications referred to in Art. 8 pt. 9–11:
 - 1) information on the higher education institution and its basic organisational unit, the fields of higher education offered by these units provided at a specific level and educational profile, information on the organisational units authorised to confer the doctoral degree as defined by the Act of 14 March 2003 on Academic Degrees and the Academic Title, as well as Degrees and the Title in the Field of the Fine Arts (Journal of Laws of 2016 items 882 and 1311) and information on the units authorised to conduct doctoral studies;

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- 2) the name of the professional title conferred after completion of higher education in a specific field, the level and profile of the education and the doctoral degree confirming the attainment of a third cycle qualification;
 - 3) addresses of the websites of the entities referred to in pt. 1.
4. The competent minister for school and character education shall, in agreement with the competent minister for higher education, determine, by means of a regulation, the scope of information collected in the Integrated Qualifications Register referred to in Art. 13 para. 1, taking into account the relevant information referred to in para. 1, and the requirements of the information technology system of the Integrated Qualifications Register.
 5. The provisions of para. 1 shall apply accordingly to statutory qualifications, qualifications certified by master's diplomas and journeyman's certificates issued after conducting the examinations for the occupations referred to in Art. 3 para. 3a of the Act of 22 March 1989 on the Craft Trades, as well as the qualifications awarded after the completion of continuing education courses and training referred to in Art. 6 para. 1 pt. 5 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education, other forms of education referred to in Art. 2 para. 2 pt. 3 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences, and other forms of education, including the training and continuing education courses referred to in Art. 2 para. 3 pt. 2 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on Research Institutes.

Article 84. 1. The competent minister shall provide information on market qualifications referred to in Art. 83 para. 1 pt. 1 letters e–h and l–o and pt. 3–5, 7 and 8 to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register, together with the information referred to in Art. 25 para. 4, Art. 30, Art. 34 para. 2, Art. 35 para. 3 and 5, Art. 60 para. 4, Art. 61 para. 2 and Art. 80 para. 4, except for the information referred to in Art. 83 para. 1 pt. 4 letter b, which is sent by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System together with the information referred to in Art. 74 para. 4.

2. The minister responsible for school and character education shall provide the information on full and partial qualifications referred to in Art. 83 para. 2 to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register.
3. Information on the full qualifications referred to in:
 - 1) Art. 83 para. 3 pt. 1 and 2, contained in the Integrated Information System on Science and Higher Education "POL-on" – is provided to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register by the minister responsible for higher education or the minister responsible for science;
 - 2) Art. 83 para. 3 pt. 3 – is provided to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register by the entities referred to in Art. 83 para. 3 pt. 1.

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4. Information on partial qualifications referred to in Art. 13 para. 1, within the scope defined in the regulation issued pursuant to Art. 83 para. 4, is provided to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register by higher education institutions, scientific institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and research institutes.
 5. Information on statutory qualifications is provided to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register by the competent minister, together with the information referred to in Art. 38 para. 5, and if the certification authority for a given statutory qualification is granted pursuant to Art. 41 para. 1, or if the external quality assurance entity has been appointed from the list pursuant to Art. 59 para. 1 – also respective to the information referred to in Art. 60 para. 4, Art. 61 para. 2 and Art. 80 para. 4, except for the information referred to in Art. 83 para. 1 pt. 4 letter b, which is submitted by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System together with the information referred to in Art. 74 para. 4.
 6. Information on qualifications confirmed by master's diplomas and journeyman's certificates issued after conducting the examinations for the occupations referred to in Art. 3 para. 3a of the Act of 22 March 1989 on the Craft Trades is provided to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register by the competent minister, together with the information referred to in Art. 25 para. 4, Art. 30, Art. 34 para. 2, Art. 35 para. 3 and 5, and Art. 37 para. 6.
 7. Information on qualifications awarded after the completion of continuous education and training referred to in Art. 6 para. 1 pt. 5 of the Act of 27 July 2005 – Law on Higher Education, other forms of education referred to in Art. 2 para. 2 pt. 3 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences, and other forms of education, including training and continuing education courses referred to in Art. 2 para. 3 pt. 2 of the Act of 30 April 2010 on Research Institutes, is provided to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register by the competent minister, together with the information referred to in Art. 25 para. 4, Art. 30, Art. 34 para. 2, Art. 35 para. 3 and 5, Art. 60 para. 4, Art. 61 para. 2 and Art. 80 para. 4, except for the information referred to in Art. 83 para. 1 pt. 4 letter b, which is provided by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System together with the information referred to in Art. 74 para. 4.

Article 85. The minister responsible for school and character education shall specify, by means of a regulation, the technical requirements to be fulfilled by the application for sending information to the Integrated Qualifications Register through an information technology system, taking into account the use of this application to handle the procedures provided for in the Act and the needs of different groups of citizens, employers, training institutions, labour market institutions, and public authorities concerning information about qualifications.

Article 86. In accordance with the regulations set forth in separate provisions, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall be authorised to access data

relating to qualifications contained in public registers and in the possession of public administrations and public institutions, except that if separate provisions foresee a fee to acquire such information, the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register is not charged.

Article 87. 1. The tasks of the entity operating the Integrated Register of Qualifications include:

- 1) making entries in the Integrated Qualifications Register and updating entries in the Integrated Qualifications Register within the scope defined in Art. 83;
 - 2) conducting the formal assessment of the applications referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 and 2, Art. 31 para. 1, Art. 41 para 2 and Art. 53 para. 2;
 - 3) assisting the entity referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 in determining the competent minister to assess the application referred to in Art. 14 para. 1;
 - 4) cooperating with the minister coordinator in determining the competent ministers for the assessment of the applications referred to in Art. 14 para. 1;
 - 5) notifying the entities, which have been granted certification authority for a given market qualification, about modifications to the given market qualification referred to in Art. 27 para. 4 pt. 2, and about the change in status of a given market qualification to an archival qualification, as referred to in Art. 27 para. 4 pt. 3;
 - 6) operating the section of the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System relating to the Integrated Qualifications Register;
 - 7) facilitating dialogue and interaction between the various stakeholders of the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 8) organising the exchange of experiences in the field of qualifications;
 - 9) disseminating knowledge about the Integrated Qualifications System, in particular through the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System;
 - 10) storing, for a period of twelve years, the internal evaluation reports referred to in Art. 64 para. 2, the external quality assurance reports referred to in Art. 68 para. 1, and the activity reports referred to in Art. 71 para. 1 and Art. 76 para. 1.
2. The entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall make available the reports referred to in para. 1 pt. 10 to the competent ministers, the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System, and the Stakeholders Council of the Integrated Qualifications System, upon their request.

Article 88. 1. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System supervises the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register within the scope of the performed tasks referred to in Art. 87 para. 1.

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2. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System shall provide funds to the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register in the form of a special grant for the implementation of the tasks referred to in Art. 87 para. 1.

Chapter 8

Coordinating the operation of the Integrated Qualifications System

Article 89. 1. The tasks of the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System are:

- 1) to design detailed organisational and technical solutions for the Integrated Qualifications System, taking into account the directions of development of the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 2) to support the process of determining the competent ministers who should consider the applications referred to in Art. 14 para. 1 relating to specific market qualifications;
- 3) to monitor the functioning of the Integrated Qualifications System, including research on the professional careers of persons with qualifications awarded in the school education system;
- 4) to prepare reports on the Integrated Qualifications System at the request of the Council of Ministers;
- 5) to ensure support to the Stakeholders Council of the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 6) to disseminate information about the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 7) to operate the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.

[2. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System may authorise the Educational Research Institute to perform the tasks referred to in para. 1.]

<2. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System may authorise the Educational Research Institute to perform the tasks referred to in para. 1, except for the tasks referred to in para. 1 pt. 3 relating to monitoring the operation of the Integrated Qualifications Register by the Educational Research Institute in Warsaw.>

The amendment of para. 2 in Art. 89 shall enter into force on 1.01.2018 (Journal of Laws of 2017 item 1475).

Article 90. A Stakeholders Council of the Integrated Qualifications System, attached to the minister coordinator, is the consultative and advisory body for the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System, hereinafter referred to as the "Stakeholders Council".

Article 91. The Stakeholders Council shall perform the following tasks:

- 1) support the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System in ensuring the coherence and comparability of the solutions for the Integrated Qualifications System and guide the development of the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 2) monitor the functioning of the Integrated Qualifications System and analyse and exchange experiences in this field;
- 3) provide opinions on the premises and drafts of legal acts in the area of the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 4) present to the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System and to the competent ministers questions concerning the functioning of qualifications in the Integrated Qualifications System, as well as suggestions for improvements to the systemic solutions relating to the Integrated Qualifications System;
- 5) express opinions as referred to in Art. 11 para. 3 pt. 6 and Art. 21 para. 4.

Article 92. The Stakeholders Council shall consist of representatives of:

- 1) the Polish Chamber of Commerce – 2 persons;
- 2) the representative employers' organisations referred to in Art. 24 para. 2 of the Act of 24 July 2015 on the Social Dialogue Council and other social dialogue institutions (Journal of Laws item 1240) – 2 persons from each organisation;
- 3) the representative trade union organisations referred to in Art. 23 para. 2 of the Act of 24 July 2015 on the Social Dialogue Council and other social dialogue institutions – two representatives of each organisation;
- 4) the Conference of Rectors of Polish Academic Schools – 2 persons;
- 5) the Conference of Rectors of Polish Vocational Schools – 2 persons;
- 5a) the Conference of Rectors of Public Vocational Schools – 2 persons;
- 6) the Central Examination Board – 2 persons;
- 7) entities conducting non-formal education activities – 2 persons;
- 8) parties of the self-governed Joint Commission of Government and Territorial Self-Government referred to in Art. 5 para. 1 of the Act of 6 May 2005 on the Joint Commission of Government and Territorial Self-Government and on the representatives of the Republic of Poland in the Committee of the Regions of the European Union (Journal of Laws item 759) – 4 persons;
- 9) minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System – 2 persons.

Article 93. 1. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System appoints the members of the Stakeholders Council at the request of the entities referred to in Art. 92 pt. 1–8.

2. The term of office of a member of the Stakeholders Council is four years.
3. After the expiration of the term of office, the entity referred to in Art. 92 pt. 1–8 may apply for a one-time extension of the term of office as a member of the Stakeholders Council.
4. The minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System at the request of the entity referred to in Art. 92 pt. 1–8 may dismiss a member of the Stakeholders Council representing that entity during his/her term of office. A new member of the Stakeholders Council shall be appointed to serve the term of office of the dismissed member.
5. After expiration of the term of office of the member referred to in para. 4, the entity referred to in Art. 92 pt. 1–8 may apply for the appointment of that member for another term of office.

Article 94. 1. The Stakeholders Council elects a chairperson and 2–5 vice-chairpersons for a two-year term.

2. The chairperson and the vice-chairpersons shall be elected by a secret ballot of a simple majority in the presence of at least half of the members of the Stakeholders Council.
3. The provisions of para. 2 shall apply to the dismissal of the chairperson and the vice-chairpersons.
4. The chairperson and the vice-chairpersons shall be selected from among candidates with at least two years of service in the Stakeholders Council.

Article 95 1. The Stakeholders Council meets in plenary sessions and in working groups.

2. The members of the Stakeholders Council participate in the work of the Stakeholders Council in person.
3. At the invitation of the chairperson, representatives of interested parties other than those referred to in Art. 92 may participate in the work of the Stakeholders Council, without the right to vote.
4. Representatives of the entity operating the Integrated Qualifications Register shall participate in the work of the Stakeholder Council, without the right to vote.
5. Representatives of the competent minister and representatives of the interested entity that submitted the application referred to in Art. 11 para. 2 shall be invited to participate in the meeting in which the Stakeholders Council develops the opinion referred to in Art. 11 para. 3 pt. 6.

Article 96. 1. The Stakeholders Council prepares its bylaws and presents them to the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System for acceptance.

2. The bylaws specify in particular:

- 1) the manner in which the Stakeholders Council acts and the manner in which the Stakeholders Council makes its decisions;
- 2) the procedure for selecting the representatives of the Stakeholders Council in the commission referred to in Art. 57 para. 1 and other bodies, and the manner of determining their mandate;
- 3) the principles and procedures for preparing the opinion referred to in Art. 11 para. 3 pt. 6 by the Stakeholders Council, taking into account the participation of experts outside the relevant industry or sector in the process of comparing Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks with the Polish Qualifications Framework.

Chapter 9

Amendments to the regulations in force

Art. 97–103 (omitted)²⁾

Chapter 10

Transitional and final provisions

Article 104 1. Qualifications established by separate regulations may be included in the Integrated Qualifications System, regardless of the term used to define the given qualification in the provisions of the law governing it on the date the Act enters into force, which are awarded in accordance with the provisions governing the given qualification, except for qualifications awarded in the school education system and higher education system.

2. Within five years from the date the Act enters into force, the competent ministers shall review the qualifications referred to in para. 1 in terms of their status effective on the date the Act entered into force, for the purpose of identifying the qualifications that should be included in the Integrated Qualifications System.
3. In the period referred to in para. 2, the competent minister may include in the Integrated Qualifications System the qualifications referred to in para. 1 that do not meet the requirements specified in Art. 38 para. 1, if it is possible to:

²⁾ Published in the announcement of the Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of 21 April 2017 on the publication of the uniform text of the Act on the Integrated Qualifications System (Journal of Laws item 986).

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- 1) assign a level of the Polish Qualifications Framework to the given qualification pursuant to Art. 21;
 - 2) indicate an awarding body for the given qualification.
4. The competent minister, by means of an announcement, informs about the level of the Polish Qualifications Framework assigned to the qualification referred to in para. 3, and about the inclusion of this qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System. The announcement is publicised in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski". The provisions of Art. 38 para. 4 and 5 shall apply.
 5. The competent minister is obliged to adapt the qualification referred to in para. 3 to the requirements referred to in Art. 38 para. 1 and Art. 39 within a period of three years from the date of publicising the announcement referred to in para. 4.
 6. A qualification referred to in para. 3 that has not been adapted is given the status of archival qualification, referred to in Art. 27 para. 4 pt. 3, in the Integrated Qualifications Register. The provisions of Art. 29–34 shall not be applied.

Article 105 During the five year period from the date the Act enters into force, Art. 17 para. 1 shall not be applied to the review of the applications referred to in Art. 37 para. 1 if the standards of the examination requirements referred to in Art. 3 para. 3a of the Act of 22 March 1989 on the Craft Trades take into account the learning outcomes required for those qualifications, described pursuant to Art. 9 para. 1 pt. 1.

Article 106 1. The portal of the Integrated Qualifications System and the Integrated Qualifications Register shall begin operating no later than six months after the Act enters into force.

2. The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development undertakes organisational and technical activities aimed at ensuring the functioning of the Integrated Qualifications Register.

Article 107 Applications for including market qualification in the Integrated Qualifications System referred to in Art. 14 para 1, applications for certification authority referred to in Art. 14 para. 2 and Art. 41 para. 2, and applications for inclusion in the list referred to in Art. 53 para. 2 may be submitted six months after the Act enters into force.

Article 108 1. The first group of Stakeholders Council members shall be appointed by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System not later than six months after the Act enters into force.

2. The term of office of half of the first group of Stakeholders Council members representing the entities referred to in Art. 92 lasts two years.

3. After two years, half of the members referred to in para. 2 are appointed pursuant to Art. 93 para. 2.

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4. During the first term of the Stakeholders Council, the duties of the chairperson shall be fulfilled by a member of the Stakeholders Council appointed by the minister coordinator of the Integrated Qualifications System.
 5. In the first two years of the activities of the Stakeholders Council, the requirement referred to in Art. 94 para. 4 shall not apply to the candidates for chairperson and vice-chairperson.

Article 109 The provisions of Art. 24 para. 8 of the Act amended in Art. 98, as amended, do not apply to the assignment of a Polish Qualifications Framework level to the qualifications specified for the occupations listed in the classification of vocational education occupations effective on the date the Act enters into force.

Article 110 1. The minister responsible for school and character education, in agreement with the minister responsible for higher education and the minister responsible for culture and the protection of national heritage, will define, by means of a regulation, the Polish Qualifications Framework levels for the full qualifications referred to in Art. 8 pt. 1–7 and pt. 9–11, awarded from the date of entry into force of:

- 1) the Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 23 December 2008 on the core curriculum of pre-school education and general education in specific types of schools (Journal of Laws of 2009 item 17),
- 2) the Regulation of the Minister of National Education of Monday, 27 August 2012 on the core curriculum of pre-school education and general education in specific types of schools (Journal of Laws item 977 and of 2014 item 803),
- 3) the Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 7 February 2012 on the core curriculum of vocational education (Journal of Laws item 184 and of 2015 items 130 and 1123),
- 4) the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 2 November 2011 on the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (Journal of Laws item 1520),
- 5) the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 29 September 2011 on the standards of education for veterinary studies and architecture (Journal of Laws item 1233),
- 6) the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 17 January 2012 on the standards of education preparing for the teaching profession (Journal of Laws item 131),
- 7) the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9 May 2012 on the education standards for the study programmes in medicine, medical–dental, pharmacy, nursing and midwifery (Journal of Laws item 631),

8) the Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 2 July 2014 on the core curricula of fine arts education in public fine arts schools (Journal of Laws item 1039)

– until the date the Act enters into force, taking into account the learning outcomes defined in those regulations for specific full qualifications.

2. Information on the Polish Qualifications Framework level for the qualifications referred to in para. 1 is placed on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.
3. Information on the Polish Qualifications Framework level for qualifications confirmed by a diploma of completion of a teaching college and a diploma of completion of a teaching college of foreign languages referred to in Art. 8 pt. 8 is placed on the portal of the Integrated Qualifications System.

Article 111 The existing implementing rules issued pursuant to:

- 1) Art. 3 para. 4 of the Act amended in Art. 97 shall remain in force until the date the implementing rules issued pursuant to Article 3 para. 4 of the Act amended in Art. 97 enter into force, as amended, no later than twelve months after the Act enters into force;
- 2) Art. 9f para. 4 of the Act Amended in Art. 98 shall remain in force until the date the implementing rules issued pursuant to Article 9f para. 4 of the Act amended in Art. 98 enter into force, as amended, no later than 1 October 2016;
- 3) Art. 11 para. 2, Art. 24 para. 1 and 2, and the implementing rules issued by the minister responsible for culture and the protection of national heritage pursuant to Art. 11 para. 2 and Art. 32a. para. 4 of the Act amended in Art. 98 shall remain in force until the date the implementing rules issued pursuant to Art. 11 para. 2, Art. 24 para. 1 and 2 and the implementing rules issued by the minister responsible for culture and the protection of national heritage pursuant to Art. 11 para. 2 and Art. 32a. para. 4 of the Act amended in Art. 98 enter into force, as amended, but no longer than twelve months after the date this Act enters into force, and may be amended on the basis of those provisions;
- 4) Art. 167 para. 3 and Art. 201 para. 2 of the Act amended in Art. 101 shall remain in force until the date the implementing rules issued pursuant to Art. 167 para. 3 and Art. 201 para. 2 of the Act amended in Art. 101 enter into force, as amended, but no longer than twelve months from the date this Act enters into force.

Article 112 The Act enters into force on the day following the date of its announcement³⁾, with the exception of:

- 1) Art. 7 and 85, which enter into force after 3 months have passed from the date of publication;

³⁾ The Act was announced on 14 January 2016.

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- 2) Art. 10, 21, 60, Art. 83 para. 4 and Art. 110, which enter into force 6 months after the date of the announcement.

1818.TO

Annex to the Act of 22 December 2015

UNIVERSAL PQF LEVEL DESCRIPTORS						
The column entries – knowledge, skills and social competence – should be referred to the specific field of learning or occupational activity						
		KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS		SOCIAL COMPETENCE	
		KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS:	IS ABLE TO:		IS READY TO:	
LEVEL 1	L1U_K	elementary facts and concepts as well as the dependencies between selected natural and social phenomena and the products of human thought	L1U_S	carry out very simple tasks in accordance with detailed instructions under typical conditions; solve very simple, routine problems under typical conditions; learn under direct guidance in a structured form; understand simple statements and formulate very simple statements	L1U_C	respect the obligations arising from membership in various communities; act and cooperate with others under direct supervision in structured conditions; evaluate one's own actions and take responsibility for the direct results of those actions

1818.TO

LEVEL 2	L2U_ K	a broadened set of elementary facts, simple concepts as well as the dependencies between selected natural and social phenomena and the products of human thought	L2U_ S	complete simple tasks following general instructions most often under typical conditions; solve simple, routine problems most often under typical conditions; learn under guidance in a structured form; understand moderately complex statements, formulate simple statements; formulate and understand the simplest statements in a foreign language	L2U_ C	assume the obligations arising from membership in various communities; act and cooperate with others under direction in structured conditions; evaluate the actions in which one participates and take responsibility for the results of those actions

1818.TO

LEVEL 3	L3U_ K	basic facts and concepts as well as the dependencies between selected natural and social phenomena and the products of human thought; furthermore, a broader scope of selected facts, concepts and dependencies in specific areas; the basic conditions of conducted activities	L3U_ S	complete moderately complex tasks following general instructions under partially variable conditions; solve simple, routine problems under partially variable conditions; learn partially autonomously under guidance in a structured form; understand moderately complex statements, formulate moderately complex statements; understand and formulate very simple statements in a foreign language	L3U_ C	be a member of various types of communities, function in various social roles and assume the basic obligations ensuing from this; act and cooperate with others partially autonomously under structured conditions; evaluate one's own actions and those of the team; take responsibility for the results of those actions

1818.TO

LEVEL 4	L4U_ K	<p>a broadened set of basic facts, moderately complex concepts, theories and the dependencies between selected natural and social phenomena and the products of human thought;</p> <p>furthermore, a broader scope of facts, moderately complex concepts and theories from specific fields and the dependencies between them;</p> <p>the basic conditions of conducted activities</p>	L4U_ S	<p>complete moderately complex tasks, partially without instructions, often under variable conditions;</p> <p>solve moderately complex and somewhat non-routine problems often under variable conditions;</p> <p>learn autonomously in a structured form;</p> <p>understand complex statements, formulate moderately complex statements on a broad range of issues;</p> <p>understand and formulate simple statements in a foreign language</p>	L4U_ C	<p>assume responsibility for participating in various communities and functioning in various social roles;</p> <p>act and cooperate with others autonomously under structured conditions;</p> <p>evaluate one's own actions and those of the persons one is directing; take responsibility for the results of one's own actions as well as those of the persons one directs</p>

1818.TO

LEVEL 5	L5U_ K	a broad scope of facts, theories, methods and the dependencies between them; the diverse conditions of conducted activities	L5U_ S	complete tasks without instructions under variable, predictable conditions; solve moderately complex and non-routine problems under variable, predictable conditions; learn autonomously; understand moderately complex statements, formulate moderately complex statements using specialised terminology; understand and formulate very simple statements in a foreign language using specialised terminology	L5U_ C	assume basic professional and social responsibilities, evaluate and interpret them; independently act and cooperate with others under structured conditions, direct a small team under structured conditions; evaluate one's own actions and those of others and the teams one directs; assume responsibility for the results of those actions

1818.TO

LEVEL 6	L6U_	an advanced level of facts, theories, methods and the complex dependencies between them;	L6U	innovatively complete tasks and solve complex and non-routine problems under variable and not fully predictable conditions;	L6U_	cultivate and disseminate models of good practice in the workplace and beyond;
	K	the diverse, complex conditions of conducted activities	_	autonomously plan one's lifelong learning;	C	make decisions independently; critically evaluate one's own actions, those of the team one directs and the organisations in which one participates; assume responsibility for the results of those actions
			S	communicate in one's environment, substantiate one's position		

1818.TO

LEVEL 7	L7U_ K	an in-depth level of selected facts, theories, methods and the complex dependencies between them, also in relationship to other fields; the diverse, complex conditions and axiological context of conducted activities	L7U_ S	complete tasks as well as formulate and solve problems with the use of new knowledge, also from other fields; independently plan one's own lifelong learning and direct others in this area; communicate with various target groups, appropriately substantiate one's position	L7U_ C	establish and develop models of good practice in the environments of work and life; initiate actions, critically assess oneself as well as the teams and organisations in which one participates; lead a group and take responsibility for it

1818.TO

LEVEL 8	L8U_K	the world's achievements in science and the arts and the resulting implications of this for practice	L8U_S	analyse and creatively synthesise scientific and creative achievements to identify and solve research problems as well as those related to innovative and creative activities; contribute new elements to these achievements; independently plan one's own development as well as inspire the development of others; participate in the exchange of experiences and ideas, also in the international community	L8U_C	conduct independent research which contributes to existing scientific and creative achievements; assume professional and public challenges taking into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – their ethical dimension – responsibility for their results and develop models of good practice in such situations