

# ***World wide qualifications framework developments and (V)ET reforms – some early findings***

**National Qualifications Frameworks in an international perspective**

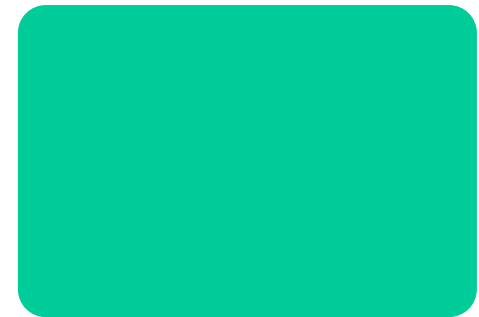
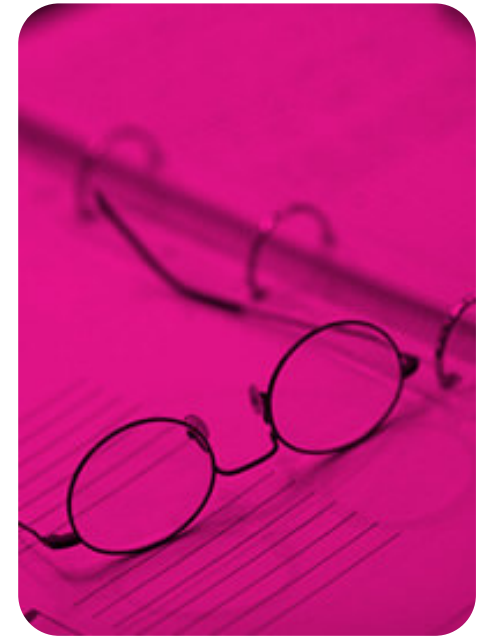
International seminar on the occasion of the launch of the Flemish Qualifications Structure



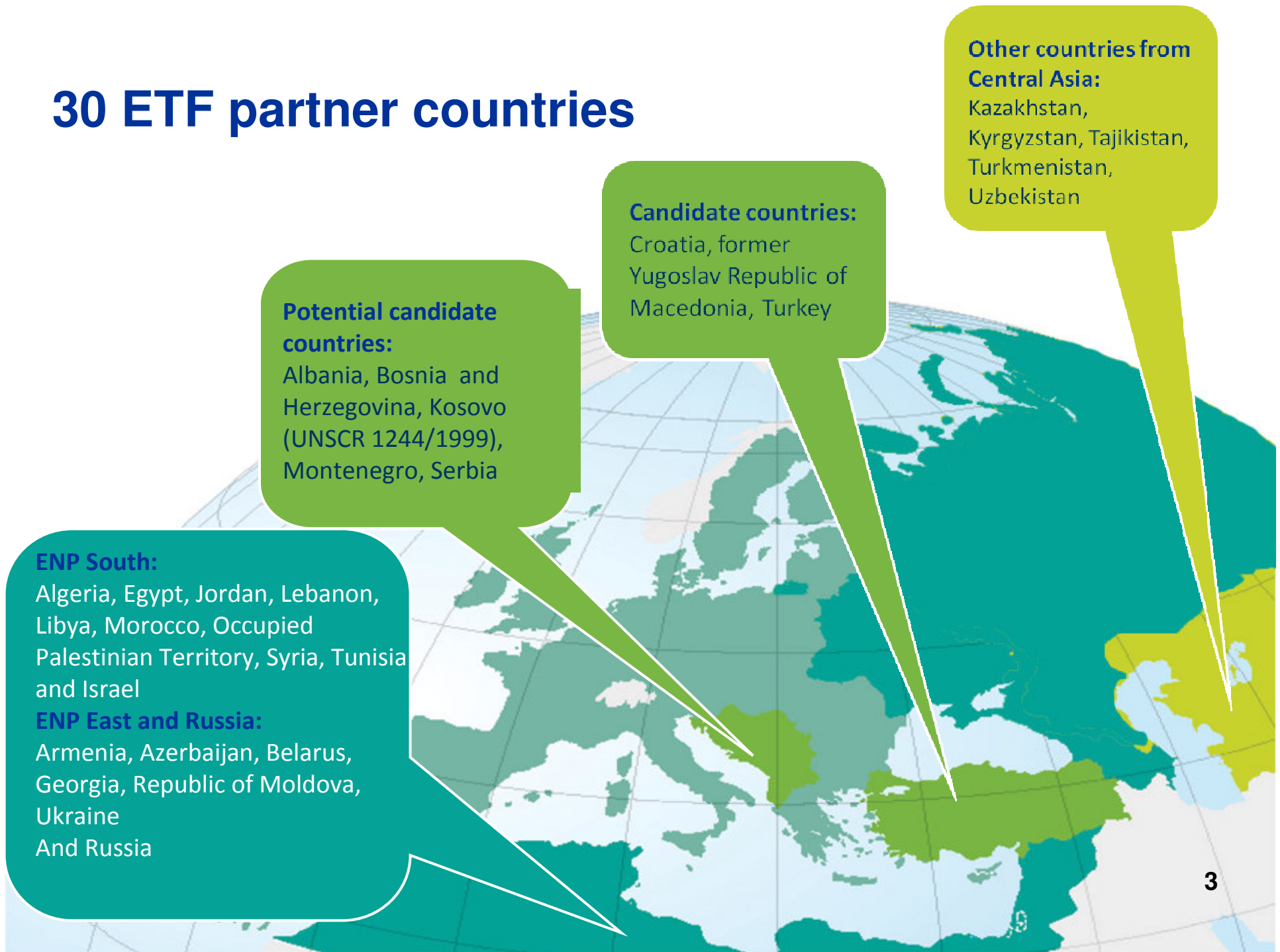
**Madlen Serban & Arjen Deij**

# ETF's mandate and vision

- **Contribute, in the context of EU external relations policies, to improving human capital development**
- **Help transition and developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems**



# 30 ETF partner countries



# 23 ETF partner countries developing/considering a NQF

**Potential candidate countries:**  
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Montenegro, Serbia

**Candidate countries:**  
Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

**Other countries from Central Asia:**  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

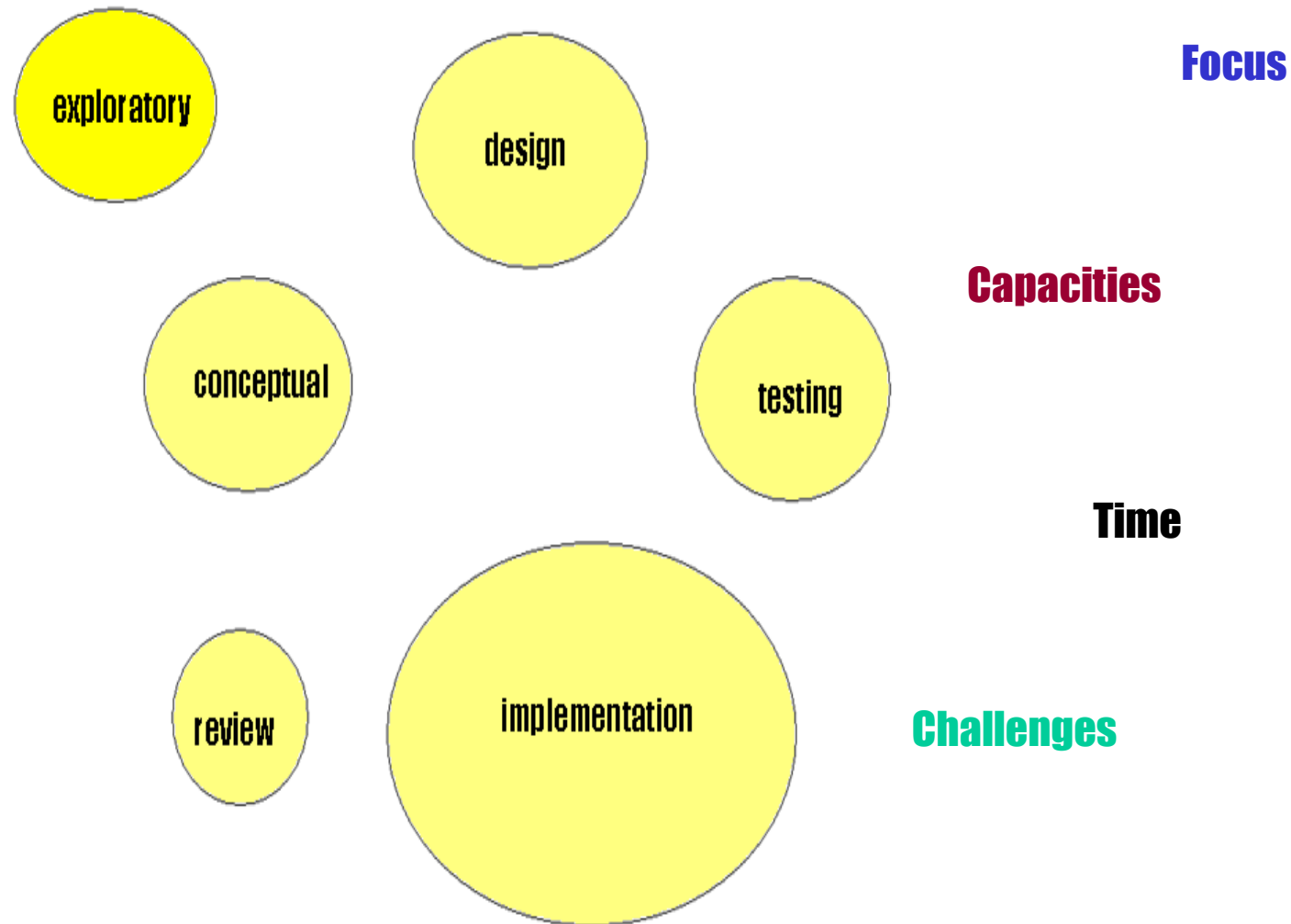
**ENP South:**  
Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia

**ENP East and Russia:**  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine And Russia

# Qualifications frameworks in context of VET reform

- Countries push for NQFs, ETF only assists development
- NQFs integrated instruments supporting wider VET reform
- NQFs have limitations
- Focus has to be on relevance and benefits for end-users,
- Every NQF is different and has to fit to local context
- NQFs are social constructs, partnerships important
- Start with the drivers for NQF, rather than features
- Priority to building capacity with stakeholders
- Developing QFs takes time and requires resources
- EQF important reference, not only for accession countries, but not a blue print
- Challenge of many countries developing NQFs simultaneously

# Development stages of qualification frameworks



## The drivers for developing frameworks have changed

### **1<sup>st</sup> generation Qualifications Frameworks**

Developed from national perceptions, mainly determined by internal drivers, and often using experimental approaches

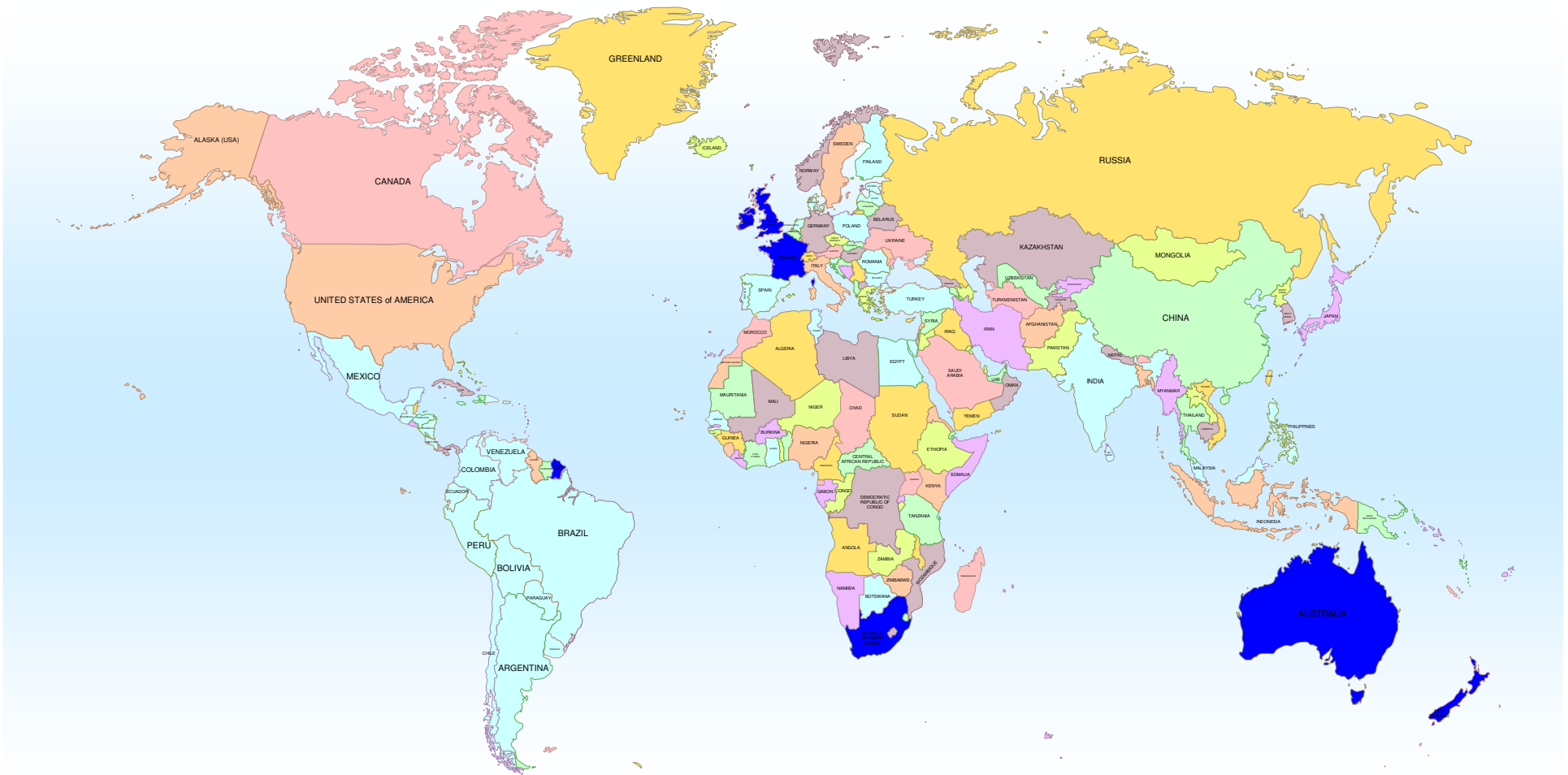
### **2<sup>nd</sup> generation Qualifications Frameworks**

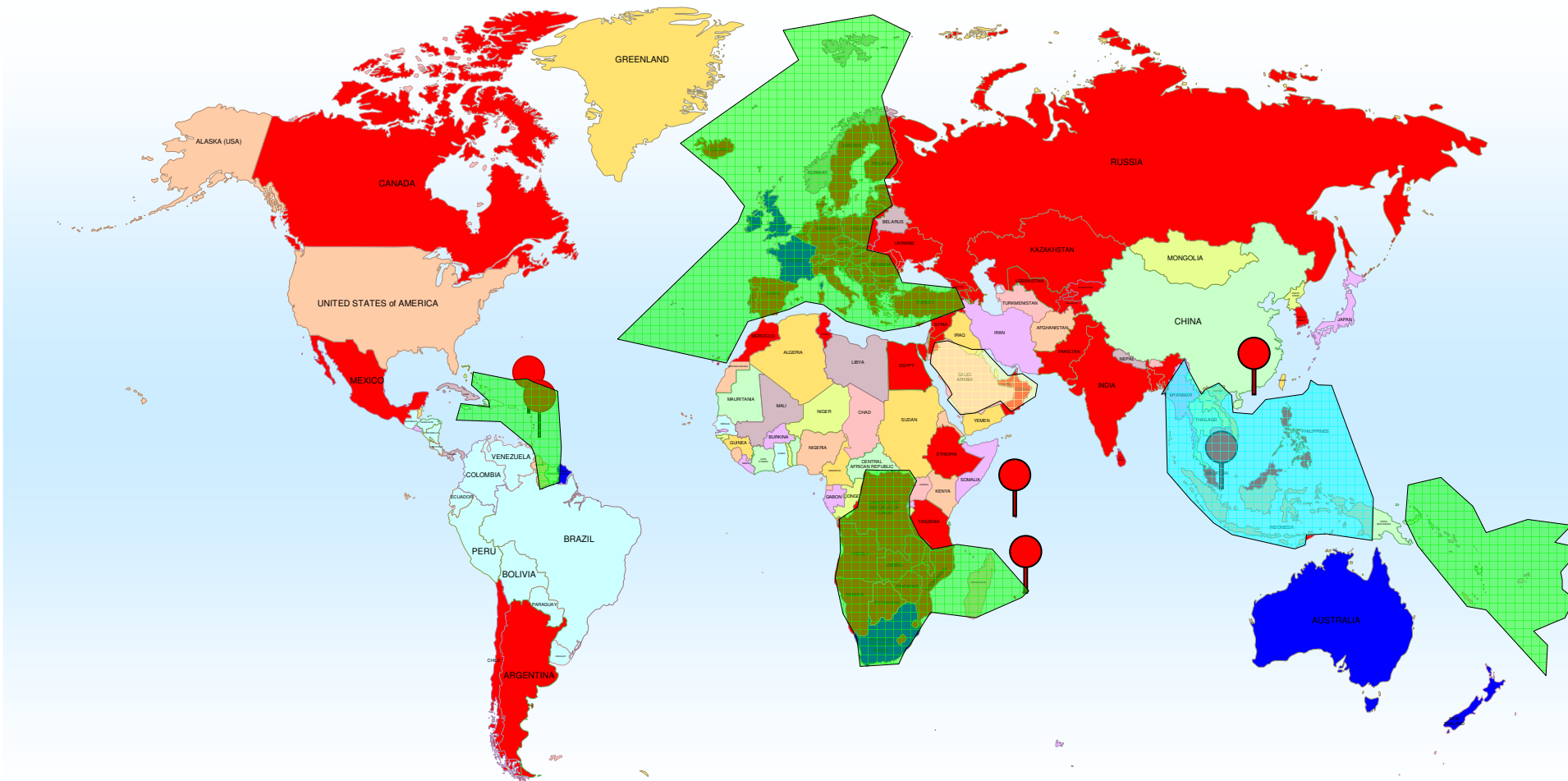
Have tried to learn from 1<sup>st</sup> generation experiences, in terms of design and processes. Seeking more communication with other national systems on a bilateral basis, but influence of external drivers is limited

### **3<sup>rd</sup> generation Qualifications Frameworks**

Internal drivers remain important, but external drivers have a significant impact on the technical design of frameworks and the QA arrangements







# Early findings global developments

- Diversity: small, big, poor and rich countries develop QFs
- Many countries look for linkages to emerging regional frameworks
- Regional Frameworks serve quite different purposes
- Many countries developing NQFs are low income countries (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Ethiopia, Albania, Tajikistan) what are the benefits for them?
- Are there any preconditions for qualifications frameworks?
- In practice QFs not seen as panaceas for world problems, seldom introduced as a single solution
- Governments dominate, industry often weak partner
- Impact so far limited, QFs require a lot of time for impact

## Examples NQFs Turkey, Tunisia, Russia

- **Turkey** quality assured qualifications meeting sector needs, stakeholder platform, starting from outside, quick progress, but how to connect with E&T system (HE and IVET, as well as GE)
- **Tunisia** building on VET reform and need for relevant HE, raising attainment, progression, migration, outsourcing, as well as informal sector, how to ensure sustainable stakeholder platform
- **Russia**, reform led by employers, focus on occupational standards, not connected with classifiers & labour market regulation, how to reconnect with LM regulation & formal education



# Clear impact of EQF

- Majority of partner country focus on EQF levels and level descriptors
- From 7-9 levels, but many 8
- Some copying or near copying
- Migration is an important motivation as well as attracting foreign investment and outsourcing
- Direct references to EQF made in EU and national documents

***Q: What does this mean for EQF?  
How to deal with these references?***



# Some questions for today

1. How important is it that the Flemish QF is connected through the EQF as a regional framework?
2. How reform oriented and international oriented is the Flemish model?
3. What particular lessons from the QF development process in Flanders could be relevant for transition and developing countries?

*Heel veel succes met het Vlaamse raamwerk,  
wij maken graag van uw ervaring gebruik*

For further information

Visit our website:

**[www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)**

Email us:

**[info@etf.europa.eu](mailto:info@etf.europa.eu)**

