History and prerequisites of introduction of the National Qualification System and the National Qualification Test for novice English teachers

**Introduction**

National Qualification Testing is a procedure directed to define the levels of professional competence and qualification of pedagogical workers and people equated to them, possessing positions in educational organizations that provide general educational programs of primary, basic secondary and general secondary education and special education programs, according to tests elaborated by an organization determined by the authorized institution in the field of education [1].

The competitiveness of countries in modern conditions with the growing importance of human capital depends not only on the activities of traditional educational institutions, but also on the ability to constantly improve and develop the quality of competencies used in the economy and in social life. As a result, lifelong learning is becoming a necessary and increasingly significant component of today’s educational systems [2].

Thus, by the beginning of the new millennium, processes of updating and reforming national education systems had begun in many countries. These scattered efforts included:

1) strengthening the link between vocational education and the labor market in order to balance the supply and demand of the labor force;

2) improving the quality of teacher training for the vocational education system;

3) ensuring comparability and commensurability of qualifications;

4) development of mechanisms for recognition of learning outcomes;

5) introduction to the theory and practice of designing qualifications of the concept of learning outcomes.

Simultaneously with the above-mentioned processes, a search was carried out for a methodological and systemic basis that would provide the integrity of the listed separate efforts. This basis has become the National Qualifications System (NQS) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

According to generally accepted definitions, the national qualifications system (NQS) is a mechanism for balancing the demand and supply of qualifications, the core of which is a qualifications framework that ensures their structured distribution across various levels and types of professional activity [3].

It is required to outline the main goals and reasons for the introduction of the NQS in Kazakhstan. The prerequisites for the creation of the National Qualifications System in Kazakhstan were:

1) inconsistency of existing qualifications with the changing situation on the labor market;

2) strengthening the requirements for the competencies of specialists in connection with the development of new production technologies;

3) requirements of the strategy of education throughout life [4].

However, our country continues to remain at the initial stage of development of the NQS. Given that the development of the National Qualifications System in Kazakhstan dates back to 2012, not all the regulatory basis, methodologies and tools have been fully developed and this is one of the main problems in the functioning of the NQS [6].

In 2014, the European Training Foundation classified the level of NQS in the Republic of Kazakhstan as the earliest stage of development – “strategic discussion” [5].

**Conclusion**

The necessity for introduction the National Qualification Test for graduates of pedagogical specialties of higher educational institutions was expressed back in 2018 by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan of that year Yerlan Sagadiyev.

Attention might have been drawn to the process of certification not only due to the example of the western countries by which educational systems our country is orientated, but also due to the adoption of the law “On the status of a teacher” in the near time. The innovation is aimed at strengthening the quality of training of future pedagogical workers. As qualification testing will determine the level of discipline knowledge and mastery of the methodology of teaching a subject [6].

To conclude above written things, analysis of history of the European Qualifications System, the NQF of foreign countries carried out in this paragraph shows how important the linking and regulating role is played by the National Qualifications System between the education system and the economy. Though, practice of introduction certification or qualification testing has been implemented in many developed countries a significant time ago, our country is developing the process only now and located in the initial stage. And one might state that the procedure of certification could be changed and improved in the course of time.

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