



## An Introduction to Age Management in Practice EQF Mapping System

### *What is the Mapping System?*

The EQF Mapping System has been produced to enable adults over 50 interested in returning to vocational education and training to identify their core skills gained from both employment and from hobbies and interests. Further steps provide the opportunity to map to the EQF, providing a notional level of knowledge and understanding to use for applications for education and training. As a whole, the Mapping System is used to encourage and engage over 50's and help them identify their skills which will help them with their future.

### *How does it work?*

Participants work with an Adviser through each stage of the Mapping System, one stage at a time. Each stage enables the participant to not only identify their core skills, but also identify how they can be useful in pursuing further education and training.

Step	Description
1	'My Experience' Activity – Identifying skills gained throughout working life and hobbies and interests
2	'Review' – Discuss with your Adviser what you have discovered about yourself
3	'Who Do You Think You Are?' – This part tells you what kind of person you are and how your skills fit in to the workplace
4	'My Examples' – Reflective exercise to more fully understand your own skills in more depth
5	'Benchmarking' – Mapping your skills to the EQF
6	'My Skills' – An opportunity to identify language suitable for future applications
7	'My Future' Profile – Bring everything you have learned together in one place

There are detailed descriptions of each step in the User and Adviser Guides. It is vital that these are read before embarking on the process.

## ***What is the European Qualifications Framework?***

The EQF aims to relate different countries' national qualifications systems to a common European reference framework. Individuals and employers will be able to use the EQF to better understand and compare the qualifications levels of different countries and different education and training systems. The National Qualifications Framework in your country (for example, the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework in Scotland) maps against the EQF to make it more straightforward to move between countries.

## ***Why is it important to your participants?***

Sometimes you just don't know what to do next. Go to college or university? Do an apprenticeship? Get a job and work your way up? People aged over 50 have a wealth of knowledge and skills learned from a career and/or hobbies and interests – this Mapping System will help them refine what they know into a useful format.

Before they make a decision, they need to know what they know! What knowledge and skills do they have to be able to move forward? The best way to do that is to look to the EQF for a level – this means you can go to a learning provider or employer with your skills and approximate EQF level which will help them to know more about their strengths. This process is called **benchmarking**.

By completing the benchmarking, they will come out with an approximate level (agreed between them and you, the Adviser). The 'My Future' Skills Profile gives a single place to note what has been learned from the whole process, including the benchmarking, and will enable participants to put down on paper all their strengths to support them in achieving your future goals.

## ***What happens next?***

Within the Toolkit is an Advisers' Guide. It is important to read this before embarking on any one-to-one or group sessions. The Guide will help you to understand each stage of the process, particularly the benchmarking, which can be challenging. Please ensure that you read this Guide in full and that your participants read the Adults User Guide. This will provide you both a strong basis from which to participate in the process.

## ***Any questions?***

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