

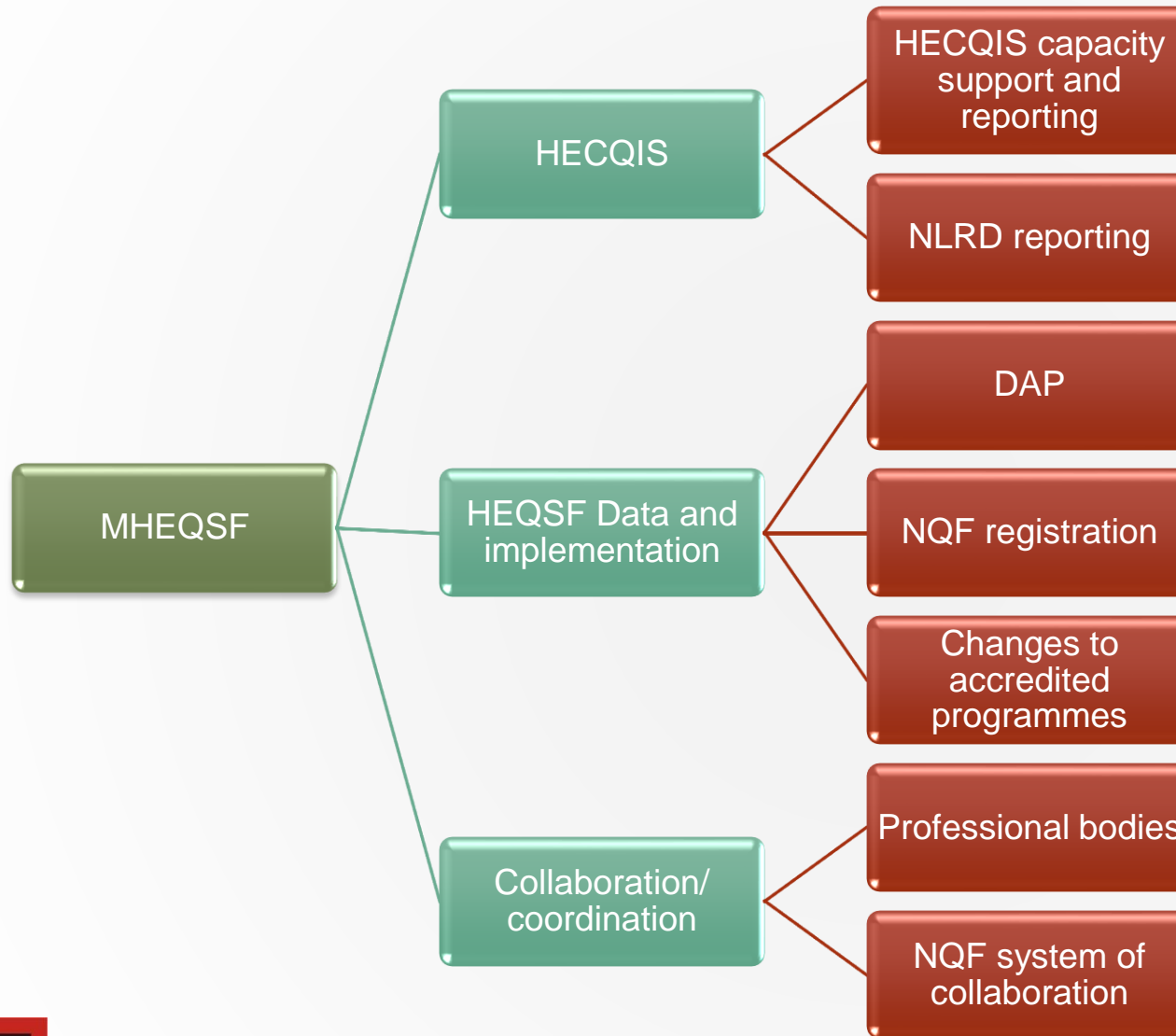


Considerations for Management and Implementation of the HEQSF

Prepared for
Regional Capacity Development workshops
Dr P. Dlamini
Director: MHEQSF

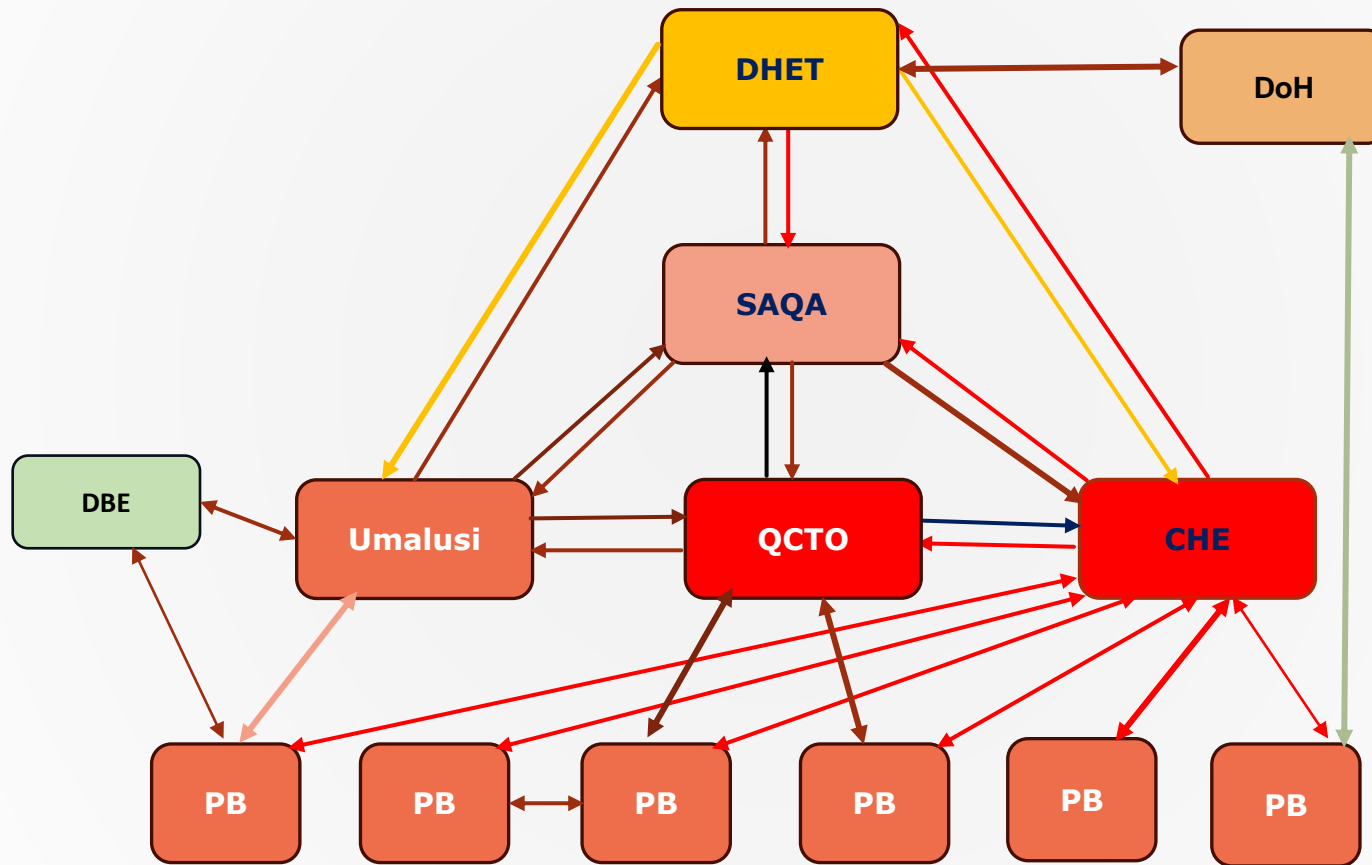


About the MHEQSF Sub-programme



- **Director:** P. Dlamini
- **Manager (HEQCIS):** Ms C. Oelofsen
- **Data Analyst:** Ms N. Bhele
- **Manager (HEQSF):** Ms R. Naude
- **Administrator:** Ms M. Mohlala
- **Project Officer:** Ms S. Masiteng
- **Support from** Ms L Mayepu

Coordination of CHE Collaboration





Reflection question

Benefits

- What has been the biggest benefit in implementing HEQSF-aligned qualifications to date?

Challenge

- What has been the biggest challenge with implementation of the HEQSF?



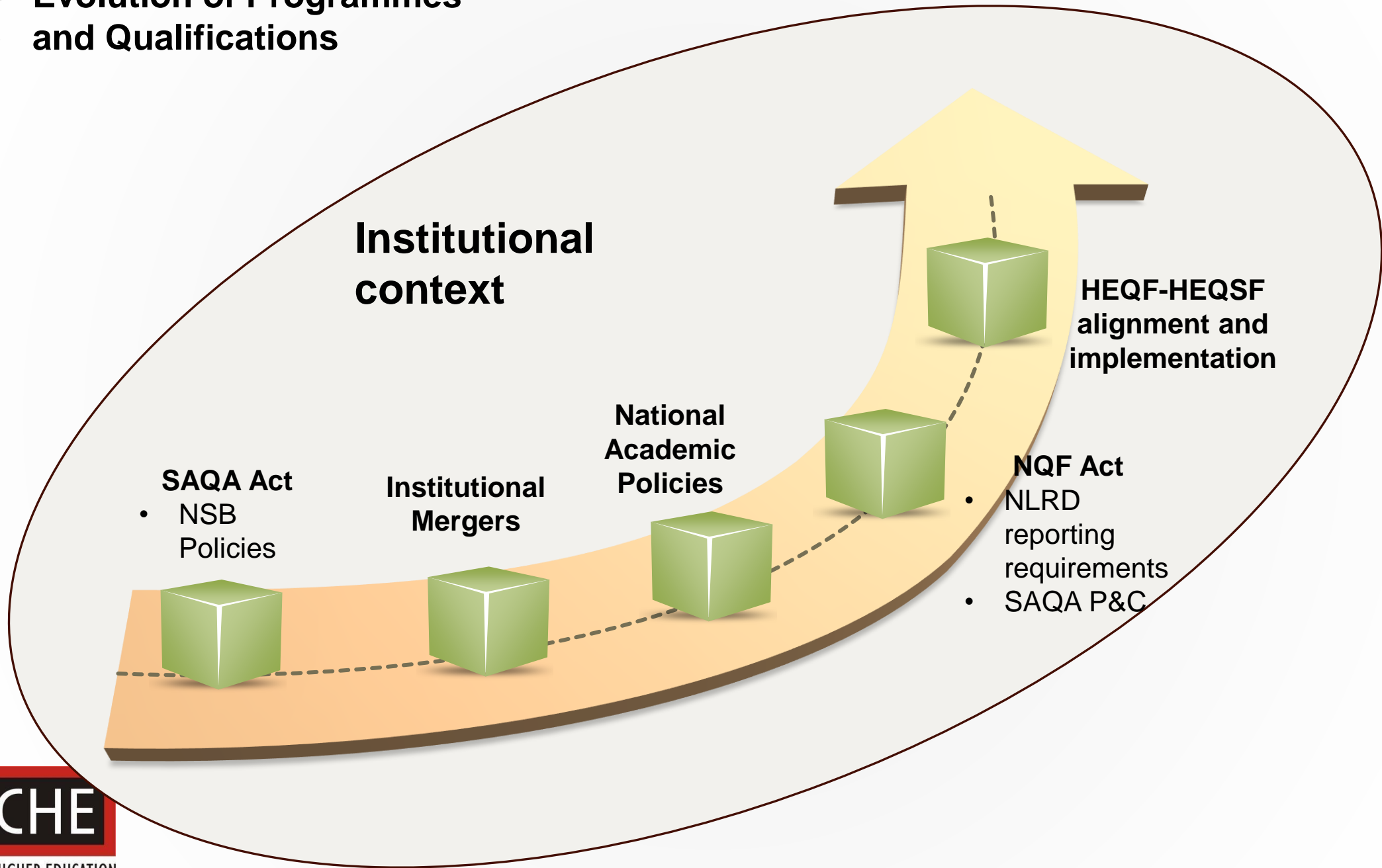


Management of implementation of the HEQSF

- Registration of new qualifications (currently by Accreditation)
- Re-registration of qualifications
- De-registration of qualifications
- Changes to accredited programmes
 - Programme title changes
 - Addition of new fields of study to accredited programmes
- **Institutional offering records**
- Conceptualize, build and maintain the New HEQSF-online
 - Implementation of SAQA Policy and Criteria
 - Ensure HEQSF qualifications comply with SAQA Policy & Criteria
 - Provide guidance and support to institutions on policy matters related to the HEQSF
 - RPL
 - CAT

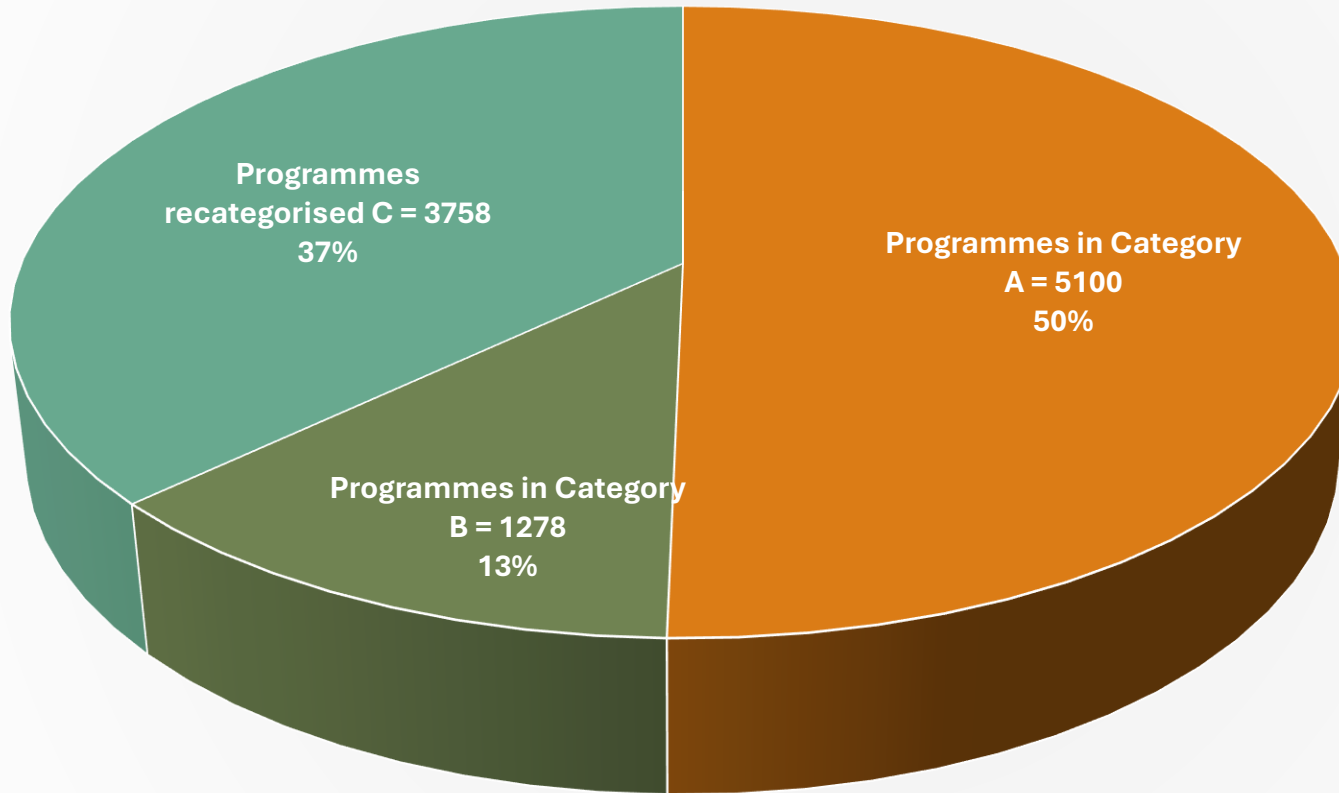


Evolution of Programmes and Qualifications





HEQSF-alignment process



± 10130 programmes were reviewed





Impacts/ implications of policy developments for the NQF

- Higher Education band on the NQF:
 - Historical qualifications offered by institutions prior to mergers
 - Historical qualifications (after mergers) that were not submitted for HEQSF alignment
 - Qualifications that were submitted for HEQSF-alignment
 - Institutions received three types of outcomes
 - Category C
 - **Category B**
 - **Category A**
 - **Programmes submitted for accreditation and accredited by the HEQC from 1 January 2009**
- Ministerial gazette determined last date of first-time entry into non-HEQSF aligned qualifications as 31 December 2019
 - **The CHE must ensure that only HEQSF-aligned qualifications on the NQF (apart for quals on teach out (N+2) rule**

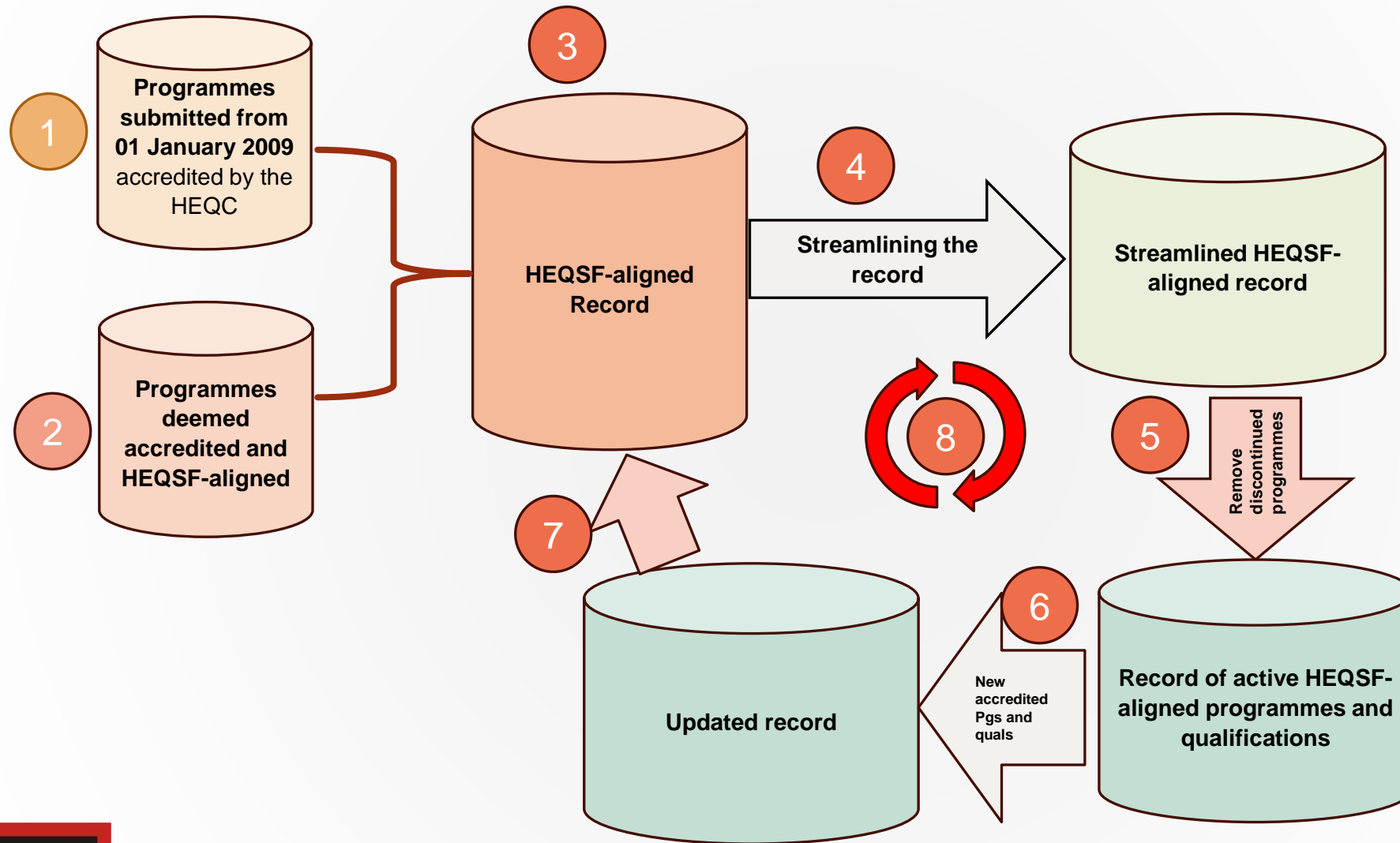


Data Validation Project

- From 2017, the CHE in collaboration with SAQA and DHET carried out the Data Validation Project (DVP)
- Purpose of the DVP
 - Ensure match between CHE, SAQA, DHET (PQM/ Register of PHEIs) and institutions on:
 - Title
 - NQF level
 - Took into account
 - Programmes in process
 - Withdrawal of accreditation
 - Programme name (and institution name) changes
- CHE HEQSF-aligned record as source



From DVP to DAP





DVP in Summary

- 1
- 2
- 3



- Drawing all programmes that form the offering's per institution report on the HEQSF-online portal
- Adding all programmes that were confirmed accredited and recommended for registration by SAQA from 2009 to date



- Match to qualifications on the NQF
- Match to qualifications on the PQM (public) or on the DHET Register (private)



- Sharing the record for confirmation by the institution,
- Sharing the record for confirmation and/or further action by SAQA and/or DHET.

Process was completed for:

- 14 Public HEIs and
- 25 private HEIs





Successes of DVP

- ▶ Ensured match on the attributes considered between regulators and institutions
- ▶ CHE record provides basis for
 - ▶ re-registration requests to SAQA
 - ▶ Confirmation of accreditation requests from:
 - ▶ Graduates (support for skills scarce visa applications)
 - ▶ External verification entities who require CHE letter in addition to SAQA confirmation
- ▶ Continued engagements with institutions (or students) revealed a wider range of concerns that were outside the scope of the DVP
- ▶ MHEQSF has thus determined to shift towards “Data Alignment Process”



Some definitions for consideration

- Generic qualification
- Learning programme
- Specialisation
- Major
- Minor
- Internal Plan
- Stream



Consideration for Management of CHE institutional records

- ▶ **Duplicates in CHE record of accredited programmes**
 - ▶ HEQSF-alignment (HEQSF-offerings per institution report)
 - ▶ New programmes accredited with same titles as accredited programmes (same mode)
- ▶ **Dormant programmes in institutional records**
- ▶ **Naming conventions**
 - ▶ Use of designators and qualifiers
 - ▶ Guidance on use of designators and qualifiers
 - ▶ Internal streams and certification
- ▶ The CHE intends to use the process of updating qualifications to ensure compliance with HEQSF
- ▶ Also, to date, there has been no process of communicating small changes to programmes and qualifications to SAQA



From DVP to DAP cont.

Streamlining the record

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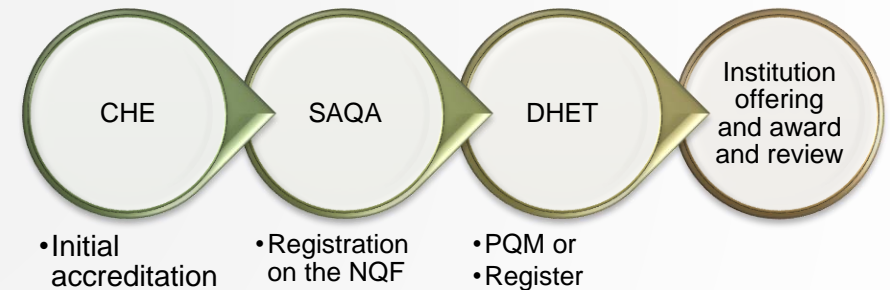
- Collapsing duplicates on title (and mode)
- For public HEIs packaging internal streams against generic qualifications
- Cleaning up naming in line with conventions
- De-link from SGBs

Remove discontinued programmes/ qualifications and institutions

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- Voluntary discontinuation
- Withdrawal of accreditation
- Withdrawal of approval by PBs

- Review of programmes as part of institutional QA process
- No process in place to communicate changes to SAQA except name changes



- To date “closed”- considerations going forward??



Data Alignment Processes (DAP)

- Builds on gains made in the DVP
 - Expands scope to include wider range of concerns
 - Limited to programmes and qualifications that are confirmed to be HEQSF-aligned
 - Also leverages on
 - MoAs and other engagements with Professional Bodies
 - The SAQA-CHE joint evaluation of qualifications that do not meet SAQA's Policy and Criteria for registration of qualifications and part-qualifications
- Allow for closer engagements with institutions, including visits where necessary
- CHE process for developing a 'living' record of programmes and qualifications per institution



DAP Process

- Need for a process of capturing and tracking changes to programmes and qualifications to ensure integrity of records
- In addition to major changes to programmes, must allow for update of qualifications in line with:
 - internal review and update by institutions
 - Changing needs of the HEQSF (subject to approval by governance structures)
 - Updating of qualifications
 - Reregistration on the NQF
 - Compliance with HEQSF requirements taking into account needs of a reviewed HEQSF
 - Retiring qualifications that no longer meet requirements



Naming conventions

Qualification type	Requirements for the Designator
Bachelors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should either be Arts, Commerce, Science and Social Science, or• be consistent with a first order or second order CESM category contained in 2008.
Honours and Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• normally those used for Bachelors degrees.• The CHE may permit exceptions to this rule e.g. Philosophy may be used in the Master of Philosophy.
Doctoral degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normally either Philosophy or a designator considered to be appropriate for a Masters degree
Linking word between qualification type and designator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• of
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CHE would consider exceptions if it can be demonstrated that a specific generic field of study is not captured in the first or second order CESM categories in the 2008 manual.
Application of guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Degree designators will be applied to programmes submitted by both public and private higher education institutions

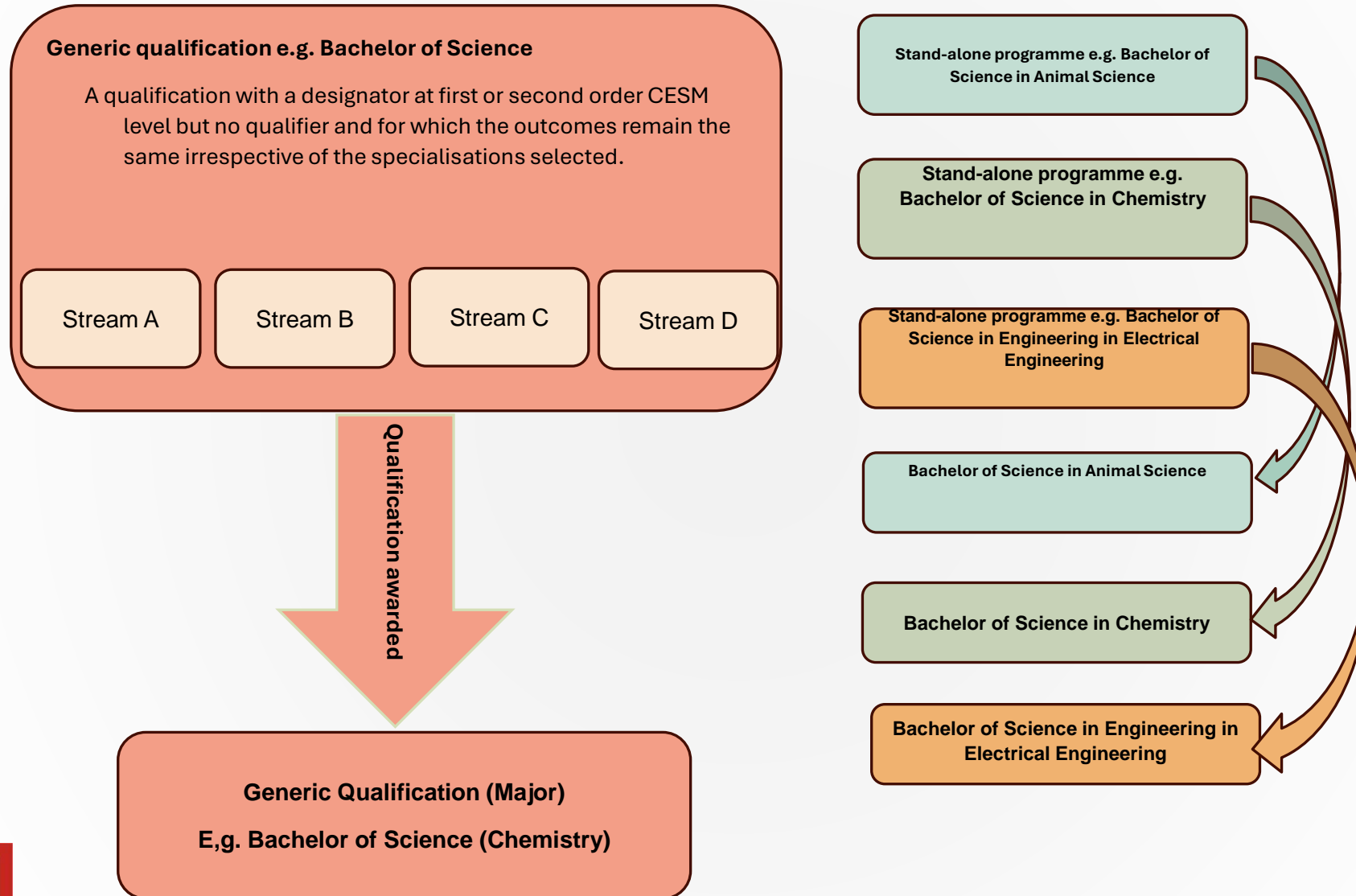


Naming conventions

Attribute	Requirement
General	Consistency with the fields of specialisation of qualifications.
CESM Order	Should refer to a first order, second order or third order CESM category contained in the 2008 CESM manual.
Exceptions	The CHE would consider exceptions to the above if it could be demonstrated that a specific field of specialisation is not captured in the first or second or third order CESM categories in the 2008 manual
Linking word between the qualification type or its designator and the qualifier	in
50% Rule on use of qualifiers	No exceptions will be permitted to the 50% rules for qualifiers.
Application of guidelines	The guidelines for qualifiers will be applied to programmes submitted by both public and private higher education institutions.



Offering of majors, streams etc.





*Thank You!
Siyabonga!*

