



Accreditation

D 7.1: PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION AND MODULES/UNITS
ACCREDITED TO FRAMEWORK
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Objectives of WP7

This work package aims to accredit the curriculum developed in WP4 with a European wide recognised awarding body. This will include establishing approval standard for delivery, registration of learners, verification of assessment and certification. To ensure optimum process of accreditation with early engagement will be initiated with the awarding body. This will allow for ongoing development and consideration of the learning outcomes and module/unit accreditation to agreed standards.

Rational of D7.1 Deliverable

Establishing an accredited curriculum, with associated qualifications will provide the learners and stakeholders with a guarantee of the qualification and standards. As non-accredited qualifications are not regulated there is no guarantee they meet appropriate standards or are fit for purpose. As the process of accrediting curriculum to qualification standards can take considerable time, between 6 and 18 months, the rational is to develop and accredit a low level qualification initially. Once this is completed and the procedures established the range and level of qualifications can be expanded to meet the proposed curriculum that is ongoing development as part of WP4. Refer to the WP7 Timeline in Appendix 1.

Description of Accreditation Works

Following a review of existing qualifications and early industry feedback from WP2 it was decided to proceed with the prototype development and creation of a European Qualification Frame (EQF) Level 4 Qualification. Within the UK Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) this would equate to Level 3, and prior to submission there were four qualifications, primarily theoretical based, with no Level 4 (EGF Level 5) qualifications. Whilst many Further and Higher Education Construction related courses are delivering relevant BIM training, there is a need for upskilling of the existing workforce. This includes the full range of workers, from site operatives to design professionals. This qualification seeks to provide further learning, development of knowledge and skills in BIM authoring and management. The rational for selection of EQF Level 4 (RQF 3) qualification was to ensure that it was accessible to blue collar works, and yet provide an introductory level for white collar workers.

The qualification was developed to consist of a number of units with varying credit points, to allow for a mix of blended learning and classroom based practical classes.



The course provides a working understanding of the implementation of BIM Level 2 Maturity. Modules will include:

1. BIM Basics – fundamentals and practice of BIM workflows and information management
2. BIM Authoring – practical modelling authoring for architectural/structural/M&E
3. BIM Objects – creation of BIM objects and components

With development of sector specific units the qualification is tailored to suit a range of architectural, engineering and construction professions.

During the initial stages of WP7 we have engaged with a number of Awarding Organisations and Accreditation Bodies, including Partner Institutions. Some of these discussions are on-going with a final outcome to be concluded. Selection of Awarding Body should address coverage/recognition within Partner countries, technical ability, capacity to develop awards within this sector and registration costs for the learners. Another critical path is the Awarding Organisations time line for development of the qualification, which can range from 3 – 18 months. This is particularly important for the project and the initial accreditation of qualification within this report.

The Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) was selected as the Awarding Organisation to develop the qualification with. OCN NI is a UK recognised Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. Belfast Metropolitan College is a recognised Centre and College, undertaking the delivery of OCN NI Qualifications and assessment. Working together the OCN NI and College aim to provide learners with opportunities to progress into further learning and/or employer. OCN NI are also regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualifications in England. They have already developed awards within Construction, CAD and BIM, with an initial timeline to progress the accreditation of the qualification within 3 – 6 months.

The Development Proposal was submitted to OCN NI and the Qualification Specification developed during March 2018. This indicated two qualifications, with an Award and Certificate option. During April 2018 review and development of the Unit Specifications, with the final approval received in May 2018. The Qualification was formally approved for the Register (RQF) on 31 May 2018, with an operational start date of June 2018.

Following further feedback from WP2, WP4 and WP5 a development proposal for RQF Level 4 Diploma will be submitted to OCN NI. Development of the Qualification Specification and Units is underway, and is outlined in Appendix 2. As indicated in the WP Aim curriculum development will be ongoing, with further RQF Level 3 and Level 5 Qualifications at development proposal stage.



Appendix 1 – WP Timeline

		M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20
M 7.1	Confirmation of Programme Specification and Accreditation of Modules/Units																				
D 7.1	Programme Specification and Accredited Modules/Units																				
M 7.2	Production of guidelines for partner institutions to deliver programme.																				
D 7.2	Process and Standards for Accreditation as approved provider.																				
D 7.3	Standards and process for learner registration.																				
D 7.4	Standards and process for verification and award.																				

M 7.1 Programme Specification and Accreditation of Modules/Units due end Month 8 (Oct 2018)

Months 5 – 8 Develop initial Entry Level Qualifications (RQF 3 and EQF 4) for accreditation with Awarding Body

Months 14 – 16 Additional developmental and Higher Level Qualifications to be accredited (RQF 4 & 5 and EQF 5 & 6). Note development of new awards will be informed by WP2, WP4, WP5 and WP6 outcomes, including feedback from trials, industrial engagement and surveys



Appendix 2 – Curriculum Draft

The following skills and competencies have been identified for further development of learning outcomes, modules/units, and qualifications. Modules/units will be developed from Entry to Higher Level (RQF 3 – 5, EQF 4-6) and combined to provide qualification framework/structure for subsequent Qualifications. This will ensure upskilling and development of both blue- and white-collar workers within the Sector in BIM Energy skills.

Skills/competencies – Each to have min 3 and max 7 learning outcomes

1. Introduction to BIM
2. Digital Skills
3. Advanced Digital Skills
4. BIM Principles
5. BIM Modelling (Architectural, Structural and MEP)
6. BIM Objects
7. Introduction to Low Energy Building Construction
8. Advanced BIM & Energy Efficiency
9. BIM Retrofit Energy Improvement
10. BIM for Contractors
11. BIM Facilities Management



Appendix 3 – Programme Specification and Accredited Units

Details of the two Qualifications developed:

1. OCN NI level 3 Award in Building Information Modelling
<https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Detail/Index/41561?category=qualifications&query=building%20information%20modelling>
2. OCN NI level 3 Certificate in Building Information Modelling
<https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Detail/Index/41562?category=qualifications&query=building%20information%20modelling>

