



## National Qualifications System – SNC\*

\*for its acronym in Spanish (Sistema Nacional de Cualificaciones)

### Context

The National Qualifications System has been defined (*Image 1*) as the "set of policies, instruments, components and processes necessary to align education and training with the social and productive needs of the country. They also promote the recognition of learning, the personal and professional development of citizens, the labor insertion or reinsertion and the productive development of the country." [1]

Image 1. Definition of the National Qualifications System



Source. Sapiencia 2021

### Components of the National Qualifications System

When the National Qualifications Systems, its components were also created: 1) The National Qualifications Framework; 2) the subsystems for quality assurance in education and in training, in standardization of skills, and in evaluation and certification of skills; 3) the educational and training mobility scheme and 4) the National Qualifications System information platform.

### National Qualifications Framework

The National Qualifications Framework (MNC for its acronym in Spanish) is the first regulated component of the National Qualifications System, through the Decree 1649 of 2021<sup>1</sup> "in order to classify, recognize and articulate the Qualifications, in accordance with the social, educational, formative, labor and productive reality of the country" [2] in a -inclusive and flexible scheme of eight (8) levels ordered and expressed in terms of knowledge, skills and aptitudes -described in terms of responsibility and autonomy for performance- applicable in contexts of study, of work or both, according to the sequentiality and complexity of the learnings, taking into account the three Qualification routes also established in the National Qualifications System: the educational, the training for work and the recognition of prior learning.

1. Compiled in Part 7 from Book 2 of The Sole Regulatory Decree 1075 of 2015, pertaining to the Educational Sector.

Image 2. Macrostructure of the Decree 1649 of December 6th 2021.

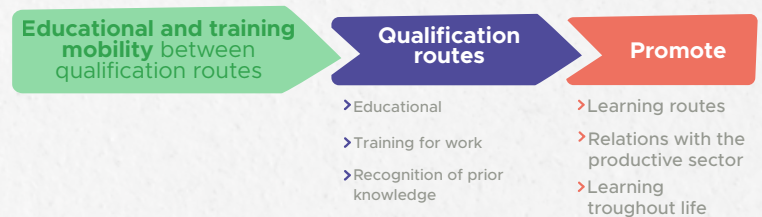


Source. Sapiencia, 2021

It is important to highlight in the structure of the Decree (*image 2*), the adoption of the National Qualifications Catalog (CNC for its acronym in Spanish) that groups the Sectorial Catalogs of Qualifications and is organized based on the eight (8) Qualification Levels and the Qualification Areas. The Qualification areas were adopted in the Single Classification of Occupations for Colombia (CUOC for its acronym in Spanish) through Decree 654 of July 16, 2021 [3], which in its technical annex describes 676 occupations that group 14,701 names of jobs, positions and trades of the Colombian job market. The CUOC condenses a 25-year effort to have a pertinent classification in terms of the Colombian occupational reality, its international comparability and the support for the normalization of data for statistical use; at the same time while offering a harmonization instrument between the professional job profiles that are object of the education and training services with those required in the productive occupational scenarios of the public, private and social economic sectors.

The other components of the National Qualifications System are in regulation, including the mobility scheme (*Image 3*), which is aimed to promote various learning routes, the relations with the productive sector and lifelong learning.

Image 3. Layout of educational and training mobility between qualification routes



Source. Sapiencia, 2021

Sources:

- [1] Republic of Colombia. Congress of the republic. National government. , Law 1955, 50,964 ed., Bogotá, D.C.: Official Gazette Year CLV No. 50,964, 2019, p. 472.
- [2] Republic of Colombia. Presidency of the Republic, Decree 1649, Bogotá, D.C., 2021.
- [3] Republic of Colombia. Ministry of National Education - MEN -, Decree 1075, LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 2020 ed., Bogotá, D.C., 2015.