

# **To link national qualification frameworks and EQF Common principles and criteria**

The French National Qualification Framework

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# A self certification system set up by the 17 January 2002 law

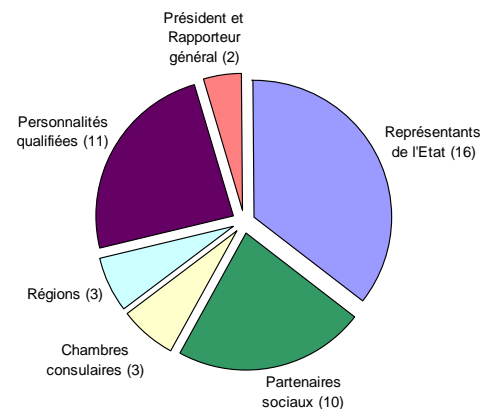
## Main principles

- Any certification can be awarded by validation of learning outcomes whatever the way they have been acquired (formal, non formal or informal learning) through a specific process named « validation des acquis d'expérience » (VAE )
- Certifications are registered in a national list named « Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles » established and updated by the « Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle »

# La Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle

- **Composition**

- Representatives of the state (16)
- Social partners (5 employes, 5 employees)
- Chambers of Commerce (3)
- Regions (3)
- Experts (11)
- President and Rapporteur général



## What is called qualification in the French context ?

An individual is considered as “qualified” when he or she has demonstrated a combination of knowledge, know-how and abilities giving the insurance that he or she is able to perform a set of activities in a large professional context with a level of responsibility and autonomy previously defined.

# The French indicators of qualification

Two categories of indicators are in use :

- The classification descriptors used in the sectoral social conventions agreed by social partners
- Three kinds of individual certifications : diplomas (or degrees) , titles vocational and oriented, sectoral certificates produced by sectoral social partners (law of January 2002).

## What is a certification in the French system

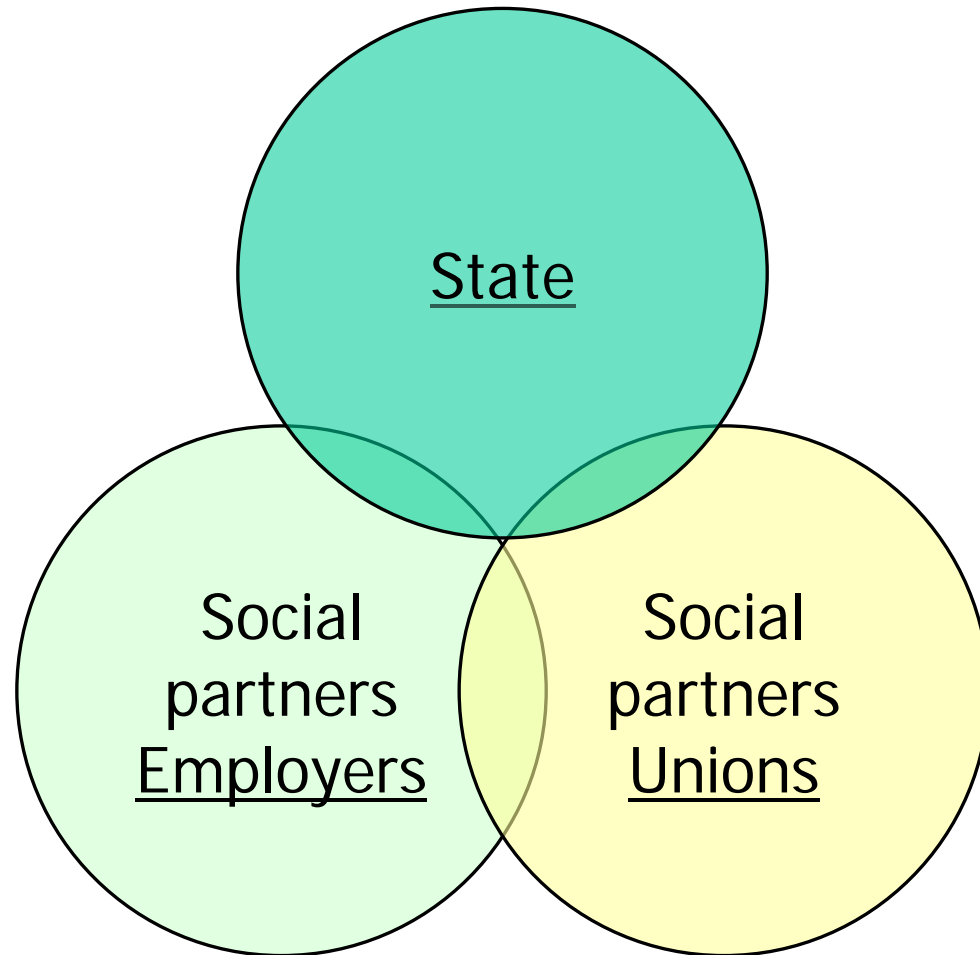
A certification supposes :

- A standard describing what learning outcomes are certified
- A procedure to validate the conformity of learning outcomes to the standard
- An authority who attests the conformity of the procedure and award the certification to the applicant

## Main principles in the French approach

- Every vocational certification can be awarded after initial, continuing as well as work integrated learning or after professional and personal experience through the VAE
- The vocational certifications recognised as qualification indicators are registered in the Répertoire National des certifications professionnelles and classified by a level grid and learning domains.

# A registration requiring a tripartite consultation





## Three categories of certifications can be registered in the RNCP:

- Vocational diplomas (degrees) and titles delivered in the name of the State, under a ministry responsibility – **including all the Higher education degrees from Universities**
- Vocational Qualification Certificates produced by sectors under the social partners responsibility,
- Titles or certificates delivered by public, chambers or private institutions

## Registration criteria:

### Diplomas (or degrees) and titles

- Delivered in the name of the State through different ministries in charge of Education, Agriculture, Social affairs, Employment, Youth and Sports, and Health **secondary as higher education**
- And set up after a consultation organised by a ministry with social partners representatives.

**Automatic registration**

- Vocational Qualification Certificates produced by sectors under the social partners responsibility (around 400 in 40 different sectors)
- Titles or certificates delivered by public, chambers or private institutions under their own responsibility

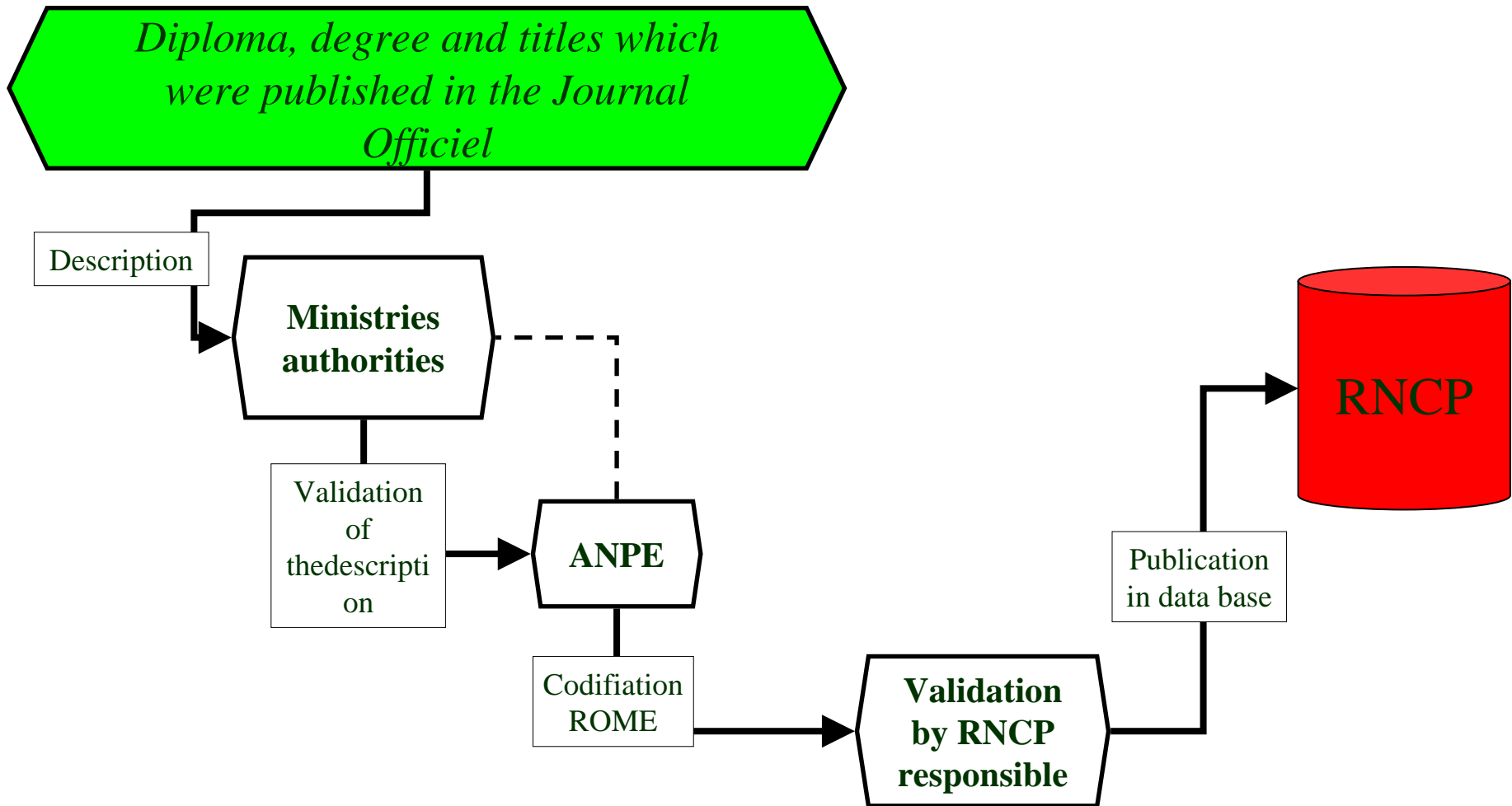
Registration after the CNCP expertise and advice

# Registration conditions

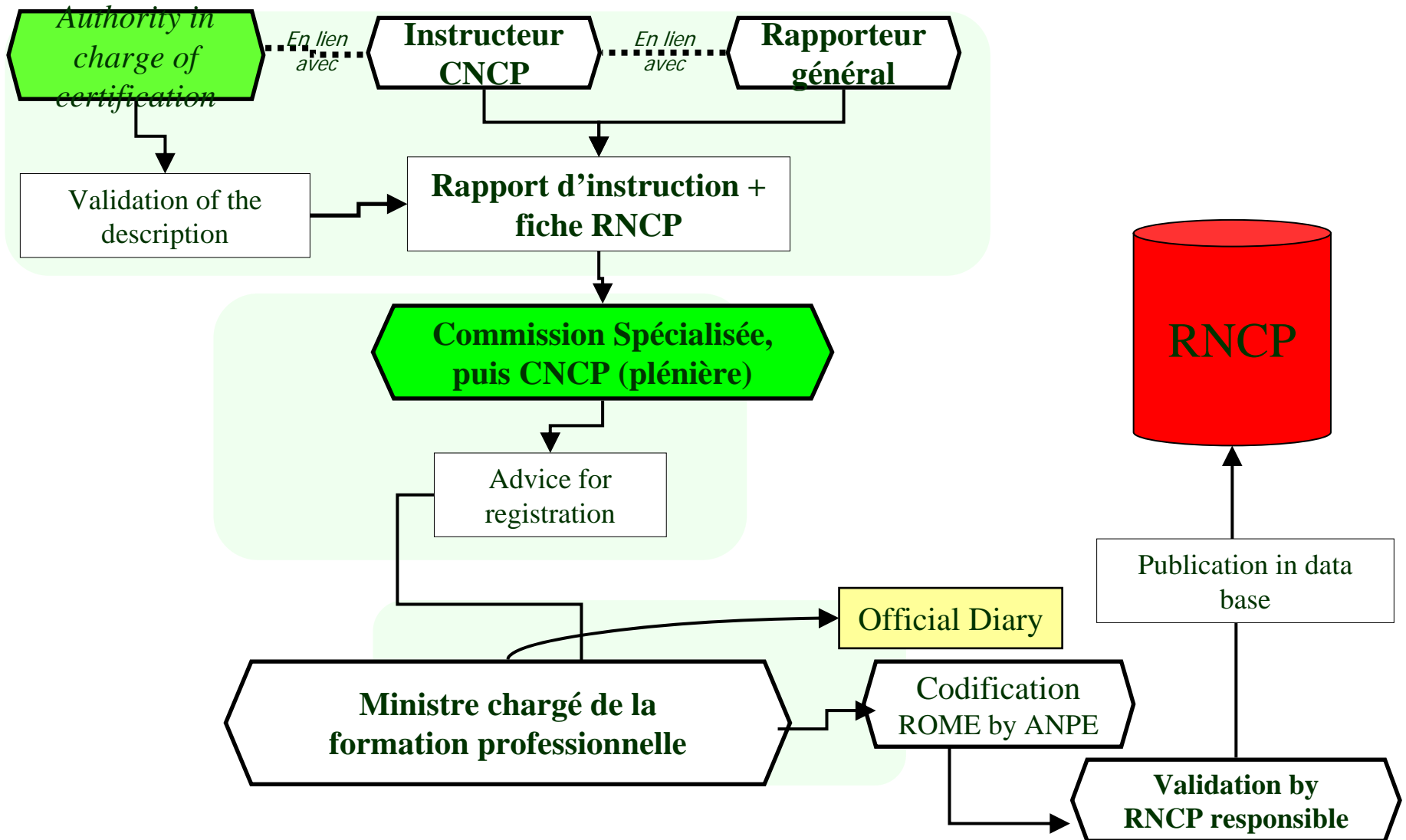
Presentation of :

- Description of skills, activities and competencies aimed by the certification
- Description of the certification process (learning outcomes expected, assessment procedures and evaluation and validation criteria)
- Composition of the jurys
- Information on professional development of applicants who have been previously awarded

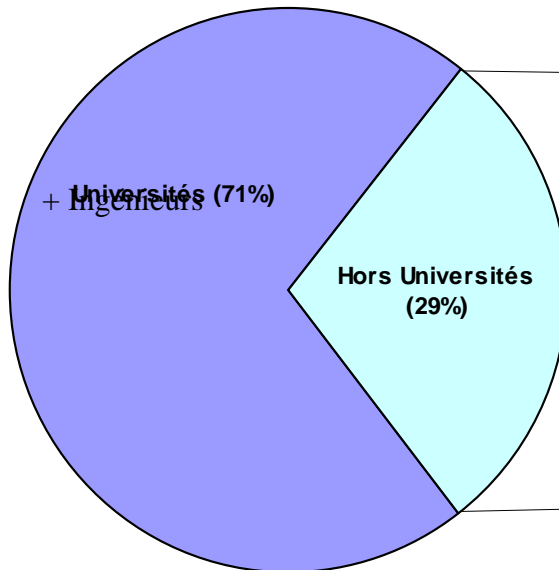
# Automatic registration procedure



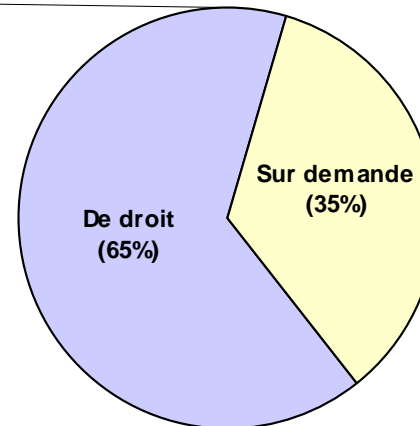
# Procédure d'enregistrement sur demande



# Profile of RNCP



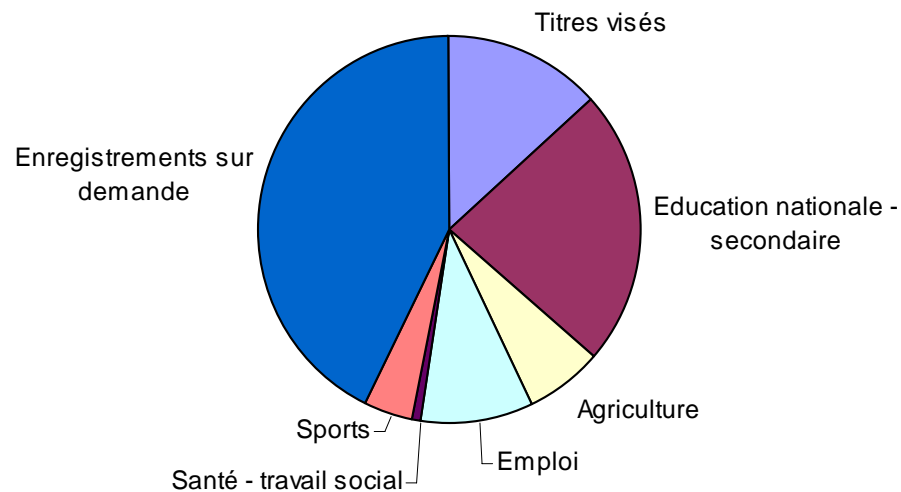
10 000 certifications



3 000 certifications

# Le RNCP hors Universités

**Profil du RNCP à l'horizon 2006**





[www.cncp.gouv.fr](http://www.cncp.gouv.fr)

**The RNCP is composed with three information steps and directly linked to the certificate supplement Europass**

- **A list of certifications** (first results after research by key words)
- **A description** of the certification (on the basis of the certificate supplement format in Europass)
- **Links** with other websites for further information about the certification consulted

The RNCP can be used freely through the website

# Le RNCP

Bienvenue sur le site de la Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle



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Base documentaire

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**Espace information**

- ▷ Les actualités ⓘ
- ▷ Commission Nationale de la Certification Professionnelle (CNCP)
- ▷ Répertoire National des Certifications Professionnelles (RNCP)
- ▷ Certification et validation des acquis de l'expérience (VAE)
- ▷ Transparence des qualifications
- ▷ Téléchargement

**Espace répertoire**

- ▷ Consulter le répertoire **(En ligne)**

**Base documentaire**

- ▷ Base documentaire

**Liste des titres homologués**

- ▷ Rechercher un titre homologué

**Contacts**

- ▷ Secrétariat national
- ▷ Correspondants régionaux

**ELABORATION  
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DESCRIPTIFS  
DE CERTIFICATION**

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PUBLICS  
ET PRIVES**

**MINISTERES  
INSTITUTIONS  
PUBLIQUES**

**BRANCHES  
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**CNCP**

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DES PUBLICS**

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**CARIF**

**Cellules  
Inter-services  
Régionales VAE**

**OPCA**

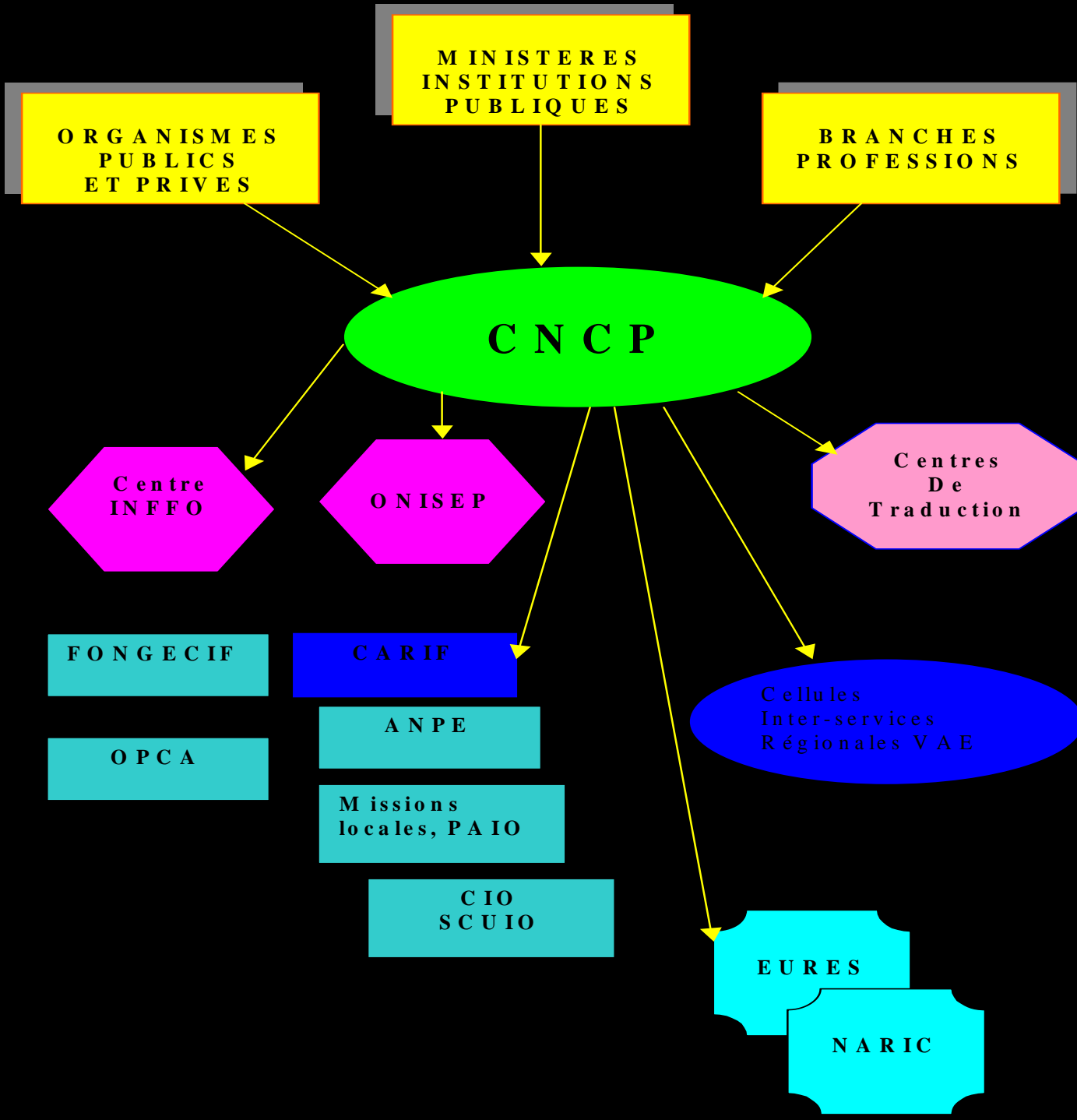
**ANPE**

**Missions  
locales, PAIO**

**CIO  
SCUIO**

**EURES**

**NARIC**



# A self certification system set up through a recent law on 17 January 2002

## Main principles

- Any “*certification*” can be got after a validation of learning outcomes whatever they can be acquired (formal, non formal or informal learning) by a specific process named « validation des acquis d’expérience » (VAE) and the law reform the last approach which exist before
- Certifications are registered in a Répertoire National des certifications Professionnelles hold and up to date by the Commission nationale de la Certification Professionnelle

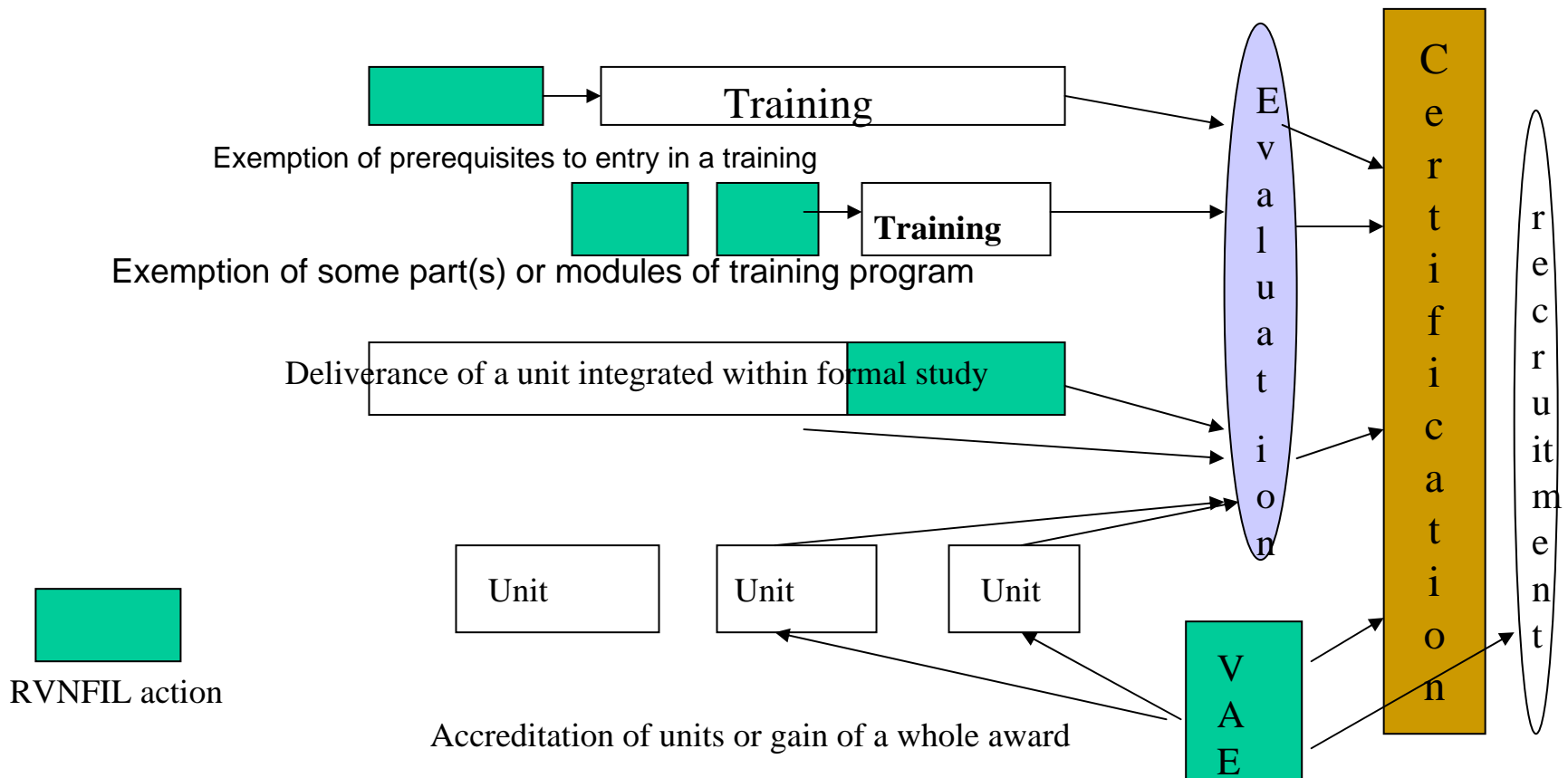
# Common principles and procedures

Specific committees exist to manage together political orientations at a national, regional and sectoral levels about

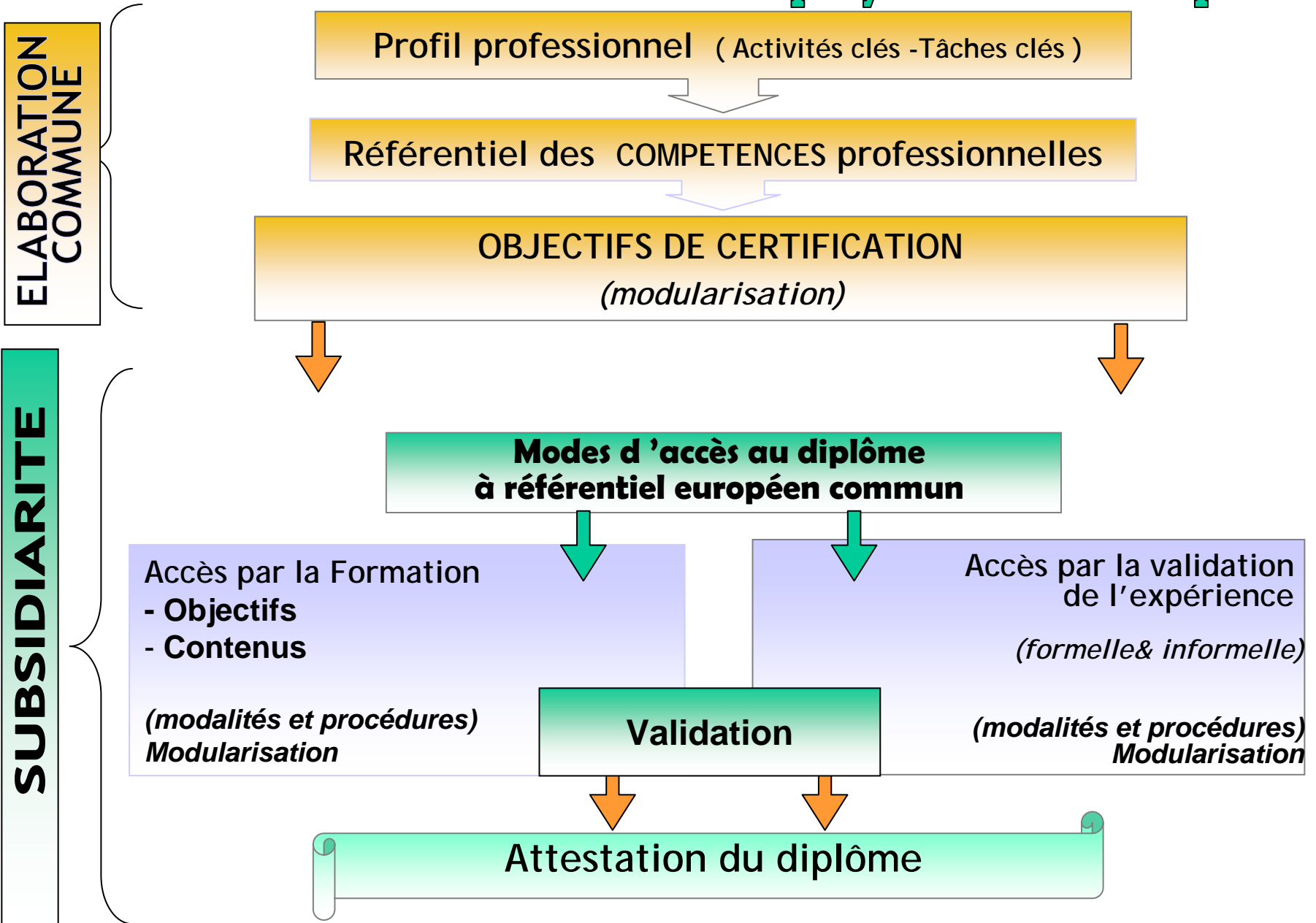
- LLL development
- Guidance and information of youth and adults
- Identification and validation of non formal and informal learning

The quality principles are set up under the responsibility of institutions and ministries responsible of the “*certification*” process

# Recognition and validation of non formal and informal learning



# La démarche européenne de "Professionnalisation durable" au service de la mobilité et de l'employabilité en Europe



Nevertheless linkage with EQF seems  
quite difficult

... especially for two reasons :



## Descriptors proposed for the levels grid are too numerous to be operative

French certification grids concern collective references and not individual qualification characteristics

- the first grid is based on a 5 levels hierarchy structured on general knowledge and learning duration
- the second one composed also with 5 levels makes a link with the position which may be hold in a working process
- the third one is referred to the social collective classification used to negotiate a job

The French collective references cannot be read through the European grid in its whole composition. Only one or two of the 6 descriptors, classified in 8 levels can be used.

## Sectoral goals impossible to be identified

In the French approach, sectoral domains are as important than qualification levels to make legible a certification.

A specific taxonomy was made to help such referencing. It is composed with 4 main categories, 17 domains and 93 specialities.

- 1 General
- 2 Production vocational process
- 3 Services vocational process
- 4 personal development

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This classification can help to make individual researches for guidance, HR researches to plan LLL. It is the main key which structuring all the RNCP though its composition contains various kind of certification. To go further a ROME codification is joined to each description and so give good insurance to make comparative pathways. This dimension is not included in the actual EQF

## Concepts are necessary to deepen

At a European level it would be necessary to go further about a better knowledge about conceptual approaches to really be able to link an EQF. There is a great gap of interpretation between concepts and practices especially for concepts as qualification, competence and credits.

There is also a great confusion about the real purpose :  
what will be classified individual competence or collective references ?

Without clear definitions based on clear practices it is impossible to set comprehensive linkage and coherent exchanges between us.