

## **7. What is the difference between educational measurement, assessment and evaluation?**

Like so many inter-related concepts, these terms overlap considerably, but have centres of specialisation. Measurement is generally the narrowest and involves comparative judgements, nearly always based on quantification (numbers). Assessment can make use of measurement, but it is usually concerned with broader judgements and more varied forms of observation to come to conclusions about the level of an achievement. Evaluation may use methods of measurement, and almost surely also assesses situations. Perhaps the most important difference is that evaluation is applied more to institutions, projects and objects, while assessment is applied either to individuals or to more general situations. However, the usage of these terms shifts from context to context. Different organisations (or even sectors) create fixed working definitions that are shared by practitioners in that context, although another context may use the same term with a different intention. Users of the terminology should make sure that how they are using a particular term is clear.

[Answer to FAQ 7, The NQF and Assessment, the NQF Gateway]