



Estonian occupational qualifications system

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Estonian Qualifications Authority (1)

- **Support structure for Occupational Qualifications System** in order to increase the competitiveness of Estonian employees and promote the development, assessment, recognition and comparison of their professional competence.
- The occupational qualifications system is part of the qualifications system for **recognition of learning outcomes**. The occupational qualifications **system connects the educational system with the labour market**.



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Estonian Qualifications Authority (2)

- Private legal entity (foundation) **established 31.08.2001**
- **Founders:**
 - Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - Estonian Confederation of Employers and Industry
 - Estonian Employees' Unions' Confederation
 - Confederation of Estonian Trade Unions
 - Ministry of Social Affairs
- Subordinated to **the Ministry of Education and Research**



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Estonian Qualifications Authority

Functions

- Developing occupational qualifications system
- Organising work of Sector Skills Councils and working groups (developing occupational qualification standards)
- Providing counselling and assistance for Awarding Bodies (awarding of occupational qualifications)
- Co-operation with education and training institutions
- Maintaining state register of occupational qualifications
- Organising the work of National Europass Centre
- Estonian NCP for the EQF implementation



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Occupational qualifications system

Main processes are:

- Development of occupational standards
- Awarding of occupational qualifications



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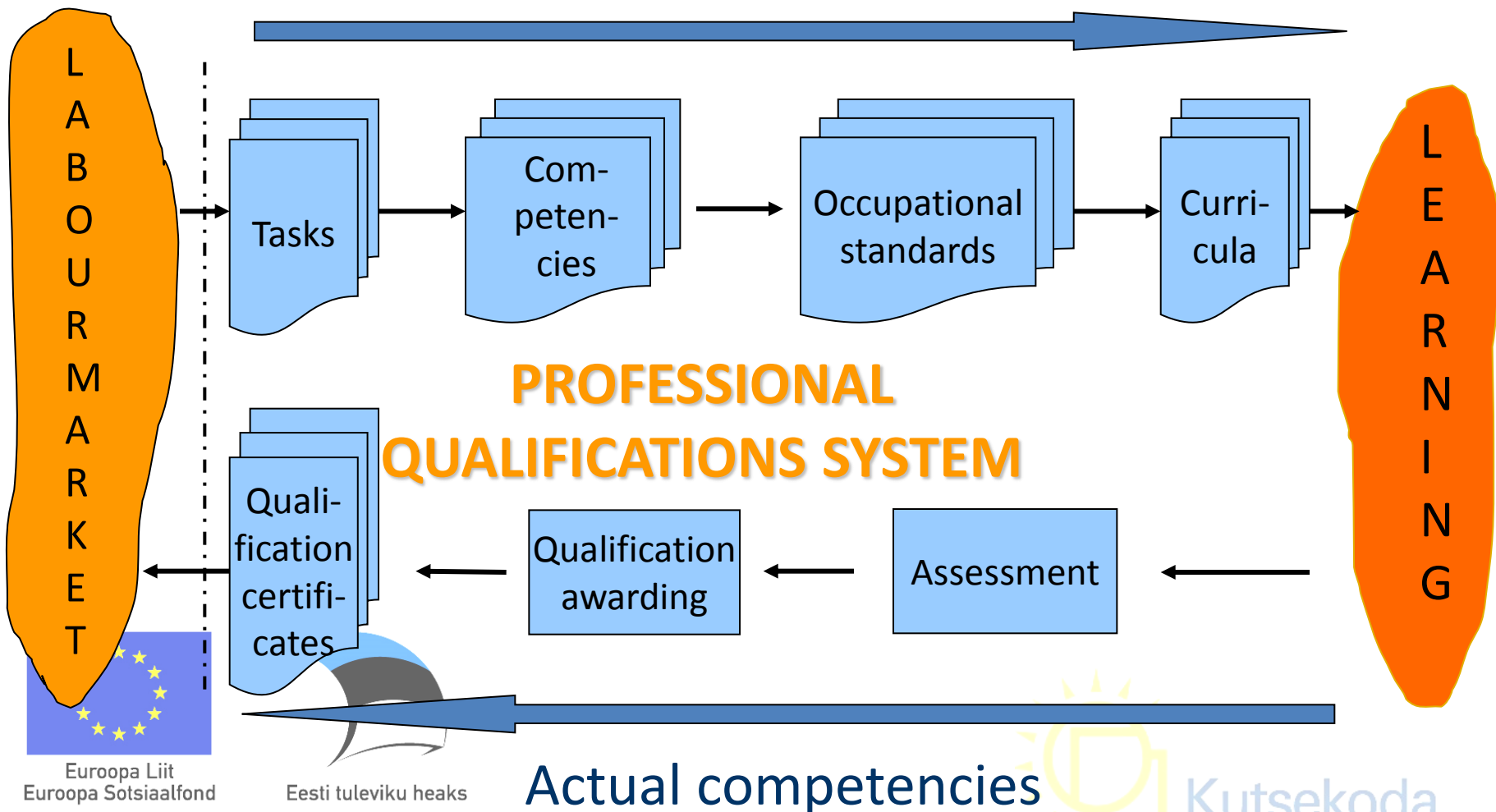
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Competency cycle

Expected competencies



Professional Councils

In Estonian occupational qualifications system the labour market is divided into 16 sectors (on the bases of statistical classification of economic fields in Estonia) and each sector is managed by a sector skills council.

- Institutions represented in sector skills councils are nominated by the Government (10-20 institutions)
- persons representing these institutions are nominated by the Minister of Education and Research.
- Typically institutions represented in professional councils are: employers organizations of the sector; trade unions of the sector; professional associations of the sector; education and training institutions; responsible ministries.



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Professional Councils

1. Business Services and other Business Activities
2. Construction, Real Estate and Geomatics
3. Service
4. Forestry
5. Health Care and Social Work
6. Light Industry
7. Metal and Machine Industry
8. Food Industry and Agriculture
9. Transport and Logistics
10. Energy, Mining and Chemical Industry
11. Information Technology and Telecommunication
12. Engineers
13. Internal Security
14. Folk Art and Handicraft
15. Culture
16. Education

between SSC-s



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Professional Council

Occupational qualification standard

- Decision to work out or renew occupational qualification standard
- Forms working groups, expert groups
- Approves occupational qualification standards

Award of occupational qualifications

- Issues licence for the awarding body
- Confirms methods of awarding occupational qualification
- Confirms the price of awarding occupational qualification
- Carries out supervision



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Occupational standard - 547 standards

- An occupational qualification standard is a document which **describes occupational activities and provides the competency requirements for occupational qualifications on specific level.**
- The proposal for the preparation of occupational qualification standards can be made by any enterprise, institution or other organisation and individual.
- Occupational qualification standard is prepared by a working group consisting of the experts in the given field.
- Occupational qualification standard is made up by partial qualifications (units)
- An opinion poll shall be conducted in enterprises & institutions of the corresponding area of activity in order to introduce the draft of an occupational qualification standard
- Occupational qualification standards shall be approved by professional councils.
- The approved occupational qualification standards are placed to the State register of occupational qualifications



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Awarding of occupational qualifications

... is the assessment of conformity of the competence of a person applying for an occupational qualification with the requirements specified in the occupational standard.

Principles

- **competence based approach:** bases for assessment of occupational qualification are real skills and knowledge
- is voluntary, unless otherwise prescribed by law
- assessment is separated and independent from teaching
- takes place on the basis of person's application
- assessment is for a fee



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Awarding of professional qualifications



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Awarding Body

- **A professional council decides on giving the rights of a awarding body**
- **Functions:**
 - to develop and approve the procedure for the assessment and award of occupational qualifications
 - to establish and approve the calculation of costs related to the issue of occupational qualification certificates
 - to organize assessment
 - to issue occupational qualification certificates



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Occupational Qualifications Committee

- Formed by the awarding body
- To ensure impartiality, committees consist of the parties interested in awarding occupational qualifications in the given field: specialists, employees, employers, educators, representatives of occupational associations
- The aim of occupational qualifications committee is to
 - prepare the procedure for awarding
 - decide on the form and manner for assessment
 - approve the instructions for the assessment and the examination materials
 - decide on awarding or refusing to award occupational qualification to the person
 - resolve the complaints
 - appoint, if necessary, assessment committee(s)



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Occupational qualification certificate

93 220
occupational qualification certificates
are issued
by the Awarding Bodies



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The register of occupational qualifications

- Professional Councils
- Occupational Qualification Standards
- Awarding Bodies
- Occupational Qualification Certificates

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Thank you!

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