The Validation of the Professional Competence Acquired outside Formal Education System of Latvia

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2018
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First definition of non-formal education in legal act was included in Education Law in 2001:
“non-formal education - educational activities in conformity with interests and demand organised outside of formal education”

In 2008 the government took a decision to ensure that professional qualification could be acquired through recognition of non-formal learning.

In 2010 the procedure for validation of non-formal and informal learning was established.
Since 2011 State Education Quality Service coordinates validation of the professional competence acquired outside formal education.

Validation of professional competence is carried out by institutions that have received delegation from State Education Quality Service.

Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No 146 “Procedure for the Validation of the Professional Competence Acquired outside Formal Education System” was adopted in 2011.
Validation of professional competences acquired outside formal education can be performed by accredited education institutions.

Vocational examination can be taken by a person who has reached the age of 18, no prior education is required.

Two consultations are provided for free.

Examination is for a fee.
The procedure

The professional qualification examination consists of theoretical and practical part.

The professional competence gained outside formal education system is assessed according to the first, second or third level of qualification (2.-4. EQF) competence required during the professional qualification examination.

After a candidate has successfully passed the professional qualification examination, he/she receives a document certifying the State recognized vocational qualification – a certificate of vocational qualification.
The process

Non-formal learning
Informal learning
Practical experience

Vocational qualification examination

State recognized vocational qualification certificate

professional competence gained outside formal education system

theoretical and a practical examination

first, second or third level of qualification (2.-4. EQF)
State Education Quality Service:
- consultations for candidates
- consultations for educational institutions.

Examination institutions:
- two consultations regarding the requirements set in the occupational standard and the procedure of professional qualification exam
- arrangement of vocational qualification examination
- provide information about candidates to State Education Quality Service

Sectorial Expert Councils:
- consultations to the candidates and educational institutions
- participation in vocational qualification examination
Currently more than 200 delegation agreements with 46 vocational education institutions are in force.

Applicants have the opportunity to validate their professional competence in more than 170 professional qualifications.

Since 2011 5462 people have obtained professional qualification certificate through validation of their vocational competences acquired outside formal education.
The first applicant, who obtained a professional qualification certificate through assessment of the professional competence gained outside formal education system in Latvia, took the examination at Daugavpils Trade School in 2011.

Number of persons who have validated of the professional competence acquired outside formal education system in last few years:

- 1157 persons in 2017
- 1453 persons in 2016
- 940 persons in 2015
- 643 persons in 2014
### ‘TOP – 5’ qualifications acquired in non-formal validation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Level of National Qualification Framework</th>
<th>Count of certificate of vocational qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welder (4 different qualifications)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter rescuer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Manager</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Police junior inspector</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!

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