



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

State Education Quality Service
Quality Assurance Department
Deputy Director
Ina Masule

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STATE EDUCATION QUALITY SERVICE

The State Education Quality Service was founded in 2009.

MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE:

- to obtain, collect and analyse information necessary for education policy;
- to register educational and research institutions;
- to licence educational programmes;
- to implement education quality assessment procedure or accreditation;
- to organise validation of professional competences acquired through the process of non-formal education system;
- to ensure issuing and register of certificates of launching pedagogues' private practises;
- to inspect education process, review claims and advise on prevention of detected shortcomings;

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 the professional competence is coordinated by **the State Education Quality Service** .

The first applicant, who obtained a professional qualification certificate of **a cook** through assessment of the professional competence gained **outside formal education** system in Latvia, took the examination at Daugavpils Trade School in 2011

THE PROCEDURE

An accredited educational institution has to **provide the advice on the requirements** of the relevant profession standart and on **the process of the vocational qualification examination** free of charge.

The only requirement is that the professional qualification examination is allowed to be taken by a person who has attained **the age of 18.**

When the applicant is confident of compliance of his competences and he is ready to take the vocational qualification examination, he submits an application.

Up to the point of deciding to take the exam, the procedure is free of charge for the candidate.

The **validation process** of knowledge and skills acquired outside formal education **is for a fee.**

The professional qualification examination consists of a **theoretical and a practical part.**

The professional competences gained outside formal education system is assessed according **to the first, second or third level of qualification 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 recognised vocational qualification – **a certificate of vocational qualification.**

Dissemination

Apart from the institutions that are delegated to carry out professional competence assessment there is a number of organisations that are involved in granting certificates or specific recognition of specialists in Latvia

The register of the professional competence assessment bodies is available on the website of the State Service of Education Quality www.ikvd.gov.lv

Information and interviews in mass media

International educational exhibition “School 2012”,
“School 2013” (Latvia, Riga)

INFORMATION & CONSULTATIONS & TRAINING & METHODOLOGY

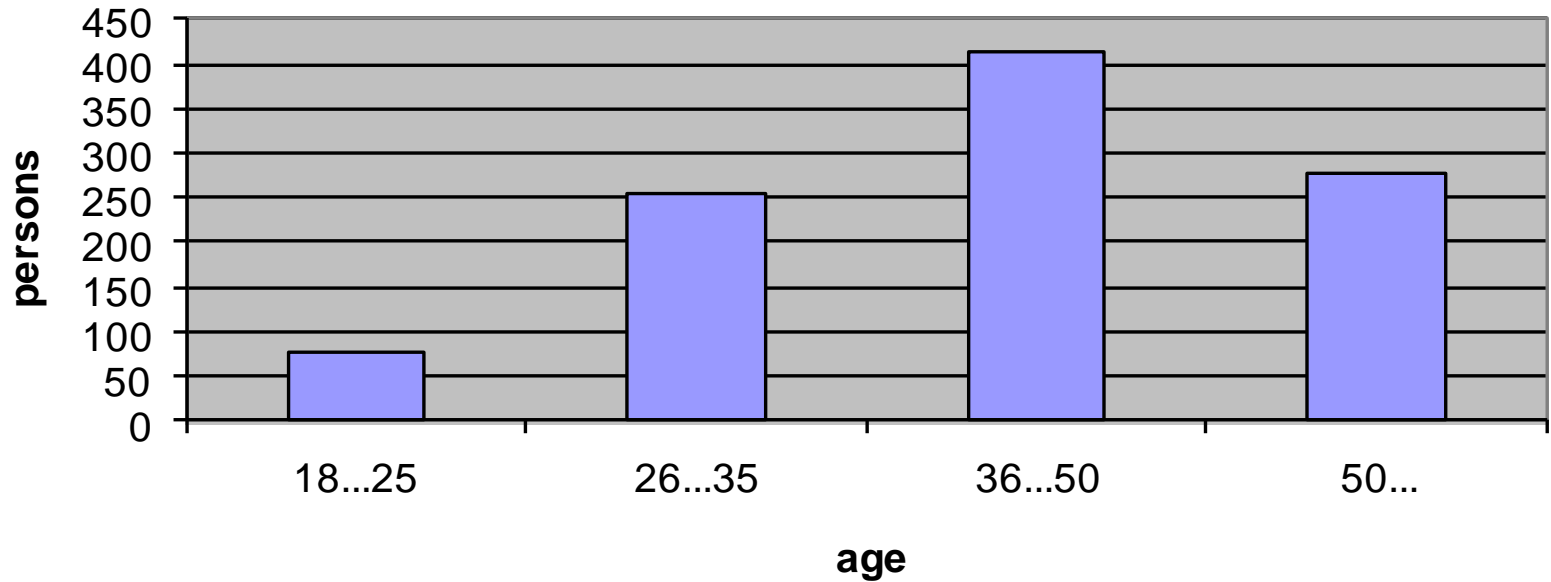
The State Education Quality Service provides consultations to the candidates.

The State Education Quality Service provides consultations to the educational institutions.

The institution assessing professional competence must provide to the candidate consultations free of charge regarding the requirements set in the concrete occupational standard and the procedure of professional qualification exam.

Sectorial Expert Councils provide consultations to the candidates.

Chart of non-formal statistics



‘TOP – 6’ qualifications acquired in non-formal validation 2011- 2013

Qualification	Level of National Qualification Framework	Number (total 1557)
House Manager	3	415
Social Worker	2	175
Inspector of State Board Guard	3	141
Babysitters	3	133
Welder	2	113
Car Mechanic	2	100

Currently, **403 delegation agreements** have been signed with **41 vocational education institutions**.

These agreements authorize VET institutions to implement validation and to organize qualification examinations.

Applicants have the opportunity to validate their professional competences in **more than 140 professional qualifications**.

c.a. 1560 people have obtained professional qualification through validation of their vocational competences acquired outside formal education.

More information: **www.ikvd.gov.lv**

ESF PROJECT



In 2010, the State Education Development Agency in cooperation with four partners:

the Employers' Confederation of Latvia,
the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia,
the National Centre for Education,
the State Service of Education Quality

started to implement an ESF project called **“Development of sectoral qualifications system and increasing the efficiency and quality of vocational education”** (2010-2015).

The aim of this project is to establish a qualitative vocational education content provision system that functions continuously and corresponds to the needs of economic sectors.

80 persons has chance to **validate** their professional competence **for free** .

EU Lifelong Learning Programme



2012 -2013 **project “An integrated system for the recognition of non-formal learning: the establishment of the national cooperation network” (Val-Net).**

The aims of this project was:

- to raise awareness concerning the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, as well as regarding the development of the European and national policy framework in Latvia;
- to promote cooperation between various levels of education system, e.g., between policy and practice levels;
- to develop a sustainable information exchange mechanism – cooperation network of national scale.

The main outcomes of the Val-Net project are:

- Overview of the system of validation in Latvia (policy framework and practices);
- Explaining the concept and relevance of validation; Dissemination of information about EU policies, initiatives and tools for validation of non-formal and informal learning; and of policy framework and validation in Latvia;
- Collecting and promoting good practices from all levels of education system;
- A National Network of cooperation for validation covering more 100 institutions and serving as a base for a community of practice;
- Recommendations for development of an integrated validation system.

More information: <http://www.valnetlatvija.eu/>

Thank you for your attention!

State Education Quality Service

14 Zigfrida Annas Meierovica Boulevard

Riga, LV-1050

Latvia

Tel.+ 371 67387866

Ina.masule@ikvd.gov.lv

www.ikvd.gov.lv