



# The National Qualifications Framework of Estonia

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**Estonian Qualifications Authority**



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Kutsete süsteemi arendamist toetab  
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# Periodes of Development (1)

- 1991-2005 – development and implementation of educational legislation; no explicit mentioning of qualifications system or qualifications framework
- 1998-2008 – bottom-up development process of the professional (vocational) qualifications system (PQS)
- 2001 – Parliament adopted the Professions Act; 5-levels professional qualifications framework, institutional structure of the system
- 2001 – Estonian Qualifications Authority (*Kutsekoda*) was established as support structure for the PQS



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# Periodes of Development (2)

- 2007 – Government set the goal to develop sustainable, flexible, internationally compatible **competence based qualifications system** meeting the needs of lifelong learning
- 2008 – Parliament adopted new Professions Act; **8-levels Estonian National Qualifications Framework (ENQF) compatible with EQF**
- 2009 – *Kutsekoda* appointed as National Coordination Point for EQF implementation
- 2009-2011 – referencing ENQF to EQF



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# Guiding Principles (1)

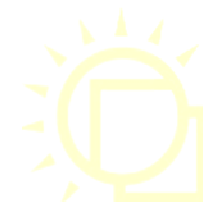
- **Qualifications system (QS) is an interface** between society and lifelong learning system
- Professional QS is a **sub-system of QS** (an interface between labour market and lifelong learning system)
- QS in Estonia follows **integrated qualifications system model**
- QS is a **quality assurance system**



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# Guiding Principles (2)

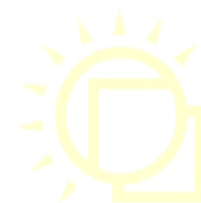
- **Social partnership** of stakeholders is of crucial importance
- **ENQF is a backbone** of QS in Estonia
- **Development** and implementation of QS is a **process**
- Developing and implementing **NQF is a driver** of the process



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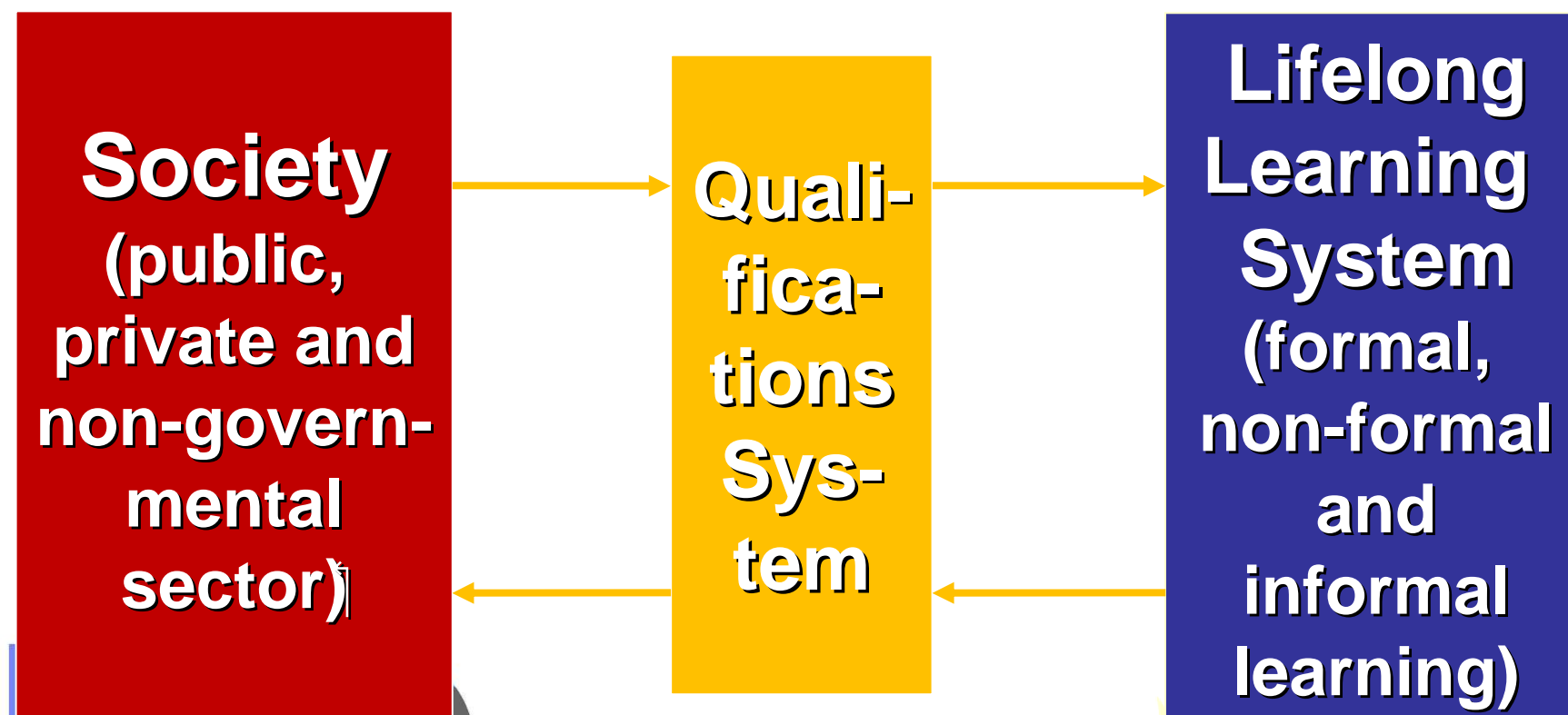


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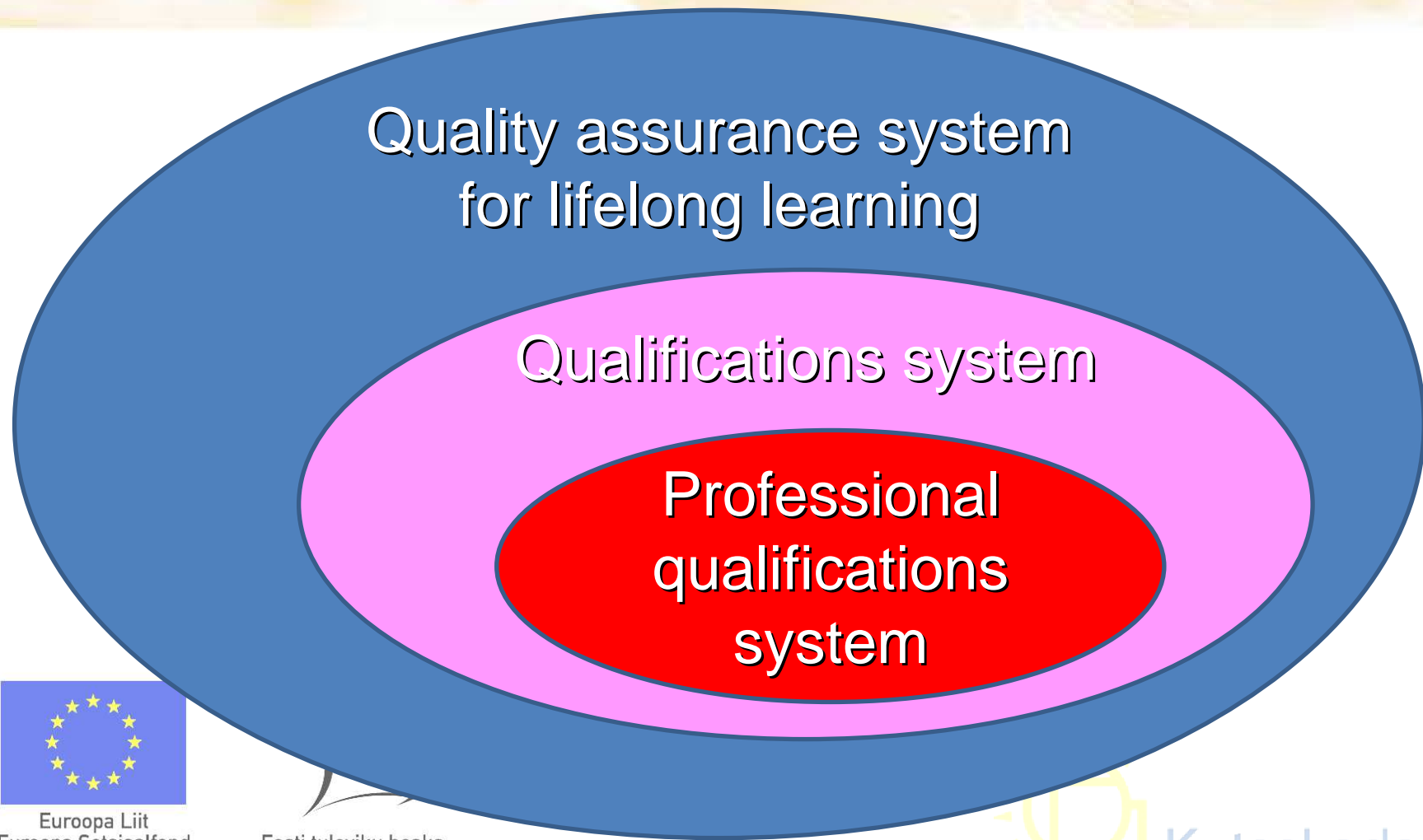


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# Conceptual Framework (1)



# Conceptual Framework (2)

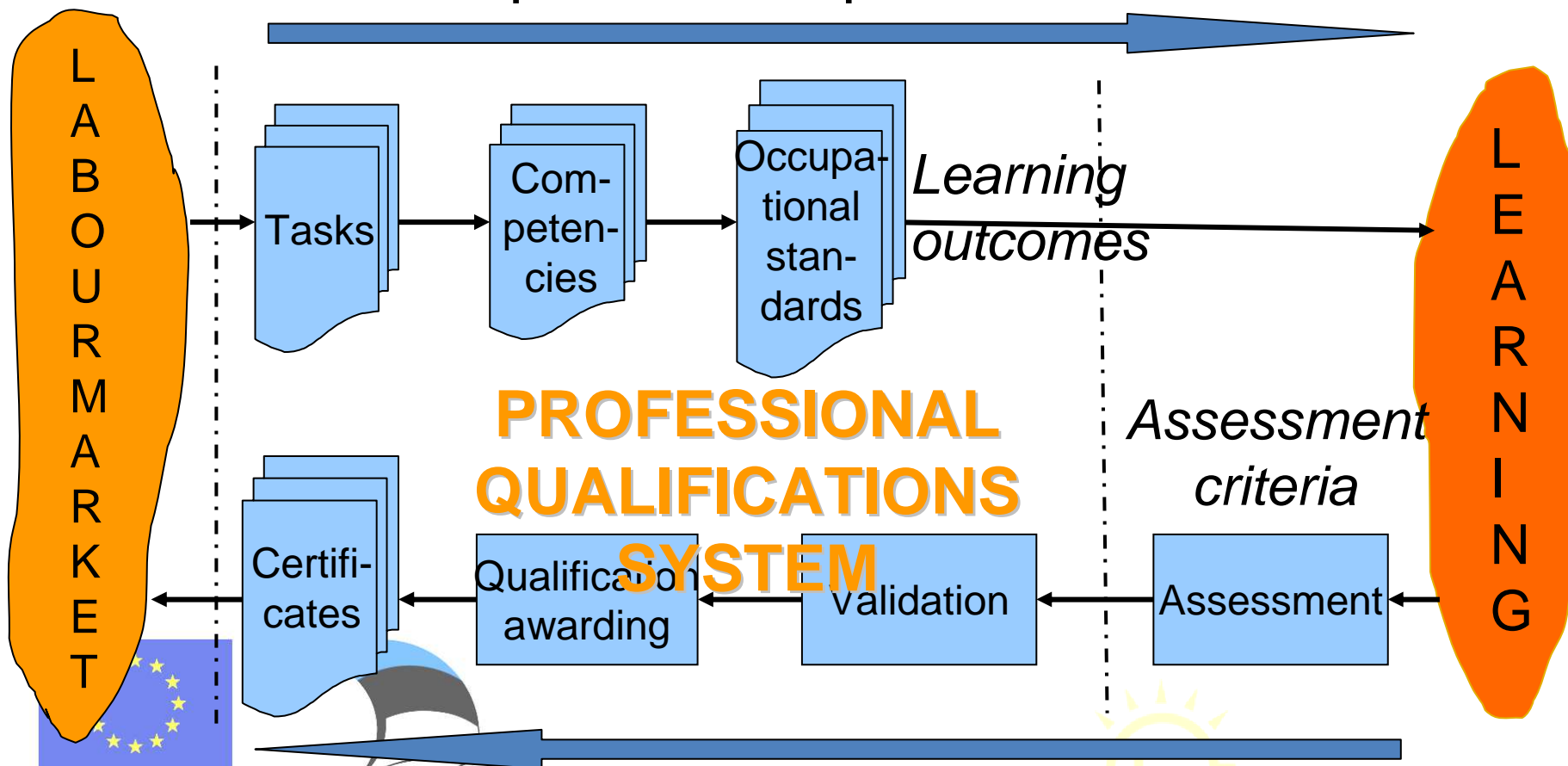


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# Competence cycle (1)

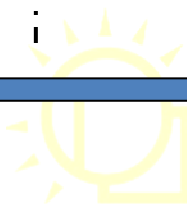
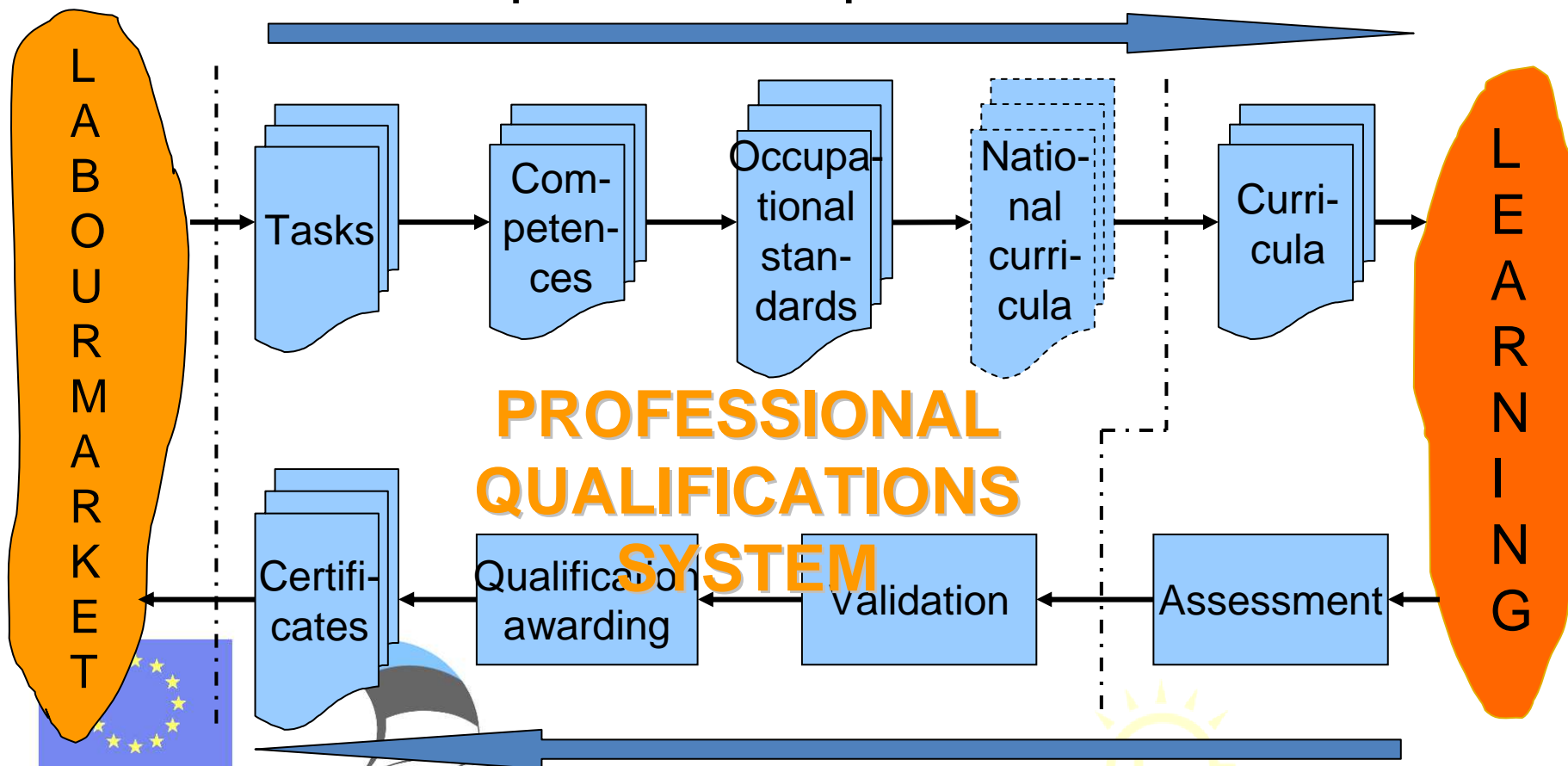
Expected competences





# Competence cycle (2)

Expected competences



# Professions Act (2008)

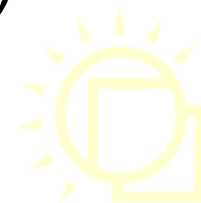
- **8-level ENQF** compatible with EQF
- **Entirely competence** (learning outcomes) **based** approach to (professional) qualifications system
- **Regulated education approach** – possibility to award primary professional (vocational) qualification on graduation from VET institution or HEI (starting from January 1, 2011)
- **Quality assurance principles** based on ISO17024 (personal certification)



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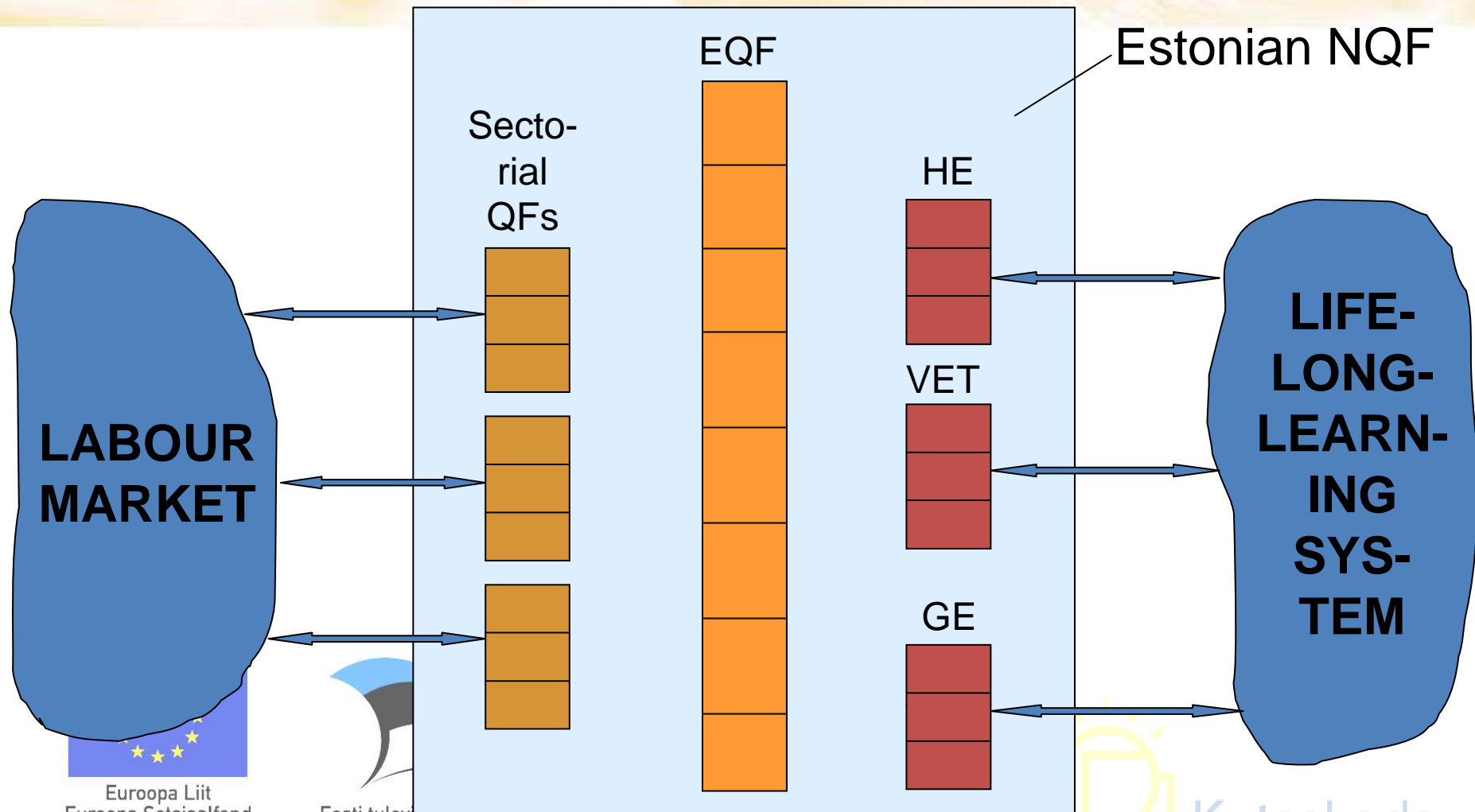


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# Estonian National Qualifications Framework (2008)



# Educational Standards and ENQF

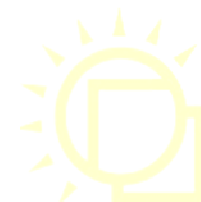
- General trend of development – **towards learning outcomes based standards:**
  - Higher education standard (2008)
  - Vocational education standard (2009) + national curricula for VET
  - National curriculum for basic school (2010)
  - National curriculum for upper secondary school (2010)
  - New generation of occupational standards (2010-...)



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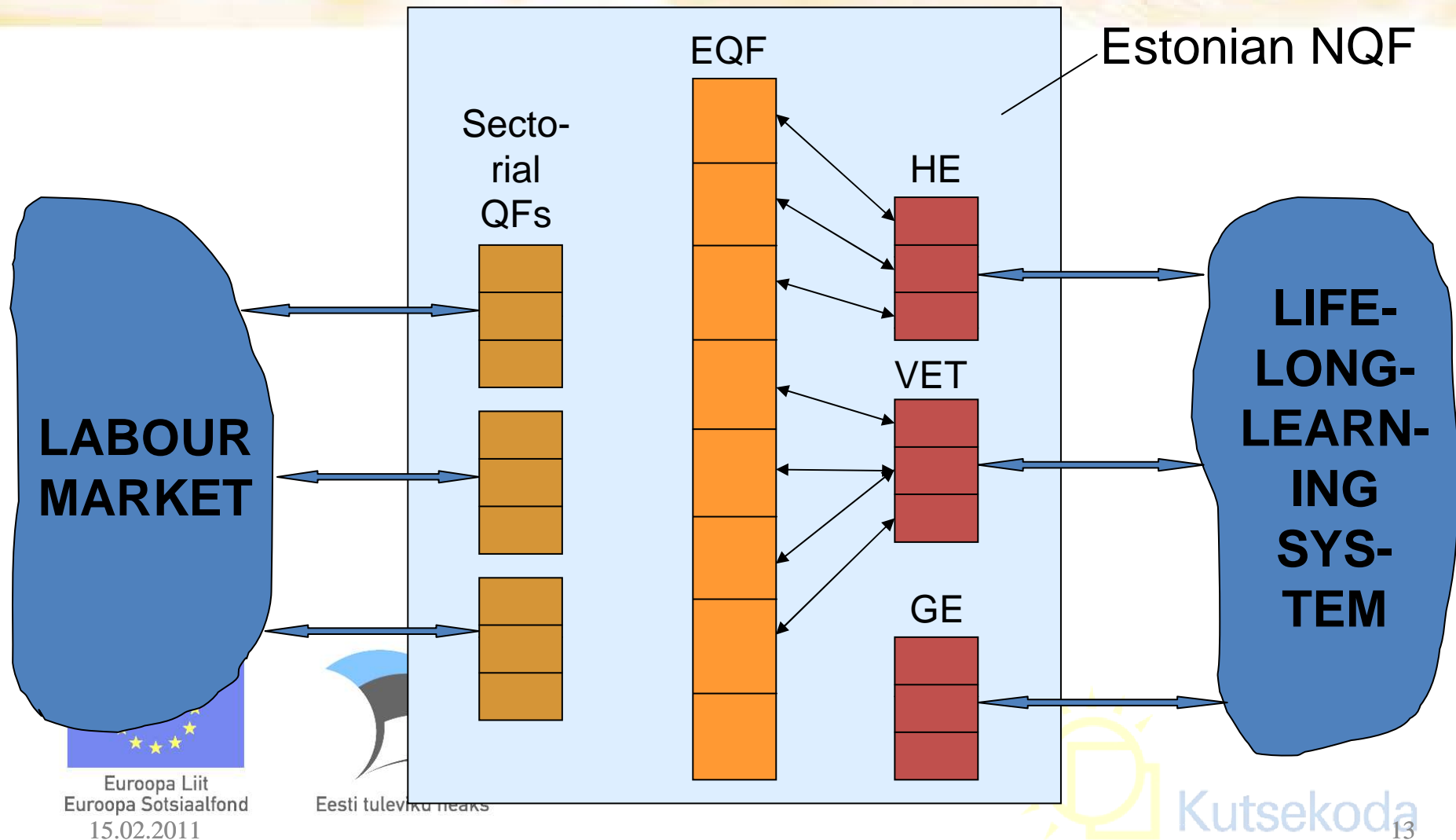


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# Estonian National Qualifications Framework (2009)



# Referencing of ENQF to EQF

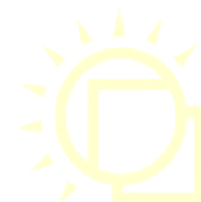
- March 2010 – establishing steering committee
- November 2010 – drafting of referencing report
- February 2011 – consultations with international experts
- March 2011 – consensus building in Estonia
- June 2011 – referencing report is presented to the EQF Advisory Group (AG)
- December 2011 – approval by the EQF AG



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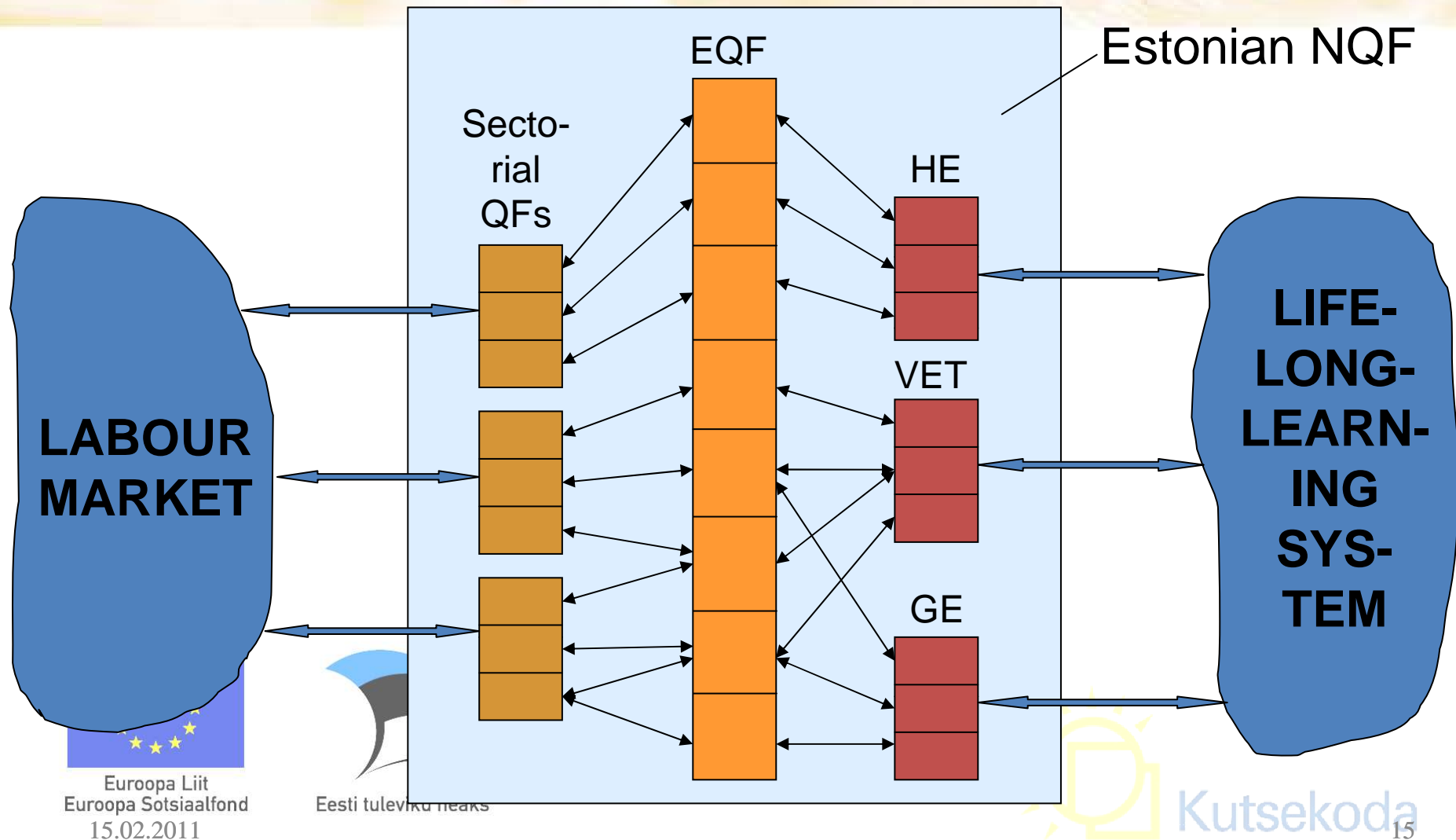


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# Estonian National Qualifications Framework (2011)



Formal education qualifications	EQF and ENQF levels	Estonian professional levels
Graduation certificate of simplified curriculum; Graduation certificate of curriculum for students with moderate and severe learning disabilities	1	
Vocational education certificate without basic education requirement; Basic education certificate	2	I
Vocational education certificate based on basic education; Vocational secondary education certificate; Vocational secondary education certificate based on secondary education;	3	I, II
Vocational secondary education certificate based on secondary education; <b>Upper secondary education certificate</b>	4	I, II, III
	5	III, IV
Bachelor's degree, Professional higher education certificate	6	III, IV, V
Master's degree	7	IV, V
Doctoral degree	8	V





# Thank you for your attention!

[www.kutsekoda.ee](http://www.kutsekoda.ee)

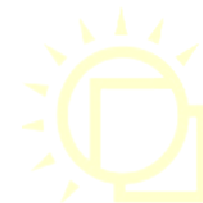
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