

Estonian national qualifications framework

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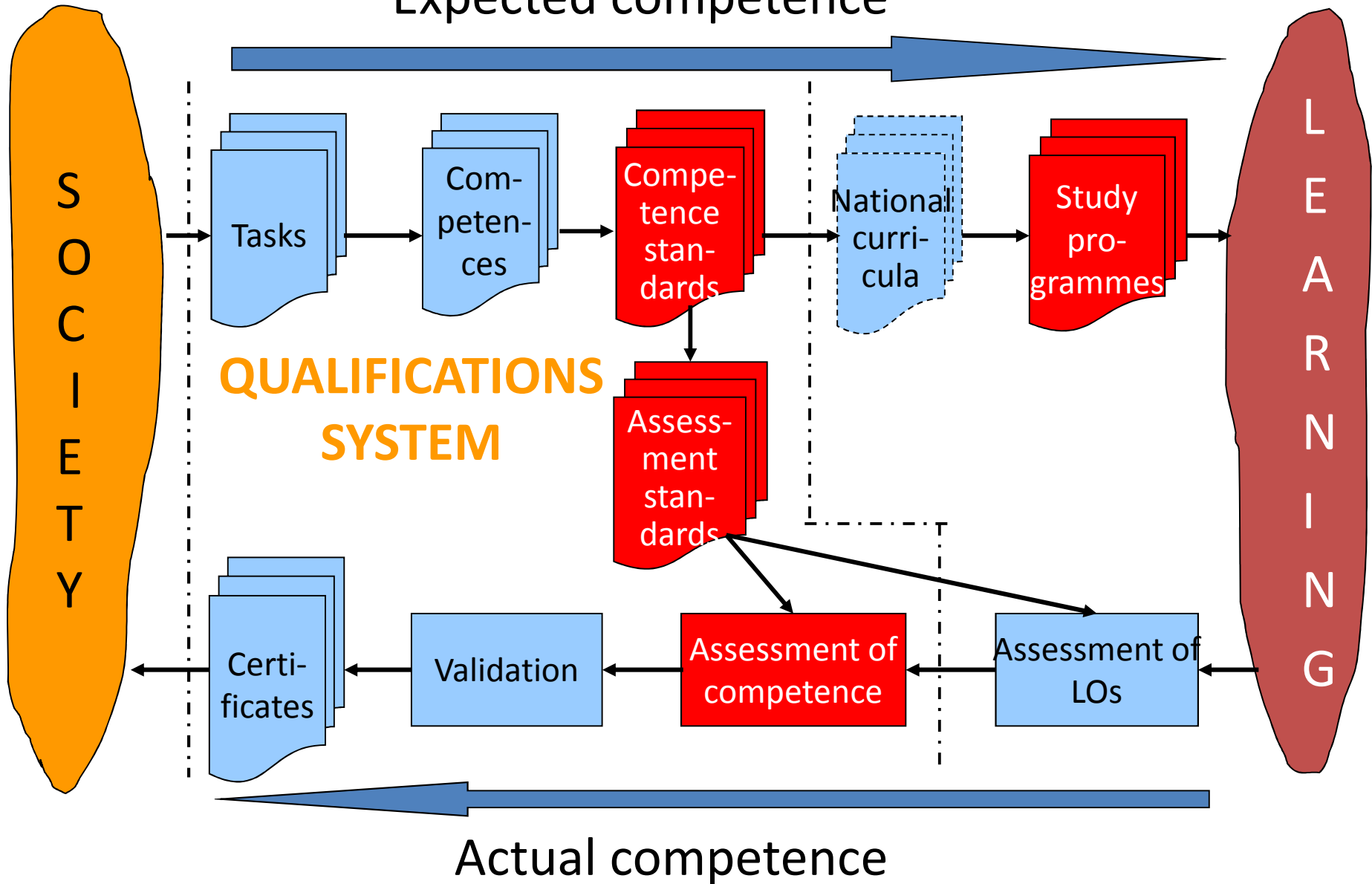
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Estonian qualifications system

- 2005 – MoER set the aim to develop sustainable, flexible, internationally compatible **competence** (learning outcomes) **based qualifications system** meeting the needs of lifelong learning persons, knowledge based society and economy
- 2008 – Parliament adopted new Professions Act; **8-levels qualifications framework compatible with** European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (**EQF**); competence (learning outcomes) based approach

Competence circle

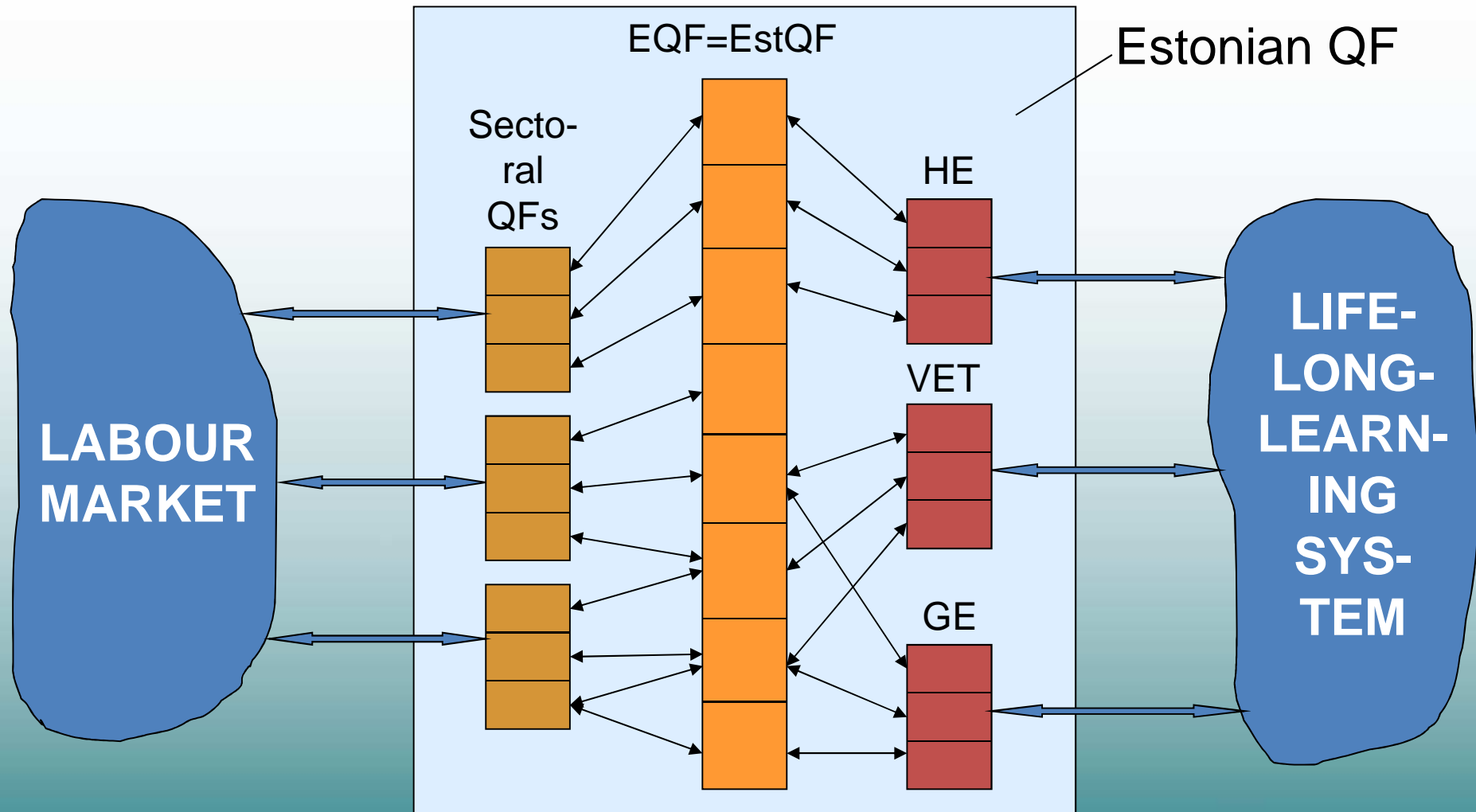
Expected competence



Estonian qualifications framework

- EstQF is a **comprehensive and inclusive framework**, established by the amended Professions Act in 2008
- EstQF consists of **four sub-frameworks**: for general education, VET, HE and professional qualifications with **sub-framework specific descriptors and relevant quality assurance systems**
- EstQF **includes all state recognised qualifications**, which meet two criteria:
 - Are defined in learning outcomes-based qualifications standards (curriculum or professional standard)
 - Awarded by nationally accredited institutions

Estonian Qualifications Framework (2011)



Formal education qualifications	EstQF levels
Basic education certificate based on curriculum for students with moderate and severe learning disabilities	1
Basic education certificate based on simplified curriculum Basic education certificate VET without basic education requirement certificate	2
VET based on basic education certificate	3
Upper secondary general education certificate Upper secondary VET certificate VET based on upper secondary education certificate	4
	5
Diploma of Bachelor's degree, Diploma of professional higher education	6
Diploma of Master's degree	7
Diploma of Doctoral degree	8

Access to higher education

- For graduates of upper secondary general education no restrictions
- For graduates of upper secondary VET:
 - No restrictions, provided passed national examinations
 - Option for additional academic year
 - No restrictions, provided that the student continues in the same field of study

Professional qualifications and qualifications from formal education

- In 1991 the Soviet-type professional qualifications system was abolished
- In 1997 employers organisations initiated development of professional qualifications system
- Professional qualifications and qualifications from formal education have been developing separately until 2008
- The possibility to get entry level professional qualification on graduation from VET or HE institution from 2011

Level 5 of EstQF

- At the moment contains professional qualifications
- Will include formal education qualifications....
- Political discussions since 2010...
- New VET Institutions Act 2013 will include IVET and CVET on level 5

VET qualifications on level 5

- Need for redesigning/reorganising some applied HE qualifications /postsec VET qualifications (during 2013) - to avoid duplication
- IVET – qualifications which need upper secondary education for entrance („short professional qualifications“) (business, management, IT) 90 – 120 ECVET
- CVET – further professional qualifications (so called „master qualifications“) (duration 30 ECVET – 90 ECVET)

Täna!