AGENDA

TITLE:

Peer learning visit: National Qualifications System in Latvia

SUBJECT:

**DARYA Thematic Module 2 – Stakeholder driven flexible and permeable approaches to qualifications**

**DATE and location: 8- 10 May 2024, Latvia**

concept note:

Globalisation of the national economies, development of the global labour market, international labour migration together with increasing pressure of the global socio-environmental challenges and geopolitical tensions profoundly transform education and training processes in all countries and regions of the world, including Central Asia. People are challenged to learn (upskill and reskill) throughout their lives to meet the requirements of society and labour market. Lifelong learning executed in the all it’s types - formal, non-formal and informal becomes crucial pathway of learning for all people, enabling them to both adjust to the above mentioned changes, as well as empowering them to be the real stakeholders in making decisions about themselves, communities and society.

National qualifications systems provide a necessary institutional, legal and processual infrastructure for the design and implementation of the lifelong learning processes, starting from the role of NQFs and occupational standards in the design of learning curricula and ending with the key role of these instruments in the quality assurance of the learning pathways and recognition of the learning outcomes acquired in all forms of learning. NQSs of many countries have been reforming to ensure a flawless functioning of LLL systems. This is possible because of the different tools of the national systems of qualifications, such as National Qualifications Frameworks, learning outcomes or competence-based qualifications and curricula, partial qualifications, recognition of corporate qualifications developed by the labour market stakeholders, micro-credentials, modular VET and higher education programmes, competence-based assessment, validation of non-formal and informal learning VNFIL, comparability tools for qualifications and learning outcomes. Despite of globalisation, the state sustains it’s crucial role and responsibility in creating favourable conditions for the implementation of the lifelong learning with the help of national systems of qualifications, because state possesses capacities needed to ensure systemic links, mechanisms and processes to support this transformation.

The understanding of what are the key elements, mechanisms, and roles in the National Qualifications system to support LLL is highly important. In this perspective, DARYA in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia is organising a PLA to dive into the LQS to see how the above challenges are addressed by Latvia. The focus of the PLA therefore is on how the LQS supports lifelong learning, and how it supports participation of labour market stakeholders in lifelong learning. In Latvia, an NQF and sectoral qualifications frameworks facilitate the dialogue between the education, training and the labour market. All sector qualifications are represented as permeable vertically and aligned with LQF. In this perspective, the understanding of what “qualification” is plays an important role. In the context of LLL, “qualification” means a formal outcome of an assessment and validation process which is obtained when a competent authority determines that an individual has achieved learning outcomes against given standards (*EU Council Recommendation on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, revision of 22 May 2017*)[[1]](#footnote-2).

objectives:

* To introduce the Latvian qualifications system (LQS), focusing on its **support to lifelong learning**, and **support to participation of labour market stakeholders in lifelong learning**,
* To explore the impact of the LQS and the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF) on the individuals, companies, society in Latvia,
* To showcase LQS arrangements (institutional roles, stakeholders’ roles, quality assurance mechanisms) at different levels: implementation/grassroot level (education and training providers – both formal and non formal; validation providers..), system level (Ministry, interministerial level), technical/coordination level (Academic Information Center, Sectoral expert councils, Confederation of employers, QA bodies),
* To provide an insight on the work of Sectoral Expert Councils,
* To showcase regional cooperation between the three Baltic states in the area of qualifications,
* To support self-reflection and analysis of own country systems by representatives from Central Asian countries

This peer learning activity is organised within the EU funded [DARYA](https://www.etf.europa.eu/darya) project with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia.

*Participants:*

20 representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan: representatives at system level (level of coordination of NQSs – Ministres of Labour, Education, Qualifications authorities); representatives at sectoral/employer level (Chambers, sectoral organisations, employer organisations)

DARYA Qualifications international experts

European Training Foundation

## 7 May 2024 – arrival of participants

| Time |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Arrivals in Riga on 6 and 7 May . Hotel* *Radisson Blu Rīdzene Hotel, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |
| 19:00 | *Dinner and getting to know each other*  *Hotel* *Radisson Blu Rīdzene Hotel, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |

## Day 1, 8 May 2024

| Time | Sessions |
| --- | --- |
| 7:00 | *Travel to* *Daugavpils* |
| 10.30-13.00 | **Visit 1 -** [**Latgale Industrial Technical School**](https://www.lint.lv/) **including coffee break**  *Jātnieku iela 87, Daugavpils, LV-5410, Latvia*  School presentation  Questions & discussions  Attendance of a practical training classes at an indoor training site  Visiting the multifunctional sports hall /practical movement games  Questions & discussions along the way  *Ināra Ostrovska, Principal*  *Jeļena Fedosejeva, Deputy director in the field of teaching and education*  *Inta Laurena, Deputy director in the field of development and innovation*  *Viktorija Baranovska, International projects manager*  *Ņikita Aleksejevs, Public Relations specialist* |
| 13:00-13:45 | *Lunch in the school canteen* |
| 13:45-14:00 | *Departure and travel by bus* |
| 14.00-14.45 | **Visit 2 - Local employer -** [**East Metal**](https://www.eastmetal.com/)  *Stiklu iela 7G, Daugavpils, LV-5404, Latvia*  Introduction into the work of the company,  Questions & discussions  Visit of the company |
|  | *Travel by bus* |
| 15.00 – 15.45 | **Visit 3 - Local employer -** [**Auto Welle**](https://www.autowelle.lv/)  18. novembra iela 68B, Daugavpils, LV-5404, Latvia  Introduction into the work of the company,  Questions & discussions  Visit of the company |
| 15.45 – 18.15 | **Cultural programme: Center of Technics and Industrial design "Engineering arsenal", Daugavpils Fortress, Mark Rothko Art Center** |
| 18.15 – 19:15 | *Dinner Arsenāls cafe* |
| 19:15 | *Travel back to Riga* |
| 22.15 | *Arrival at Hotel Radisson Blu Rīdzene, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |

## Day 2, 9 May 2024

| Time | Sessions |
| --- | --- |
| 8:45 - 9:00 | *Meeting in hotel lobby and walk from Hotel to the Ministry* |
| 9:30-11.30 | **Visit 4 -** [**Ministry of Education and Science**](https://www.izm.gov.lv/en) **(MoES)**  *Vaļņu iela 2, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia*  Meeting with representatives of MoES, [National Centre for Education](https://www.visc.gov.lv/en/national-centre-education-republic-latvia) , [State Education Quality Service](https://www.ikvd.gov.lv/en), [State Employment Agency](https://www.nva.gov.lv/en) and 3 VET schools  Presentations  Questions & discussion  *Ilze Buligina, Senior Expert, Department of Vocational and Adult Education, MoES*  *Anita Vahere-Abražune, Deputy Head of Department of Policy Initiatives and Development, MoES*  *Aļona Babiča, Senior Expert, Department of Policy Initiatives and Development, MoES*  *Evi Vīka, Senior Expert, Department of Policy Initiatives and Development, MoES*  *Baiba Ramiņa, Head of Academic Information Centre*  *Linards Deidulis, Senior Project Manager, International Cooperation Programmes Division, State Education Development Agency*  *Sarmīte Valaine, Tatjana Daņilova, National Centre for Education*  *Inita Ozoliņa, Liena Ādamsone, State Education Quality Service*  *Pāvels Beļisovs, Director of the Employment Activities Department, State Employment Agency*  *Arita Osina, Liena Kupca, Riga State Technical School*  *Ilze Brante, Ogre Technical School*  *Ilze Locmane, Zane Saukane, Riga Technical School of Tourism and Creative Industry* |
| 11:30-12.15 | *Travel by bus to Jurmala* |
| 12:15-13:00 | *Lunch at school* |
| 13:00-15:30 | **Visit 5 -** [**Bulduri Technical School**](https://bulduri.lv/)  **including coffee break**  *Viestura iela 6, Jūrmala, LV-2010, Latvia*  Introduction of the school  Questions and discussions  Tour of the school. Questions and discussions along the way |
| 15.30-17:30 | **Cultural programme: Tour of Jurmala** |
| 17:30-18:15 | *Travel to Riga* |
| 19:00 | *Dinner – Hotel*  *Hotel Radisson Blu Rīdzene, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |

## Day 3, 10 May 2024

| Time | Sessions |
| --- | --- |
| 08.35 | *Meeting in hotel lobby and walk from Hotel to Academic Information Center* |
| 09:00-10.40 | **Visit 6 -** [**Academic Information Centre**](https://aic.lv/en) **(AIC)**  *Dzirnavu iela, Strēlnieku iela 16-k-2 ieeja no, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia*  Presentation  Questions & discussion  *Baiba Ramiņa, Head of Academic Information Centre*  *Gunta Kinta, Head of Projects Department, Academic Information Centre* |
|  | *Transfer on foot* |
| 11:00-12:00 | **Visit 7 -** **[Employers Confederation of Latvia](https://lddk.lv/en/) (LDDK)**  *Raiņa bulvāris 4, Centra rajons, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia*  Short introduction from representatives of Sectoral expert councils,  Questions and discussion |
|  | *Transfer on foot* |
| 12.15-13:15 | *Lunch in hotel*  *Hotel Radisson Blu Rīdzene, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |
| 13:30-16:15 | **Conclusive reflection and discussion session**  *Hotel Radisson Blu Rīdzene, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)*  *The session will gather all participants from Central Asia and representatives of institutions visited during the PLA*   * Welcome and introduction * Group work: participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan work in 5 country groups: lessons learnt, fulfilling of expectations from the PLA, key takeaways and their usage in the five countries. * Groups report to plenary * Reactions, questions, discussion * Representatives of Latvian institutions provide their comments, feedback on the presented lessons learnt and recommendations |
| 16.15 – 17.15 | **Refreshment**  *Hotel Radisson Blu Rīdzene, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |
| 19:00 | *Dinner*  *Hotel Radisson Blu Rīdzene, Riga (Reimersa Street 1)* |

## 11 May – departure of participants

1. Latvian definition of “qualification” follows the EU definition [↑](#footnote-ref-2)