



Quality and Qualifications System in Estonia

Olav Aarna

Estonian Qualifications Authority



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Kutsete süsteemi arendamist toetab
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Guiding Principles

- **Qualifications system** is an interface between society and the system for lifelong learning
- **Occupational qualifications system** is an interface between labour market and the system for lifelong learning (subsystem of qualifications system)
- Qualifications system in Estonia follows **integrated qualifications system model**
- Qualifications system is a **quality assurance system**



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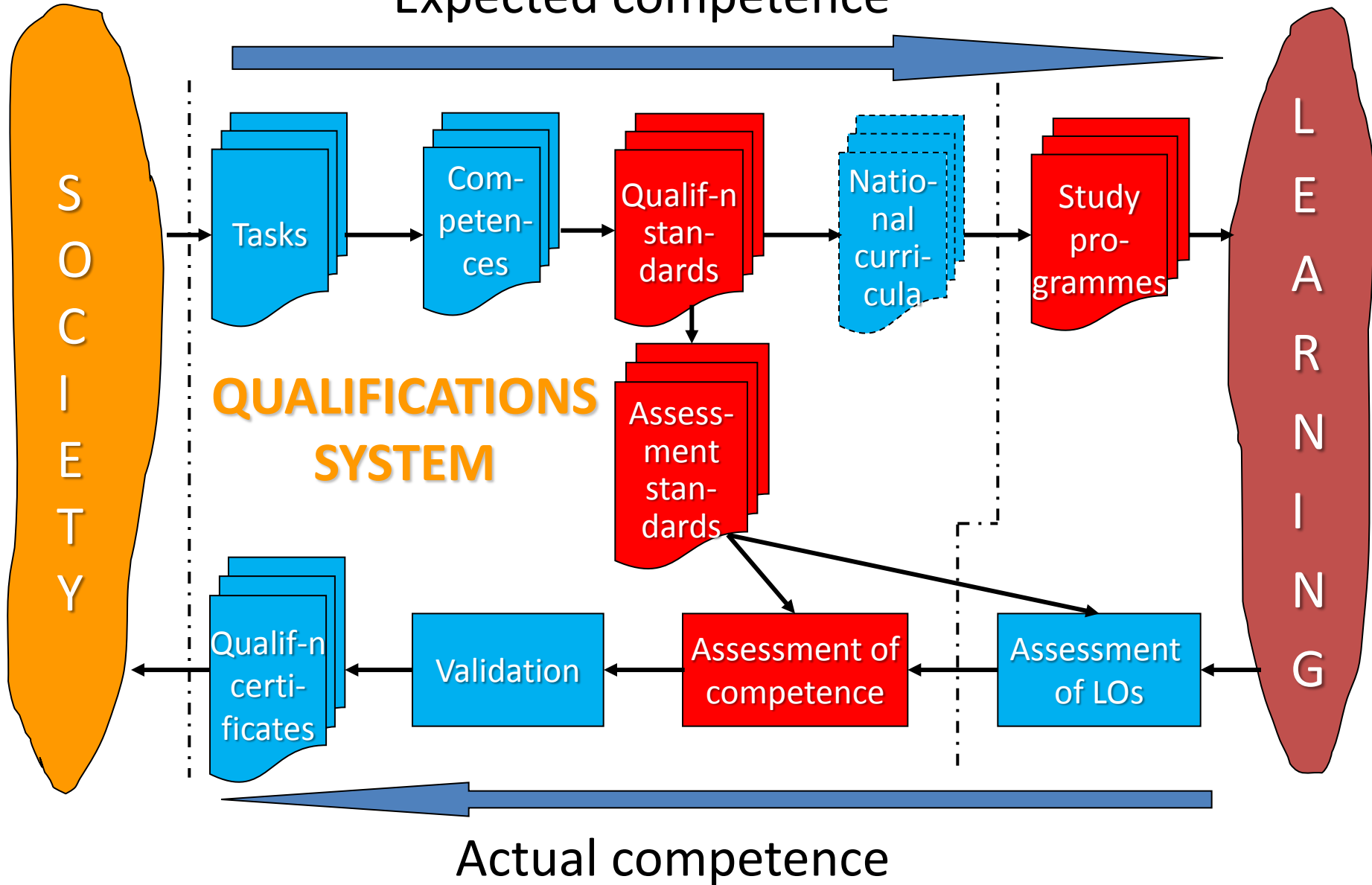


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Competence circle

Expected competence



Institutions involved in quality and qualifications system

- **Ministry of Education and Research** <http://hm.ee/en>:
 - Strategic management of the system
 - Keeping the register of formal education qualifications
 - Licensing of continuous (adult) education providers
- **Estonian Qualifications Authority** (*Kutsekoda*)
<http://kutsekoda.ee/en/kutsekoda>
- **Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency** (EKKA)
<http://ekka.archimedes.ee/quality-agency>
- **Foundation *Innove*** <http://www.innove.ee/en>



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Quality assurance of curricula and formal education qualifications

- **Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (EKKA):**
 - Quality assessment of study programme groups in HE
 - Institutional accreditation of HEIs
 - Quality assessment of study programme groups in VET
- **Foundation *Innove*:**
 - General Education Agency (national curricula for general education, national examinations)
 - VET Agency (national curricula for upper secondary VET)



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Estonian Qualifications Authority (1)

- ***Kutsekoda*** is a support structure for the national occupational qualifications system
- **Occupational qualification** means a qualification associated with a trade, occupation or profession resulting from work based learning
- **Established in 2001** based on Occupational Qualifications Act
- **Foundation** in private law (tripartite)



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Estonian Qualifications Authority (2)

- *Kutsekoda* is:
 - organising and coordinating the activities of sector skills councils
 - providing counselling and assistance for awarding bodies
 - keeping the [register of occupational qualifications](#)
- NCP for the EQF implementation
- NRP for vocational qualifications
- *Europass* centre



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Estonian qualifications

- **Formal education qualifications:**
 - 4 types of qualifications in general education (3 in primary education)
 - Initial and continuous VET qualifications on levels 2-5 of the EQF
 - 4 types of qualifications in higher education (2 on bachelor's level)
- **Occupational (sectoral, work based) qualifications** on levels 2-8 of the EQF



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Qualification Standards

- General trend of development – **towards learning outcomes based standards:**
 - Higher education standard (2008)
 - Vocational education standard (2008, 2013) + national curricula for VET (over 50)
 - National curriculum for basic school (2010)
 - Simplified national curriculum for basic school (2010)
 - National curriculum for upper secondary school (2010)
 - New generation of occupational standards (2010-...)



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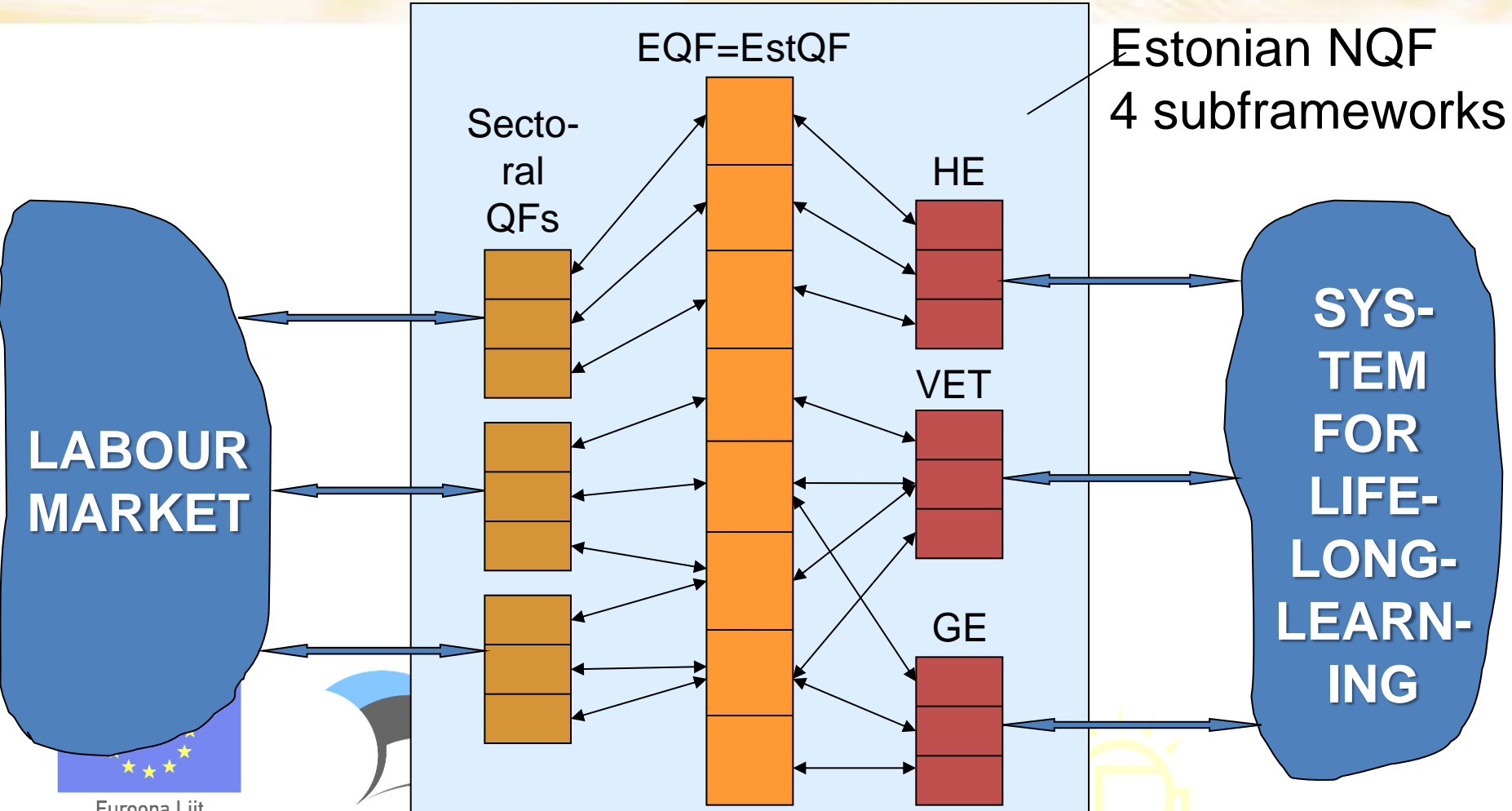


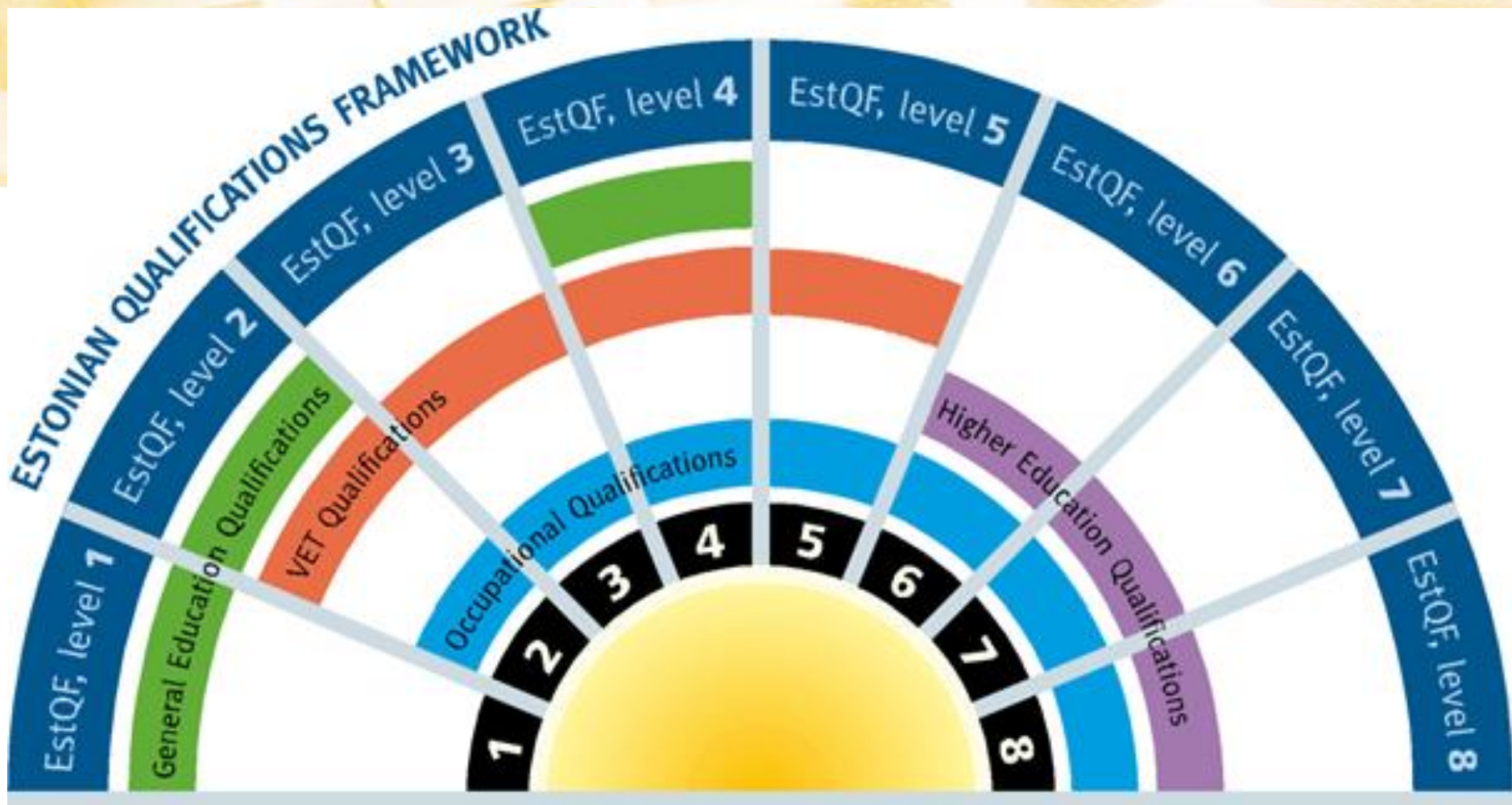
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Estonian Qualifications Framework (2014)





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Formal education qualifications (2011)	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

Examples of occupational qualifications

- EstQF level 2: Cook assistant, ...
- EstQF level 3: Carpenter, ...
- EstQF level 4: IT specialist, ...
- EstQF level 5: Master carpenter, construction site manager, ...
- EstQF level 6: Engineer, ...
- EstQF level 7: Diploma engineer, diploma architect, ...
- EstQF level 8: Chartered engineer, chartered architect, ...



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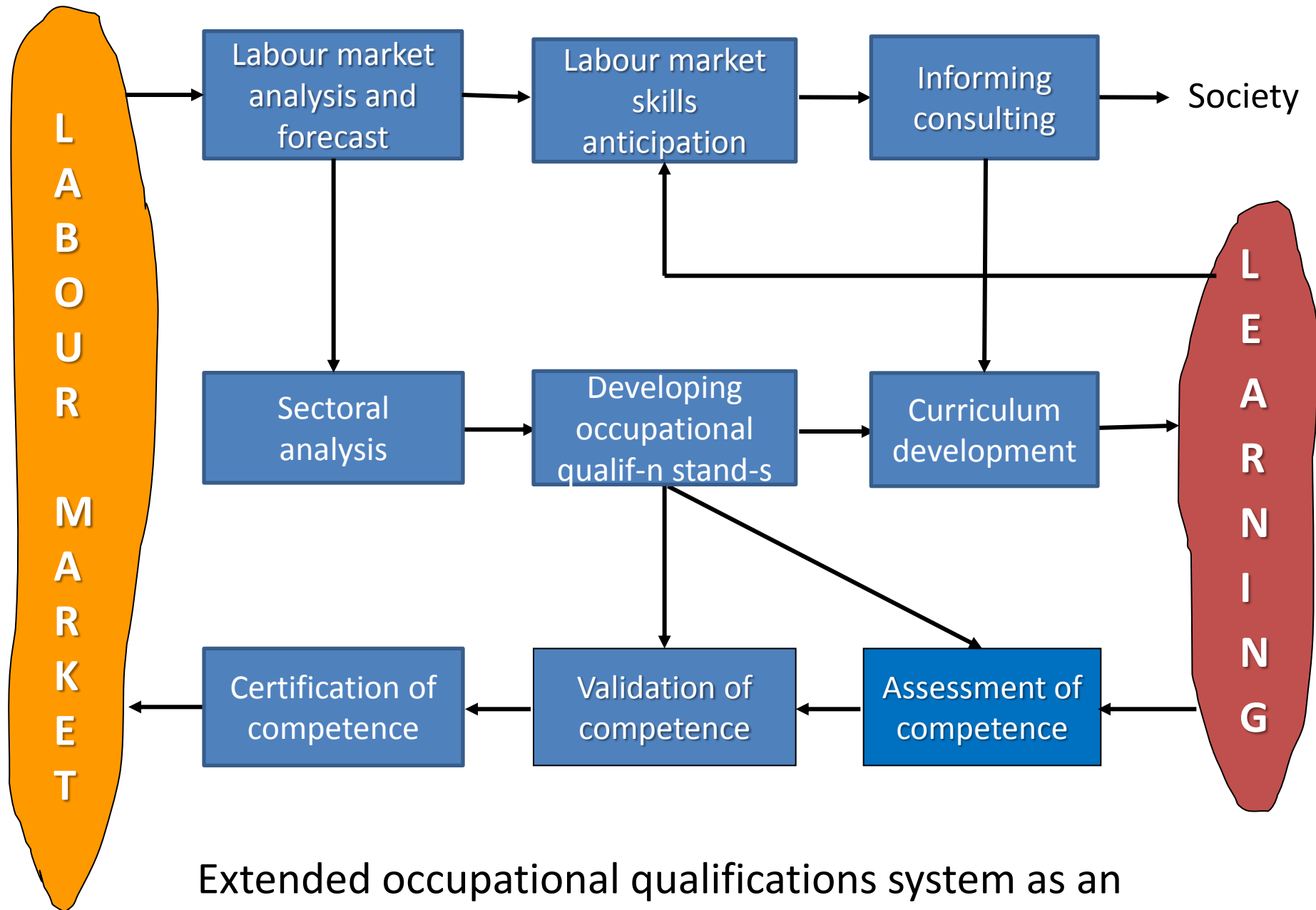


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Formal education qualifications (2014)	EstQF levels
Basic education certificate based on curriculum for students with moderate and severe learning disabilities	1
Basic education certificate based on simplified curriculum VET level 2 certificate	2
Basic education certificate VET level 3 certificate	3
Upper secondary general education certificate Upper secondary VET certificate VET level 4 certificate	4
VET level 5 certificate	5
Diploma of Bachelor's degree, Diploma of professional higher education	6
Diploma of Master's degree	7
Diploma of Doctoral degree	8



Extended occupational qualifications system as an interface between the labour market and the system for lifelong learning



Thank you for your attention!

www.kutsekoda.ee

kutsekoda@kutsekoda.ee



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