

Shift from VET to LLL in the Czech Republic

Introduction

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) has been evolved in the Czech Republic since 2005. A transparent system is been created, which will provide comprehensible information about various type soft qualifications to employers, schools and those interested in education. The NQF will include only those qualifications that are demanded in the labour market.

All, qualifications are described by means of qualification and evaluation standards. A new method of certification of previous learning has been developed due to the Act on Verifying and Recognizing the Results of Continuing Education. The new method should enable people to have real knowledge and skills recognized, regardless whether they acquired them at school, in courses, in practice or by self-teaching for example. It should help especially those who face gained professional experience outside the field they studied or in which they were trained, but who have no document for this.

The standards are created in co-operation with employer organizations. The National Qualifications Framework will thus help to transfer the requirements of the business sector to the contents of education. At presents all qualifications up to the level of apprenticeship certificate (ISCED 3) have been described.

The NQF has been created and gradually implemented in a situation which is characterised in the broader context by Lifelong Learning Strategy, a curricular reform and to the Act on Verifying and Recognizing the Results of Continuing Education.

The National Qualifications Framework is accessible at the web site www.narodni-kvalifikace.cz and is updated regularly.