

Competence assessment and validation arrangements



Timeline



ID number 28338

Background

Legislation on education and higher education (2010) provides a legal basis for the validation of non-formal and informal learning. In 2014, a national framework for validation was set up, with implementation decentralised at the training-provider level. However, validation procedures after this still lacked a clear quality assurance framework. The process for assessing competences acquired through non-formal or self-directed learning, or simply through work, is not clear in the country. This type of situation causes problems for individuals who want to improve their qualifications or simply obtain a diploma. This topic has recently become increasingly relevant in terms of the issues faced by economic migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, who often lack documents confirming their qualifications, meaning their employment situation in Lithuania is complex.

Objectives

- (a) to develop the assessment of a person's acquired competences to allow them to obtain a qualification;
- (b) to develop the assessment of general competences acquired by a person;
- (c) to develop a system for the recognition of foreign qualifications;
- (d) to monitor the assessment of a person's acquired competences.

Description

In 2016, to address the problem that non-formal training for unemployed adults organised by the public employment service (the Lithuanian labour exchange) did not lead to formal qualifications, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport agreed to enable validation and recognition of learning outcomes gained through such courses. That year, the employment service also began working on using modern methods of testing (ProfileXT) and tests in native languages to help with the validation of refugees' competences and speed up their integration into the labour market.

Since 2018, the Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC) has been coordinating an ESF-funded project set to run until 2022 aimed at the development of a national system for assessing and recognising competences and professional qualifications. The project will develop tools for the assessment of individuals' competences, particularly among those seeking to acquire a given qualification.

A key driver in this policy area is the Description of the procedure for crediting previous learning achievements approved by the order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport in mid-2018. This stated that the crediting of learning achievements is the assessment of a person's previously acquired theoretical knowledge and practical abilities in accordance with the requirements for the assessment of these achievements established in the relevant formal VET programme.

2016 Legislative process

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

The Description of the procedure for crediting previous learning achievements stipulates that a person who has not been admitted to a formal VET programme but wishes to improve their existing qualifications or have their non-formal or informal learning competences included as part of a qualification should apply to the VET provider of their choice. The latter option became a significant basis in 2019 for the consideration and approval of a new Methodology for financing vocational education and training. This created preconditions for a person entering a formal CVET programme to seek assessment and credit for existing competences. In this way, the learning time could be shortened and the cost reduced. This was a particularly important measure for individuals and employers who needed to pay for training themselves in cases where they were not eligible for public funding.

This topic is being further developed by the KPMPC in the implementation of the national project Improvement of the system of assessment and recognition of competences and qualifications acquired in various ways (No 09.4.1-ESFA-V-734-02-0001). The following goals have been set for the project by 2022: the development of tools for the assessment of competences with regard to people seeking to acquire a chosen qualification or self-assess with respect to available competences; the creation of sets of measures for use in competence assessment and related methodologies, plus tools for sample assessment tasks; strengthened institutional capacity for assessing people's competences and / or qualifications acquired in various ways; and the development of tools for monitoring and evaluating the assessment and recognition of acquired competences.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports approved a new procedure for the assessment of acquired competences, according to which a VET diploma is issued. This procedure will come into force from 1 September 2021. Possibilities to participate in the assessment of competences will extend to self-trained candidates who have acquired professional competences through apprenticeships, work experience, self-education, and non-formal learning. Competence assessment will be organised by the KPMPC. Accredited institutions uniting and representing employer associations will delegate experts to the competence assessment commissions – practitioners and professionals of the sector from companies – to assist in the preparation of tasks. Candidates will be required not only to complete practical skills related tasks but also to take a standardised test of the theoretical part of vocational competences to assess basic knowledge. The test of the theoretical part will be performed centrally through an electronic testing system administered by the National Education Agency. The practical part of the assessment will take place in the sectoral practical training centres (SPTCs).

During the implementation of the national project Improvement of the system of assessment and recognition of competences and qualifications acquired in various ways (No 09.4.1-ESFA-V-734-02-0001), a draft methodology on how to prepare tests for the assessment of practical vocational competences (tasks) was prepared.

Three pilots were prepared for the assessment of theoretical vocational competences and will be carried out in the second quarter of 2021. The KPMPC implemented training sessions for strengthening the skills of experts in assessing self-acquired competences. A draft regulation setting out the assessment process was prepared, assessments are expected to be carried out from the first quarter of 2021. An electronic tool has been developed for the development, accumulation and storage of assessment tests, and the evaluation of the assessment method.

2021 Implementation

In September 2021, the new procedure for the assessment of acquired competences, setting out the assessment process, came into force. Competence assessment is organised by the KPMPC.

The new online electronic tool hosted within the KPMPC website brings in one place up-to-date information on pilot assessments being carried out, the list of VET qualifications offered, corresponding programmes and training institutions; it also offers schedules for the examination of theoretical part of competence assessment of a given qualification and sample tests for applicants to determine their competence level.

2022 Implementation

In 2022 the procedure of assessment of acquired competences has been carried out in accordance with the new procedure in force since 2021. All tests for the final exams have a unified structure and procedure. Candidates first take part in the theoretical part of the exam, and, if successful, practical skills demonstration takes place. As of 2022, any person can take an external competence assessment in any VET institution providing training for the relevant qualification. There is also a website with sample exam tests for anyone willing to take external qualification exams (without previous formal training in a relevant qualification). Anybody who completed a formal vocational training programme or acquired competences in non-formal vocational training programmes or as a part of a programme (module), work experience or through self-education can participate in the competence assessment.

The main information for the candidates is provided online: information about how to register for the competence assessment, information about online test and how to get access to test and practical skills demonstration.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the procedure for assessing acquired competences was amended. The amendment stipulates that the Minister of Education, Science and Sport appoints Competence Assessment Centres to carry out the assessment of the practical skills for level 4-5 qualifications. The amendment also clarifies the procedure for individuals seeking to acquire formal recognition of competencies acquired through non-formal VET, work experience, or informal learning. VET institutions and Competence Assessment Centres are now responsible for recognising these competencies and awarding formal qualifications accordingly.

2024 Implementation

On 12 June 2024, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved a revision of the Description of the procedure for academic recognition of education and qualifications acquired according to educational programmes of foreign countries and international organisations. Until recently, academic recognition of VET qualification documents was not available for VET programmes. Following these legislative

amendments, holders of foreign VET qualifications, willing to work in Lithuania or to enrol in its VET programmes or their modules, will be able to have their qualification recognised and assigned a level within the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework (LTQF), ranging from levels 1 to 4. VET institutions now have the authority to recognise foreign qualifications for the continuation of learning according to VET programmes.

2025 Implementation

To further develop competence assessment and recognition system the project 'Development of opportunities for the recognition and assessment of individuals' acquired competences' (PRI (SI) PAŽINK) (10-027-P-0001) was launched in May 2025. The project is funded by the European Union and national sources, with a total budget of EUR 6 million. Its main objectives are to implement measures for recognising competences acquired through various means, ensure quality assurance, conduct testing, monitor assessment and recognition processes, and develop information tools. The project will also update competence assessment assignments, improve monitoring of results and competence assessment implementation, and strengthen the capacity of competence assessment centres.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Ministry of Social Security and Labour
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC)
- Lithuanian Employment Service

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Young people (15-29 years old)

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers

Learners with disabilities

Adult learners

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Description of the procedure for crediting previous learning achievements \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Information about Competence assessment \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[External competence assessment website \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Revision of the Description of the procedure for academic recognition of education and qualifications acquired according to educational programmes of foreign countries and international organisations \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Information about the project 'Development of opportunities for the recognition and assessment of individuals' acquired competences \(PRI \(SI\) PAZINK\) \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

Related policy developments

2022 Completed

The MASTER PRO initiative

To work towards that goal, the ministry organised a discussion on the subject involving representatives of Lithuanian industry, business and employer associations.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2021 Completed

The 2017-20 action plan for lifelong learning

A 2017-20 action plan for lifelong learning was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science in June 2017, and was later amended in December 2017. The plan replaced the former 2014-16 action plan for VET development and, in part, the 2014-16 action plan for non-formal adult education.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Modernising VET legal framework

A new VET Law was adopted on 14 December 2017, with some of its articles coming into force on 1 February 2018 and others on 1 January 2019. The law emphasised the importance of workplace learning and apprenticeship, clarifying the regulation on apprenticeships.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Sectoral practical training centres (SPTCs)

In May 2016, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport carried out a review of EU investments in the VET system for the 2014-20 period. This analysed results from the previous programming period and new proposals, as well as labour market (regional) trends and forecasts.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Competence assessment and validation arrangements: Lithuania. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28338>