

External Quality Assessment of Level 5 in Estonia

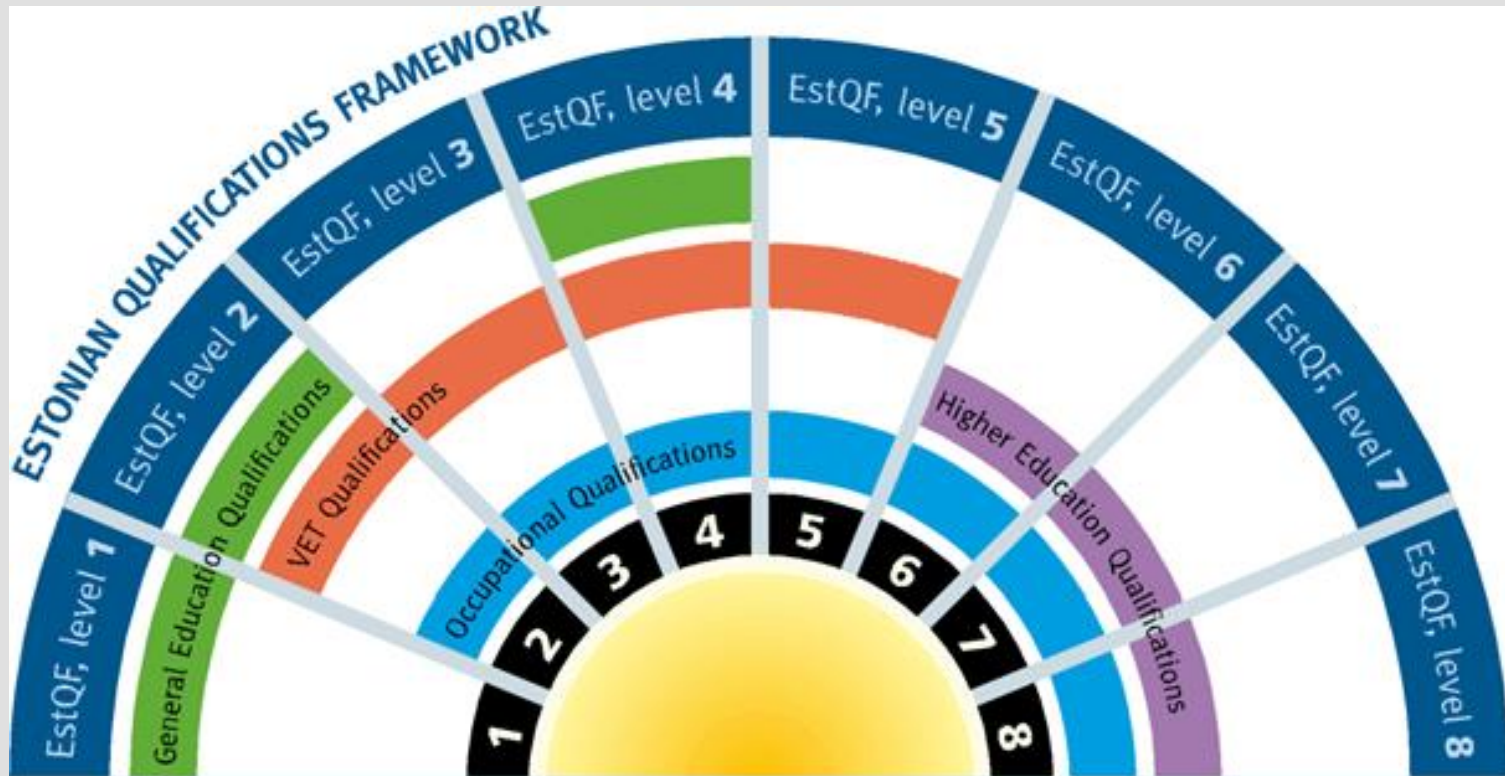


Needs and expectations from an institution

Triin Laasi-Õige

Tallinn School of Economics, Estonia

Estonian Qualifications Framework



External Quality Assurance of VET

- External quality assurance of VET in Estonia is regulated by the Vocational Educational Institutions Act.
- The quality assurance activities are delegated to Estonian Quality Agency for Education (HAKA) that is the leading competence center in Estonia in the field of education.
- The objective of the quality assessment of vocational education is to foster the development of learning-oriented school culture and to increase the reliability of vocational education.

There are two types of QA in VET:

- Initial assessment and re-assessment of study programme groups (granting the right to provide instruction in a new group of programmes)
- Quality assessment of study programme groups

Initial assessment and re-assessment of study programme groups

- The purpose of initial assessment and re-assessment of study programme groups is to grant the right to provide instruction in a new group of programmes.
- The schools submit applications to the Ministry of Education and Research and after assessment there could be 3 kind of decisions made - the right to provide instruction without a term/for three years/not to grant the right to provide instruction.
- If the right is given to provide instruction without a term, it will undergo regular quality assessments, taking place at least once every six years;
- If a school receives the initial right to provide instruction for three years, a re-assessment will be conducted on the basis of the relevant regulation adopted by the vocational education assessment council.

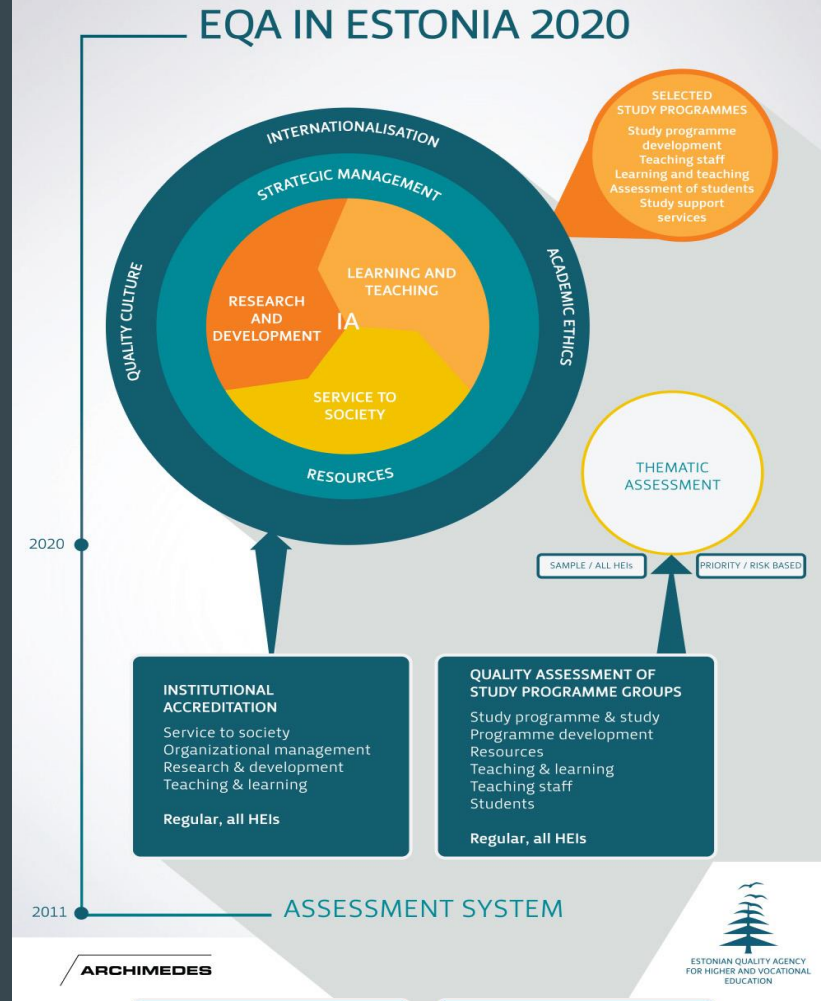
Quality assessment of VET study programme groups

- Quality assessment of VET focuses on the studies in 3 areas: study programme and its development; learning and teaching; teachers
- it provides an opportunity for the school to get feedback about the quality of the teaching and education process and recommendations for its development but the results can also be used for the school's strategic management and informing the interested groups
- Regular QA will take place at least once in every six years, targeted at fostering the development of learning-oriented school culture and improving the reliability of vocational education.
- The result of the QA not linked to the right to provide instruction! Unlinking QA from the right to provide instruction means that the assessment focuses more on the school's development.

QA in Higher Education

HEI's with the right to conduct studies receive feedback on the management, functioning, studies and research of their institution via the following external evaluations:

- Institutional accreditation assesses the conformity of the institution's management, work procedure, study and research activities and study and research environment to legislation and the goals and development plan of the institution
- Quality assessment of a study programme group assesses the conformity of study programmes and the studies and developmental activities to legislation, state and international standards etc and results with recommendations to improve the quality of studies.



Needs and expectations from the institution

- Study programme groups based external QA is very demanding from the institutional point of view because there are many study programme groups in each schools so there is all the time some QA taking place
- All the external QA processes are based on the same application form, so management, resources etc criteria are being assessed repeatedly (BUT feedback may vary!)
- There should also be institutional accreditation for VET that focuses on management, resources, quality culture, serving society, etc. More similar criteria to HE!
- Unlinking QA from right to provide instruction is good! External assessors = critical friends who contribute into continuous improvement
- There is strong quality culture in VET and HE in Estonia, so the possibility of integrating other quality standards and QA procedures into state run QA system should be discussed

Thank you!

Triinl@tmk.edu.ee