

ADULT EDUCATION IN ESTONIA

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Tallinn Oct 2015

Outline

- General information about the adult population and qualifications in Estonia, including
 - Participation in LLL
 - PIAAC results
 - Estonian qualification framework
- Learning possibilities for adults and support for adult learners
- EPALE
- Plans for future

ADULT POPULATION IN ESTONIA

Some general information

Population: 1 316 000 (2016)

ca 400 000 in Tallinn

Negative birth rate

Adults (25-64): 719747 (2016)

Ethnic composition:

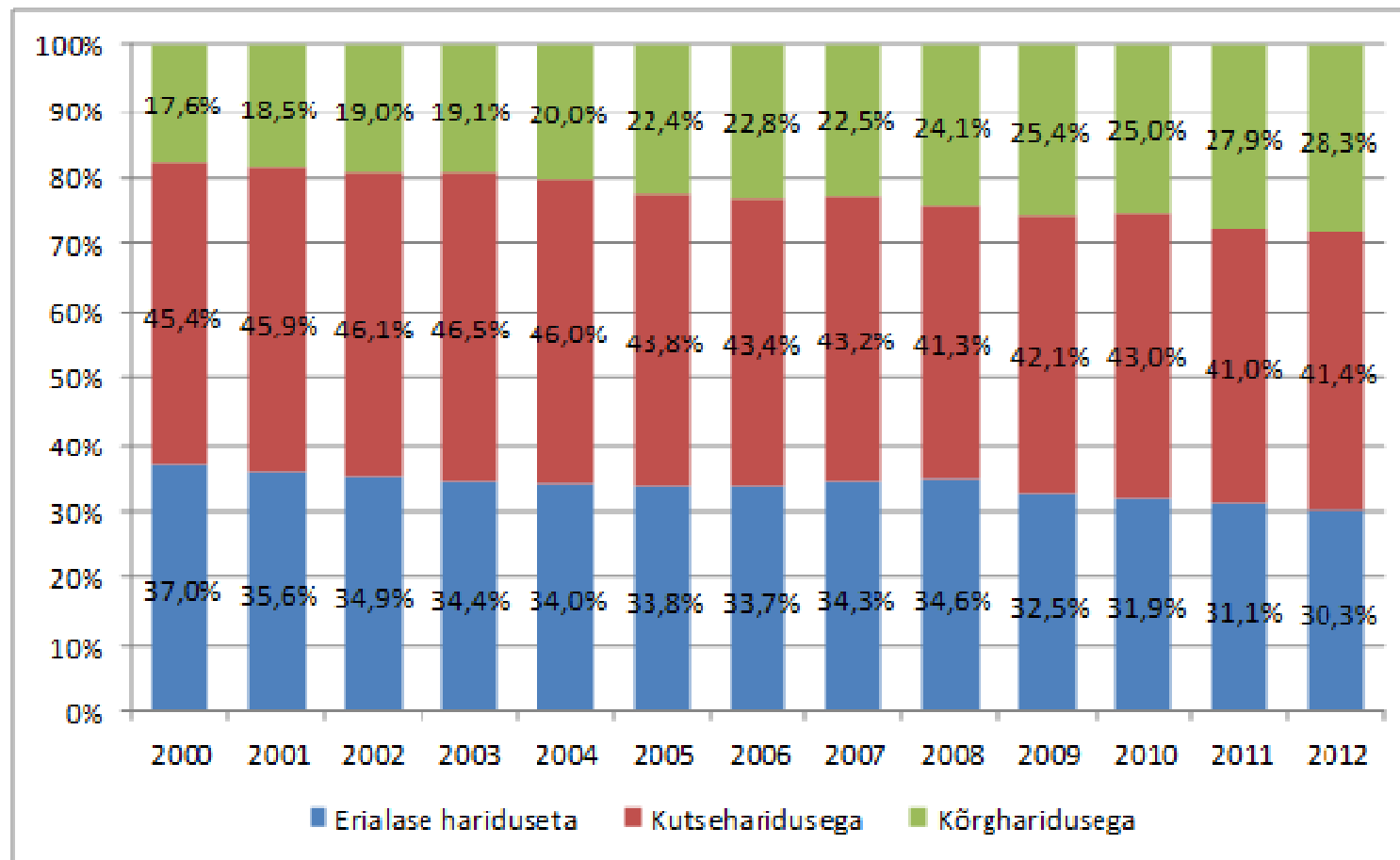
Estonians 68,7%

Russians 24,8%

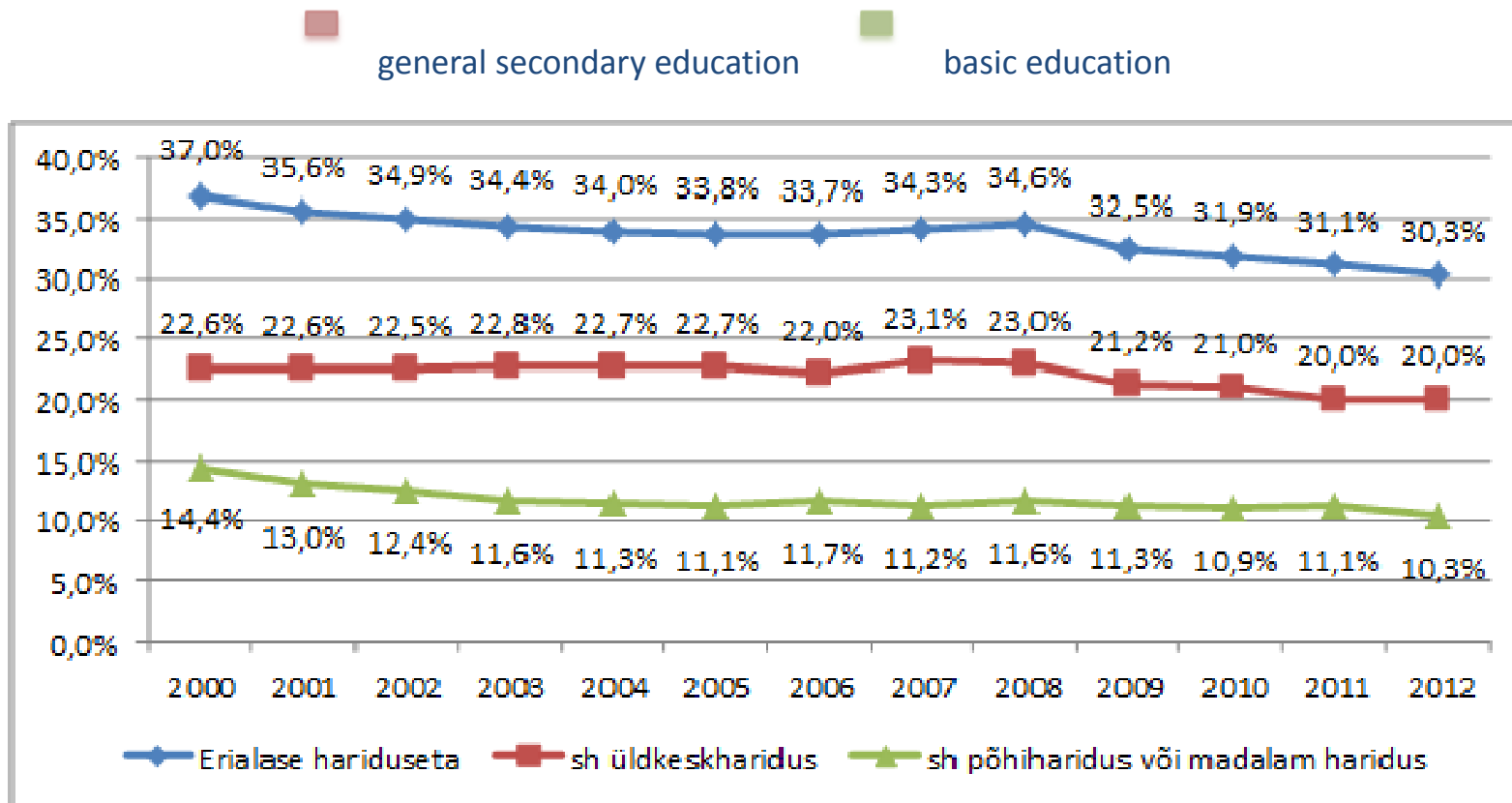
Others 4,9%

Adult population (25-64) according to the highest education level acquired

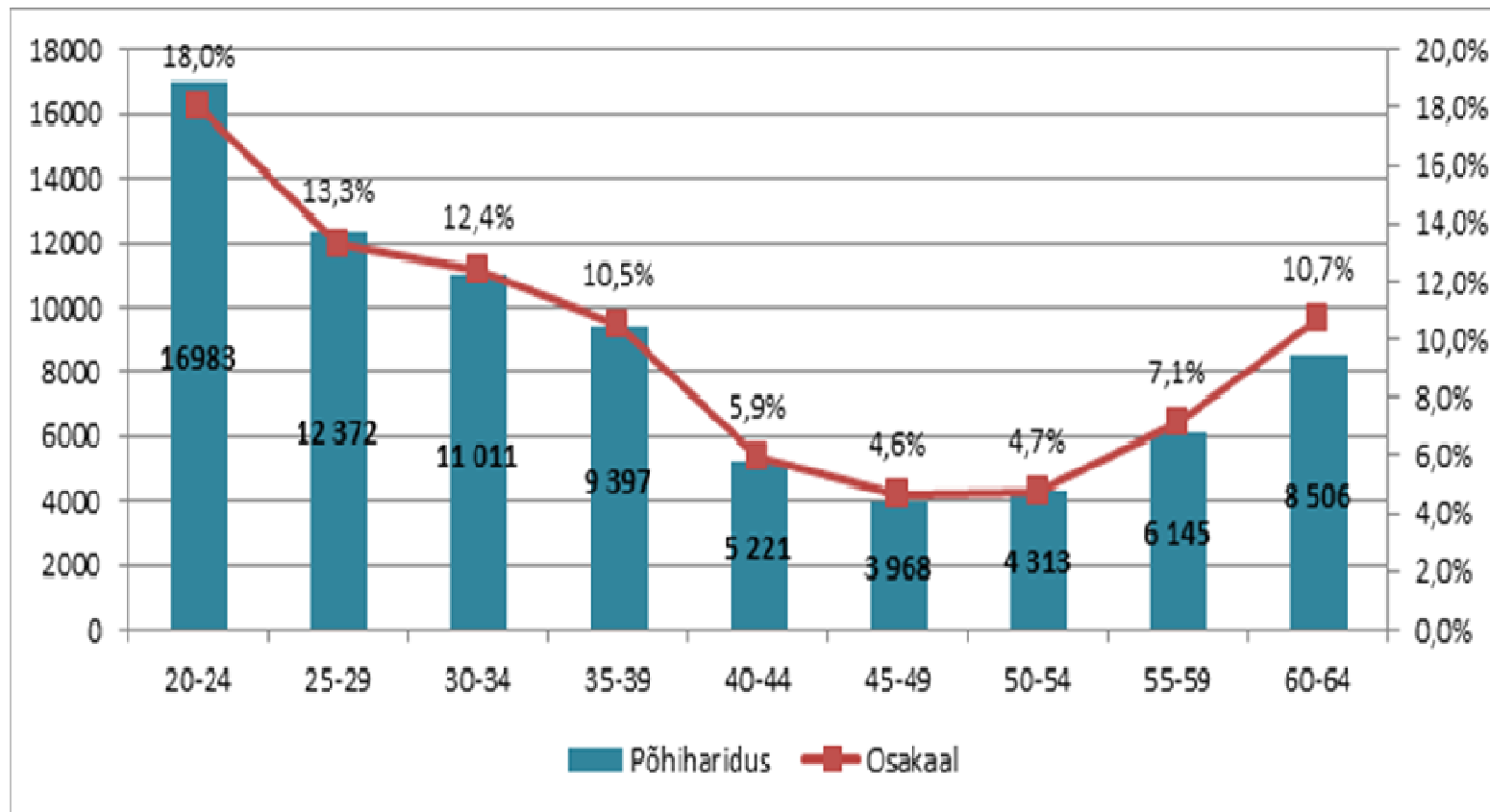
■ higher education ■ vocational training
■ without any professional education or vocational training



Education level of adults (25-64) without any professional education or vocational training – the aim is to decrease it to 30% by 2020



Number of adults aged 25-64 who have acquired only basic level education

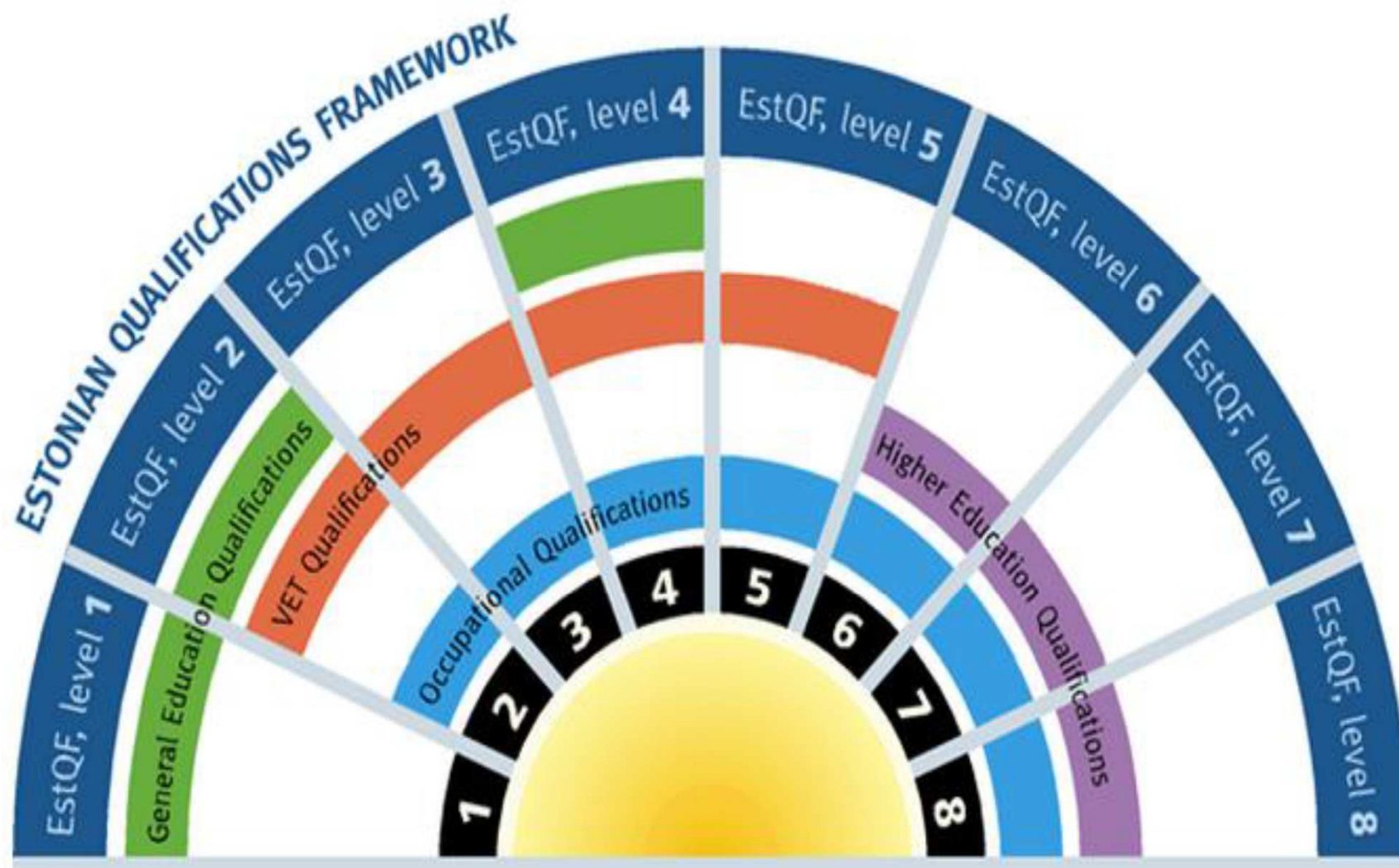


ESTONIAN QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

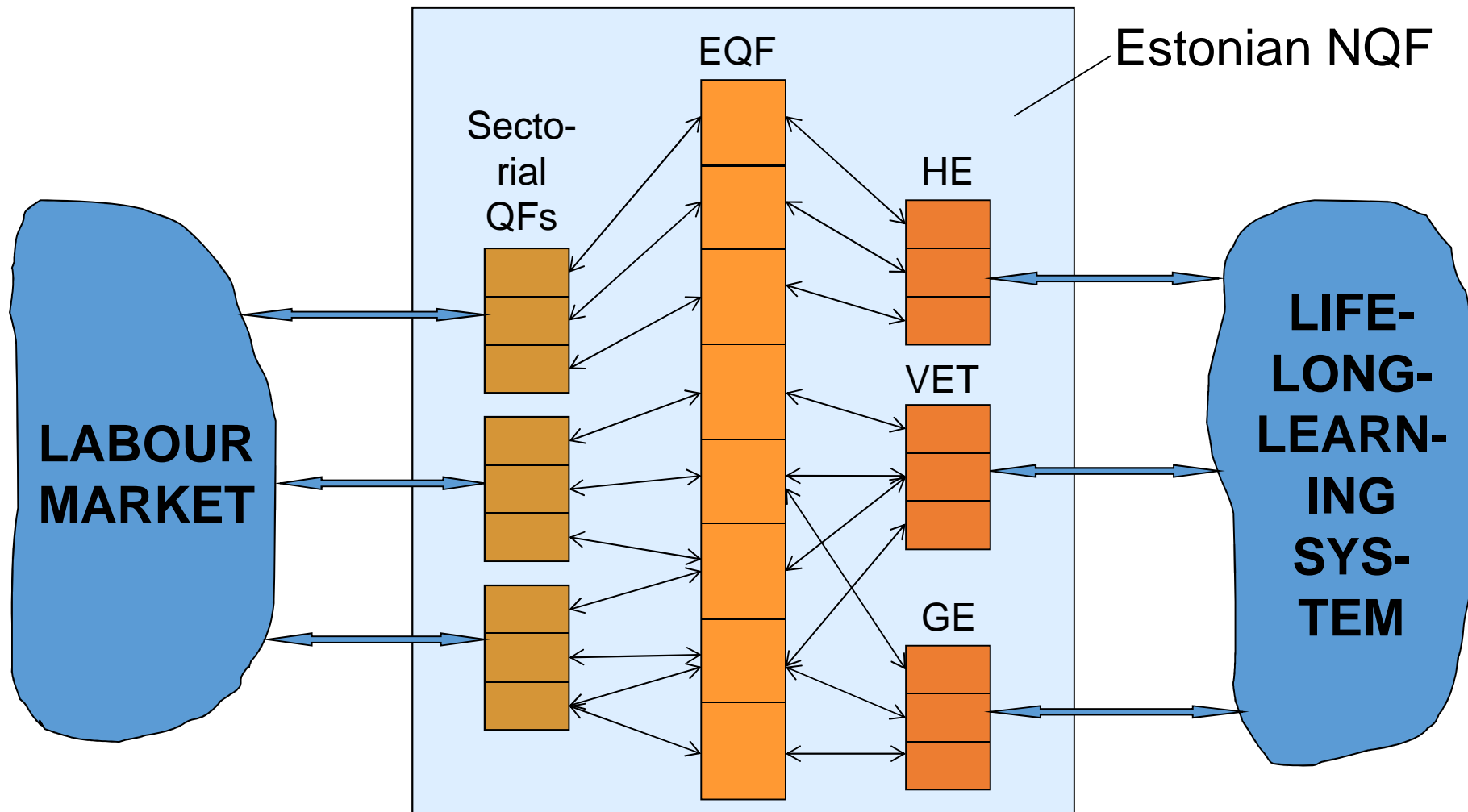
Estonian qualifications framework

- EstQF is an **overarching framework**
- EstQF consists of **four sub-frameworks**: for general education, VET, HE and occupational qualifications with **sub-framework specific descriptors and relevant quality assurance systems**
- EstQF **includes all state recognised qualifications**, which meet two criteria:
 - Are defined in learning outcomes-based qualifications standards (curriculum or professional standard)
 - Awarded by nationally accredited institutions

EstQF

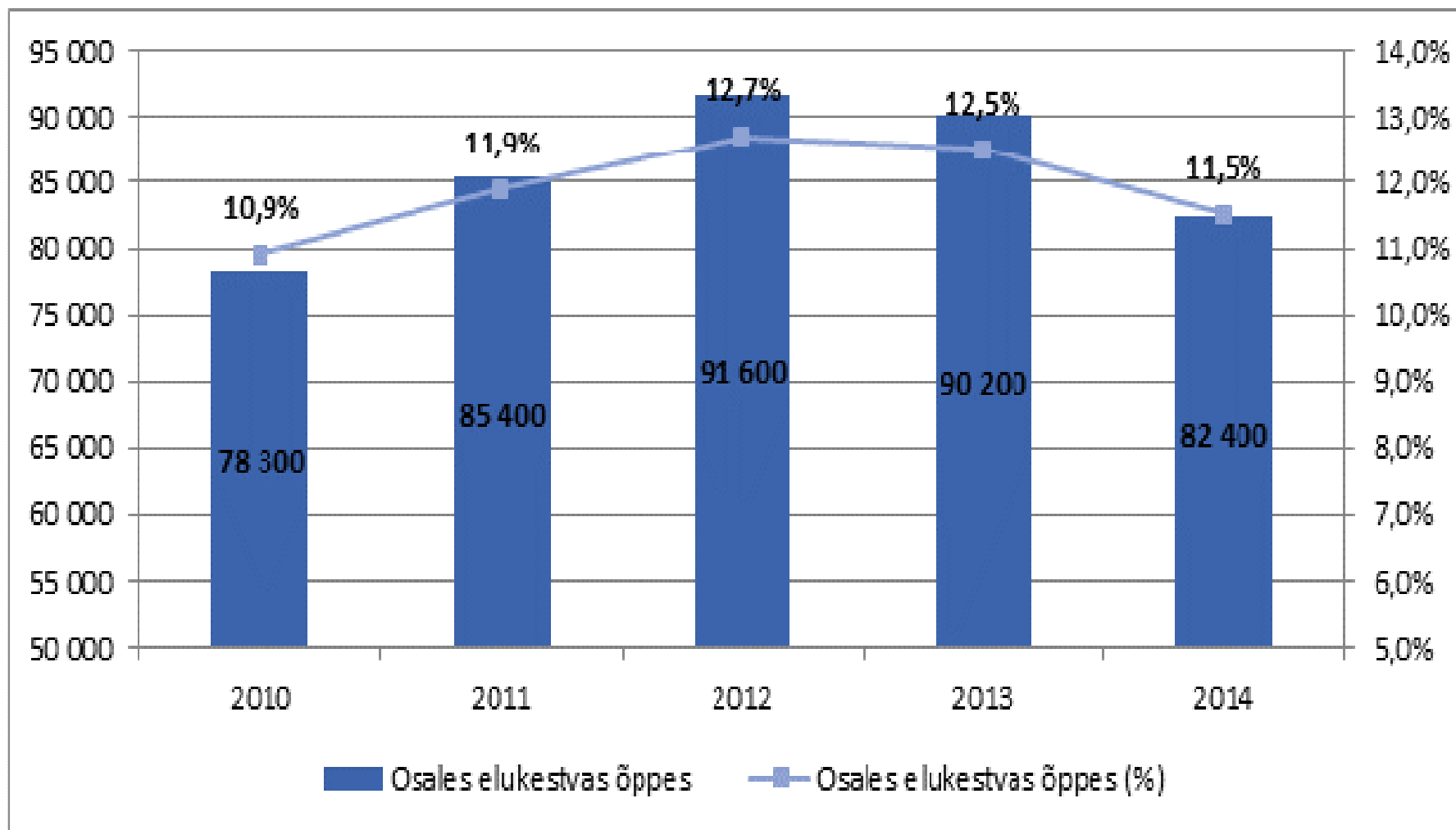


Estonian National Qualifications Framework



PARTICIPATION IN LIFELONG LEARNING

Participation of 25-64 year old adults in Lifelong Learning in Estonia – 2016 17,6%



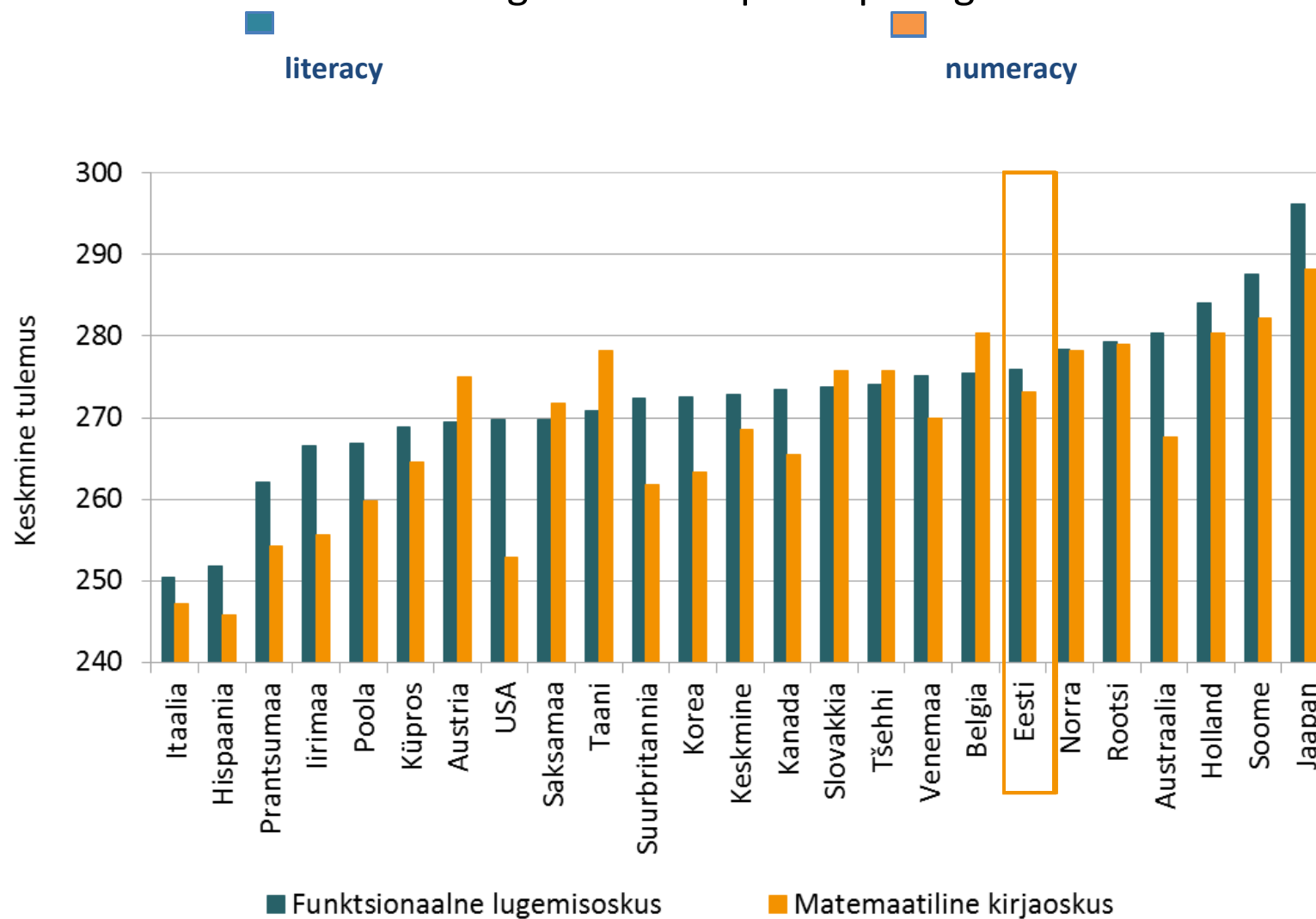
PIAAC STUDY

PIAAC

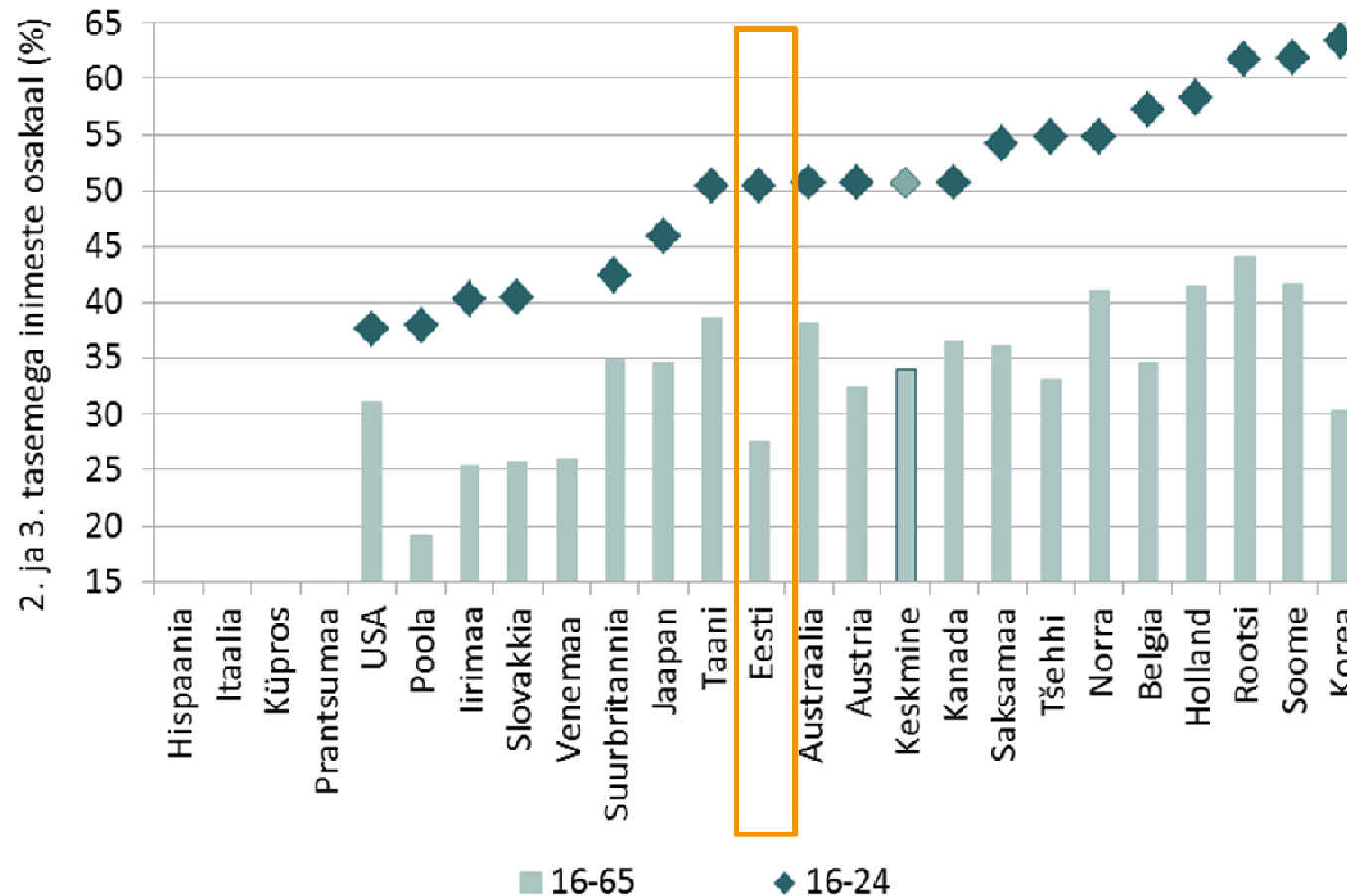
- *Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies* - an international program, under which the first computer-based survey of the key information-processing skills of adults was carried out. More than 165,000 people aged 16-65 from 24 countries participated in this survey in 2011-2012.
- 7632 people in Estonia solved exercises in literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments.
- 2016 – PIAAC online

PIAAC results

In Estonia, functional literacy and numeracy levels are above the average of the 24 participating countries.



PIAAC problem-solving skills in technology-rich environments is lower than expected. Only one in four adults have good and very good problem solving skills. 30% do not know how, or do not dare to use new technology.



PIAAC conclusions

- **Gender differences are small:** men are slightly better at numeracy (6p) and at problem solving in technology rich environments (4p).
- Family background matters less than in other countries; mothers' educational level has relevance.
- Differences in skill levels among adults with different levels of education are small.
- **Regional differences** are not too big: skill levels are higher in Tallinn, Tartu and around Tallinn; skill levels are lower in Ida-Virumaa
- **Less top scores** than countries' average and twice as less as in Finland

PIAAC

- In addition to [the main report](#) published in Oct, 7thematic reports which include policy recommendations drawn based on the findings are published.
- <https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/statistics-and-analysis/piaac>
- [Adult skills: their use and usefulness in Estonia. Summaries of thematic reports on the PIAAC study](#)
- [Skills and Lifelong Learning: What does Estonia Have to Learn in Terms of Improving Skills and Who Can We Learn It From?](#)
- [Role of Skills in Determining Gender and Ethnic Wage Gaps](#)
- [Skills Mismatch on the Estonian Labour Market](#)
- [Role of Skills in Determining Gender and Ethnic Wage Gaps](#)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT TO LEARNERS

Learning opportunities for adults – in formal education system I

General education (basic and secondary education)

15 adult secondary schools + schools with department of non-stationary studies

Access: people with basic education or aged over 17

Funding: state commissioned places

Approx **5100** learners in study year

Learning opportunities for adults – in formal education system II

Vocational education – students can choose between stationary studies and non-stationary studies.

Access: people with basic education or aged over 17, Adults without basic education if they are older than 22 can be accepted into vocational secondary education.

Funding: state commissioned places

Approx **7000** adult learners (25+) (ca 1/3 of all learners)

Learning opportunities for adults – in formal education system III

Higher education – students can choose between full-time studies and part-time studies

Access: everybody who has acquired education on previous level.

Funding: full-time studies are free of tuition, tuition can be charged for part-time studies.

Approx **13600** adult learners (30+), ca 1/ 4 of all students

Learning opportunities for adults – in non-formal education system

Training is offered by formal education institutions (VET; HEI etc) and private training institutions.

There are approx 700 private providers, not all profit-oriented (schools owned by NGO's)

Access: for everyone

Funding: Mostly financed by the adult learner or by employer.

Approx **21000** adults participate in courses offered by VET institutions yearly

Support to adult learners

- **Study leave** - up to 30 calendar days per year; when participating in work-related training or formal education, the student will also be paid the average wage for 20 days. In addition, in order to complete one's formal education, one can apply for a supplemental study leave (15 days), during which the student will be paid the minimum wage.
- **Tax incentives:**
 - work-related training and formal education financed by employers is not treated as fringe benefits;
 - the expenditures made by private persons are not subject to income tax, if the curricula is based on occupational standard and for Estonian language class.
- **Health insurance** for adults in formal education (until age of 21 in basic education; until age of 24 in secondary education)

Adult Education Act

- In force since 2015
- <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/Riigikogu/act/529062015007/consolide>
- Changes:
- Requirements for Management of Continuing Education Institutions (notice of economic activities, website, quality, Continuing education standard)
- **Programs with LO and assessment**

ESF 2014-2020

The aim is to increase the participation of adults in LLL, focus on adults who at the moment do not participate in LLL:

- Bring adults with low levels of education back to formal education (second chance schools and VET);
- Offer work-related training;
- Offer training of key competences;
- Support VNIL

Use of ESF funds in 2014-2020

- Training courses for adults:
 - Training is tuition-free for learners, but accompanying costs have to be covered by learners (travel etc)
 - Money is allocated to educational institutions – vocational schools (39)
 - Short-term courses (up to 80 hours)
 - The choice/content of the courses looks upon to suggestions made by OSKA (skills monitoring and forecasting program)
- To increase awareness and change attitudes about LLL a special program
- Open calls for projects targeted to people with low qualification – upper secondary adult education schools (back to school) and non-formal education centres (developing key competences)



The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe: Estonia



EPALE users



- More than 17 000 registered users
- More than 30 000 unique visitors per month
- More than 120 000 page views per month
- In Estonia: registered users 271, unique visitors 2 377

Social media



- EPALE Europe FB followers 8662
- EPALE NSS Estonia FB followers 1677
- Adult Education FB community 2050 members
- EPALE Europe Twitter 12 400 followers
- EPALE Estonia Twitter 146 followers

Good practices in EPALE NSS Estonia



- Being visible and present
- Offline community events
- Training for bloggers
- Useful promotional materials
- Media monitoring
- Translation of content
- Social media channels

Good practices in EPALE NSS Estonia 2



- **Direct approach to stakeholders**
- **Video materials and live-streams**
- **Ambassadors**
- **Cooperation with other NSSs**

Challenges to be addressed

- Too many adults without any professional qualification or vocational training or whose training is outdated.
- In younger age-groups there is growing proportion of adults who only have acquired basic secondary education.
- Participation rate in lifelong learning!
- adults with low levels of education participate in education not enough.
- PIAAC results show that skills levels are lower among older adults; ICT skills need to be improved.

Thank you!

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