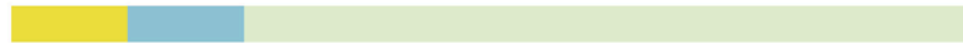


NQF-in



Developing organisational and financial models for including non-formal sector qualifications in National Qualifications Frameworks

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Developing organisational and financial models for including non-formal sector qualifications in National Qualifications Frameworks

„Non –formal“ Qualifications in the Czech Republic

Jan Brůha, Viola Horská, Miroslav Kadlec



Czech National Qualifications Framework with a single set of descriptors describing levels of all qualifications does not exist.

The Czech Republic referenced to EQF its formal qualifications (based on classification of educational qualifications type – KKO V and national approved curricula), higher education qualifications and the NSK qualifications.

EQF and EHEA qualification level				Czech qualification level				
EQF level		EHEA level		KKOV level*			NSK level**	
EQF descriptors	8	Dublin descriptors	3rd cycle	Diplomas and certificates awarded by tertiary institutions (excluding vocational)	V	Qualifications certificates awarded under the Education Act	Certificates awarded under the law on the recognition of outcomes of further education, NSK descriptors	8
	7		2nd cycle		T			7
	6		1st cycle		R			N, P
	5		short cycle within 1st cycle		***			5
	4				K, L, M			4
	3				E, H			3
	2				C, E, J			2
	1				B			1

NSK

National Register of Qualifications (Národní soustava kvalifikací)

- public register of vocational and complete vocational qualifications and their qualification standards and assessment standards
- system for the validation and recognition of learning outcomes (described in terms of learning outcomes)
- 8 qualification levels descriptors (proposed in 2005, approved in 2010)
- qualifications ranging between EQF levels 2 to 7
- Act on the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results (179/2006)
- significant support of lifelong learning and adult education in the Czech Republic

Short history of NSK

2004 - Discussions whether to put validation and further education into legislation

2005 – 2008 – Systemic project NSK1 (Development of the National register of qualifications to support link between initial and further education)

2006 - Approval of the Act No. 179/2006 Coll. on the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results

2007 – 2008 – Systemic project National System of Occupations (NSP)

2009 - Decree No. 176/2009 Coll., that specify necessities of the application for an accreditation of the education programme, an organisation of education in a retraining institution and a way of its completion

2009 - 2015 - Project NSK2 (Development and implementation of NSK)

2012 - Amendment of the Act No. 179/2006 Coll. and Decree No. 176/2009 Coll.

2013 - Government Decree no. 135/2013 on support and active using of NSK and also Act No. 179/2006 Coll.

Concept of the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning processes

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the National Institute for Education.

The process and responsibilities of different institutions are defined in the **Act No. 179/2006 Coll. On the Verification and Recognition of Further Education Results** (so called Validation Act).

Qualification and assessment standards

Developed by the sector councils (**29 sector councils**).

Approved by the **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**.

The sector councils are expected to be proactive in suggesting what new standards are needed and where standards should be updated.

Sector councils bring together: employers' and employees' representatives as well as the National Institute for Education (NUV), the National Council for Qualifications, relevant ministries.

Qualification and assessment standards

Qualification standard (kvalifikační standard) is a list of the skills required for a specific work activity or activities in a particular occupation. These are the skills which are required for the relevant qualification. In other words, it is a set of competences, whose acquirement must on demonstrate at an exam.

Assessment standard (hodnotící standard) is a list of criteria and procedures for validating the skills required in a particular occupation. It describes how to verify that the candidate possesses the skills required for the qualification. It is a detailed description of ways of validating competences described in the assessment standard.

Who is giving licence to authorised persons/institutions

This is done by **authorising bodies** who are the ministries under which the given vocational qualification falls (the Ministries of Regional Development, Agriculture, Health, Industry and Trade, Home Affairs, Education, Labour and Transport).

Authorisation is linked to a specific vocational qualification and is valid for the period of five years.

Those interested to become **authorised persons/institutions** need to request authorisation.

The process is described in the Act No. 179/2006 Coll.

Authorising body

Central administrative authority **competent to decide on granting, renewal or withdrawal of authorisation** based on the fact that a mandate set out in the annex to the Act No. 179/2006 Coll. belongs to a profession or work, the performance of the relevant professional qualifications is concerned, or whose scope is a profession, or work activities, the closest (law definition).

Authorised person

A person or entity that **has been granted authorisation** by the Act No. 179/2006 Coll.

Assessment of non-formal and informal learning outcomes (based on the standard) – for vocational qualifications

Authorised person/institution – can be schools, private institutions, companies as well as individuals (for example a craftsman can become an authorised person).

Some assessment standards require the presence of a jury (two or three people).

Recognition of non-formal and informal learning (i.e. delivery of certificate) – for vocational qualifications

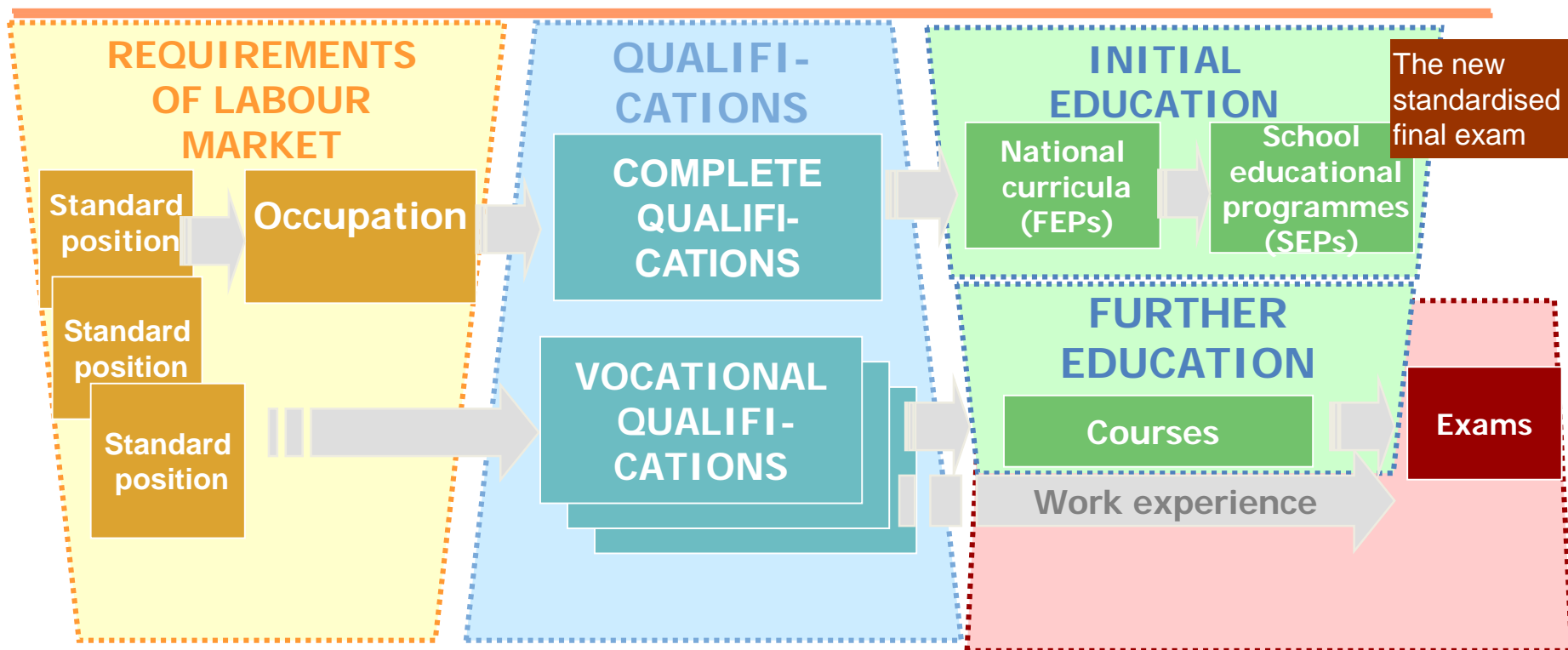
The certificate is delivered by the authorised person or the jury.

Recognition of non-formal and informal learning outcomes (i.e. delivery of certificate) – for complete vocational qualifications

Only schools can award complete vocational qualifications – these are the same certificates as those awarded by schools to people who have achieved the qualification through formal education and training.

Assessment of non-formal and informal learning (based on the standard) – for complete vocational qualifications

Schools only.





HOME

QUALIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

QUALIFICATIONS

WHAT IS THE NSK?

National Register of Qualifications

This portal provides an overview of nationally recognized vocational qualifications in the Czech Republic, which can be obtained by validation of non-formal and informal learning.

This English version of the NSK portal provides simplified descriptions of vocational qualifications. Detailed descriptions of competences as defined in assessment standards are available in Czech only (in the Czech version of the portal).

[More information is available here](#)



Qualification Fields

991 qualifications are available in the database

How are qualifications included into the NSK system

New vocational qualifications in NSK are proposed by employers' representatives/sector councils.

A new qualification can be proposed by anyone - the form of the proposal can be via on-line form or sector council meetings.

The proposal is evaluated and then included/rejected in the production plan.

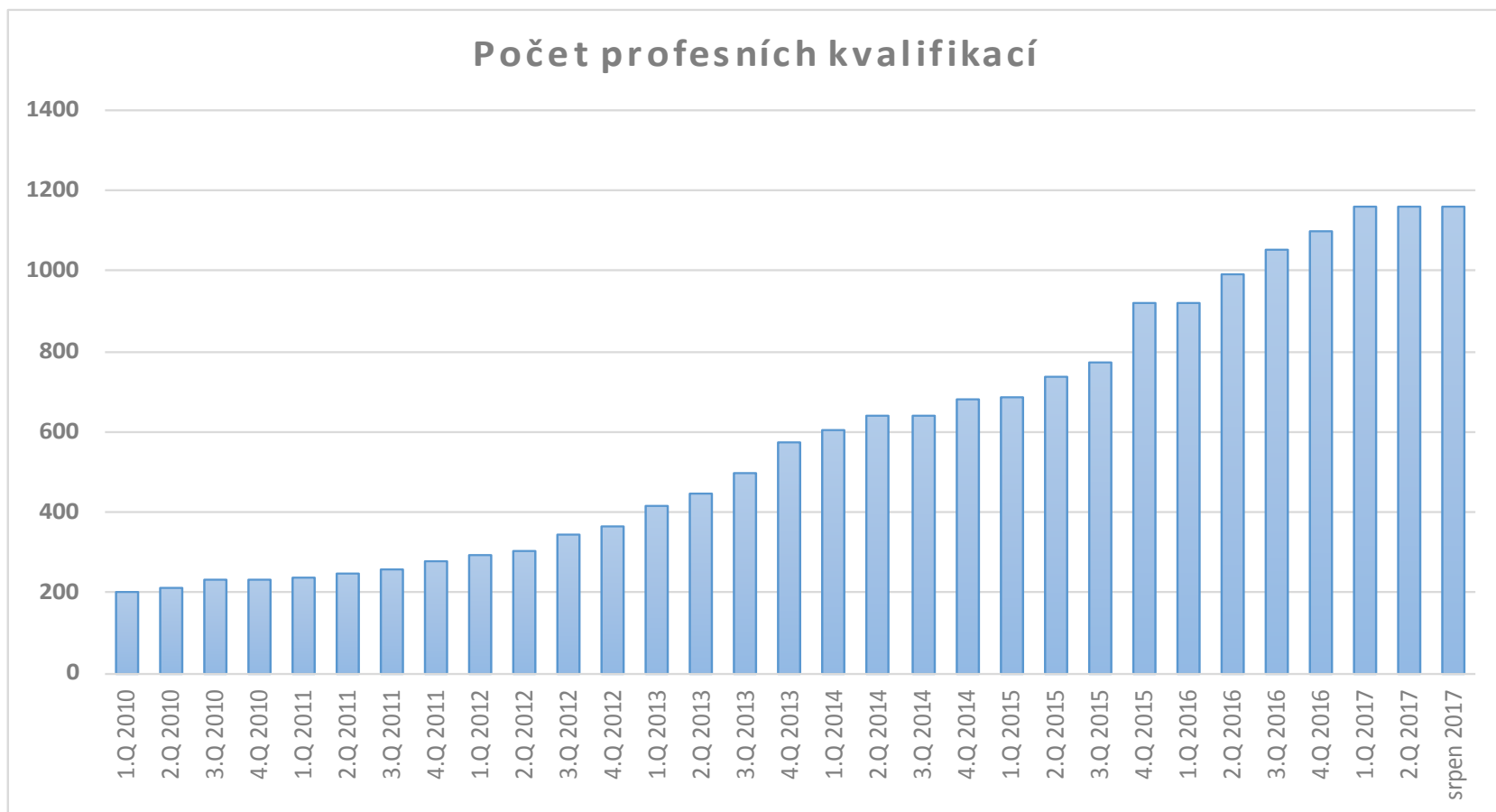
Annual production plan (list of qualifications to be developed) is proposed by sector councils and approved by Ministry of Education.

Inclusion of non-formal qualifications into the system - step by step

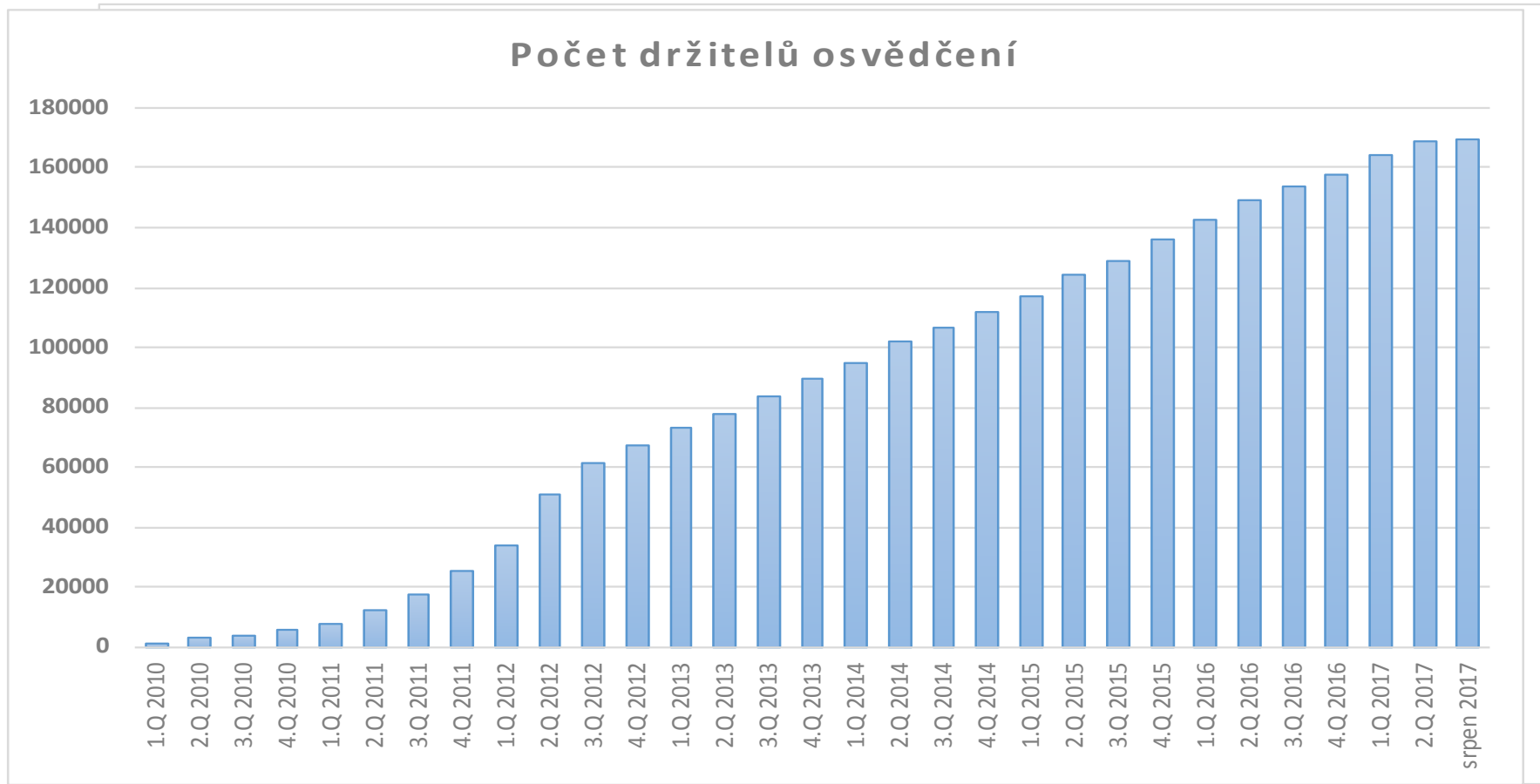
- Design of proposal (birth certificate)
- Evaluation of the proposal - sector council, authorizing body, Ministry of Education
- Inclusion in the annual production plan (and/or revision plan)
- Establishing specific working group - possibility of representation of the submitter
- Drafting a qualification and assessment standards
- Evaluation of the proposed standards by independent experts
- Evaluation by sector council
- Approval process - authorising body, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

- Publication in the NSK Information System
- Authorization and testing

Total number of vocational qualifications in the NSK system



Total number of awards in the NSK system



Figures

1194 qualifications

1400 autorised persons

More than 171 000 awards

Financing of the system

- Until 2015 – development and implementation co-financed by ESF and CZ government through the systemic projects (NSK1, NSK2).
- 2016 and later on – official document sets down that the Ministry of Education participate in the total annual costs of the maintenance and further development of the NSK by approximately 70 %.
- Employers contribute with 30 % of the costs within the multisource funding, which will cover the operation of the sector councils.
- There is no special fee to include qualification to the system.

Future

- Ensuring the updating of the NSK system - quality assurance, standards revision
- Further development of NSK - new qualifications
- Funding

Is it enough?

What about NQF with one set of descriptors and one methodology?



Thank you for your attention !

www.narodnikvalifikace.cz

www.vzdelavaniaprace.cz