



Latvian
Qualifications
Framework

International qualifications in Latvia, their characteristic, role and perceptions

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Main questions for the study on international qualifications

- What are international qualifications
- What international qualifications are awarded in Latvia
- What is the role of international qualifications in the education and labour market



Main steps

- Analysis of literature
- Interviews with organisations providing international qualifications
- On-line interview with the representatives from the sectors
- Discussions with stakeholders



Definition

- International qualifications are **qualifications which standards and assessment requirements are designed by an international institution, organisation or enterprise** with the aim to conduct trustful and internationally comparable evaluation of candidates knowledge skills and competences
- The right to provide learning activities and/or testing is assigned to the institutions, which capacity has been ascertained through a certain accreditation process, in more than one country

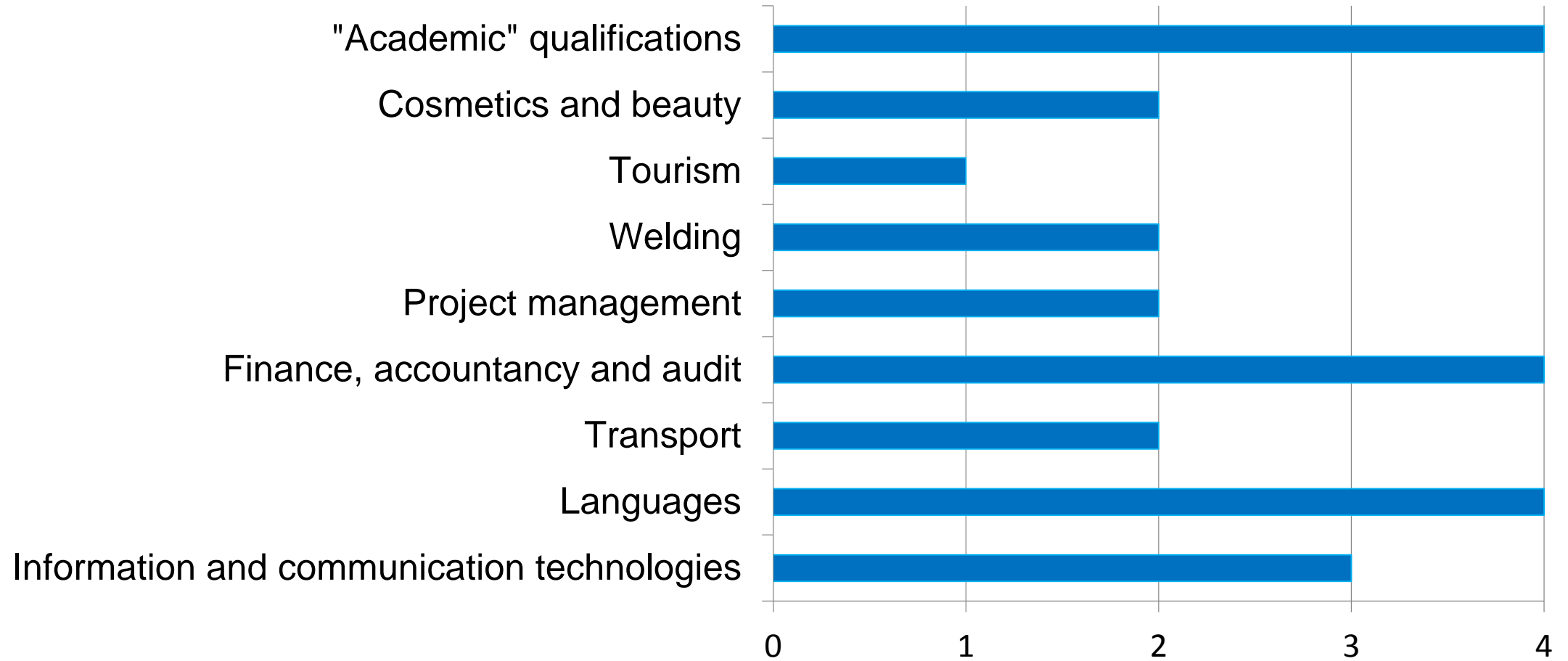


International qualifications providers

- Higher education institutions;
- Vocational education institutions;
- General education institutions;
- Education and/or testing centres that provide one or several international qualifications



Sectors represented in interviews



Sector	The most visible international qualifications
“Academic” qualifications	International Baccalaureate TOEFL IELTS Cambridge English
Cosmetics and beauty:	CIDESCO ITEC
Tourism	AHLEI TedQual
Welding	DVS PersZert European welding qualification ISO 9606
Project management	PMP PRINCE2
Finance, accountancy and audit:	ACCA CIA Study module “Finance management” certified by the SQA



Characterisation of international qualifications

1. By purpose

Entitles to perform a certain professional activity

Entitles to enrol higher education institutions abroad

Quality brand

2. By type

Entire education programme or large part of it complies with international requirements

Internationally recognised education courses or examination of narrow speciality

Examination in narrow speciality, with the results that are internationally recognised

Study module/course that is integrated in higher education study programme



Requirements of international qualifications

1. Applied standards

Standard developed by a designer/association

National level standard

Standards developed at European level

Other international standards (ISO)

2. Admission requirements

Particular level of previous education

Interview, selection, piloting work

Self-assessment

Professional experience

Level of previous education and professional experience

Level of previously obtained international qualification



Assessment methods of learners' achievements

- Examination on theory and practical tasks on the site
- Online tests
- Online test on theory and practical tasks
- Written examination on the site
- Compulsory practice
- Complex online tasks



Documents certifying the obtained international qualification

- Certificates, and/or report of qualification holder's results (certificate supplement), including the description of mastered skills, e.g., in welding;
- Diplomas that are awarded for acquiring education programmes that are large in terms of time, full (not only their part), e.g. diploma of International Baccalaureate, CIDESEO. In such cases parallel to the international qualification, Latvian formal qualification is issued too.



International qualification holders' drawbacks in the labour market

- Existing **problems in successful implementation** of international qualification in Latvia
- **Little meaning** in the local labour market
- No/little information on the international qualifications
- **High costs for obtaining** an international qualification
- Doubts about the quality of international qualifications
- Large work load to prepare for examination
- Complicated in terms of time planning, in addition qualification **needs to be renewed**
- Poor foreign language skills limit candidates' opportunities



International qualification holders' advantages in the labour market

- Promoting **competitiveness** in the labour market
- International **popularity** and popularity within sector
- Specific, thorough and up-to-date **knowledge**
- Harmonising qualification system and ensuring opportunity to have an **objective comparison** of qualification holders' knowledge, skills and competences
- **Guarantee** of certain knowledge and skills
- High **salary and social guarantees**
- Excellent **reputation**
- Easy **recognition** procedures of international qualifications
- Allowing **flexible time planning** for learning
- **Enlarging** horizon



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