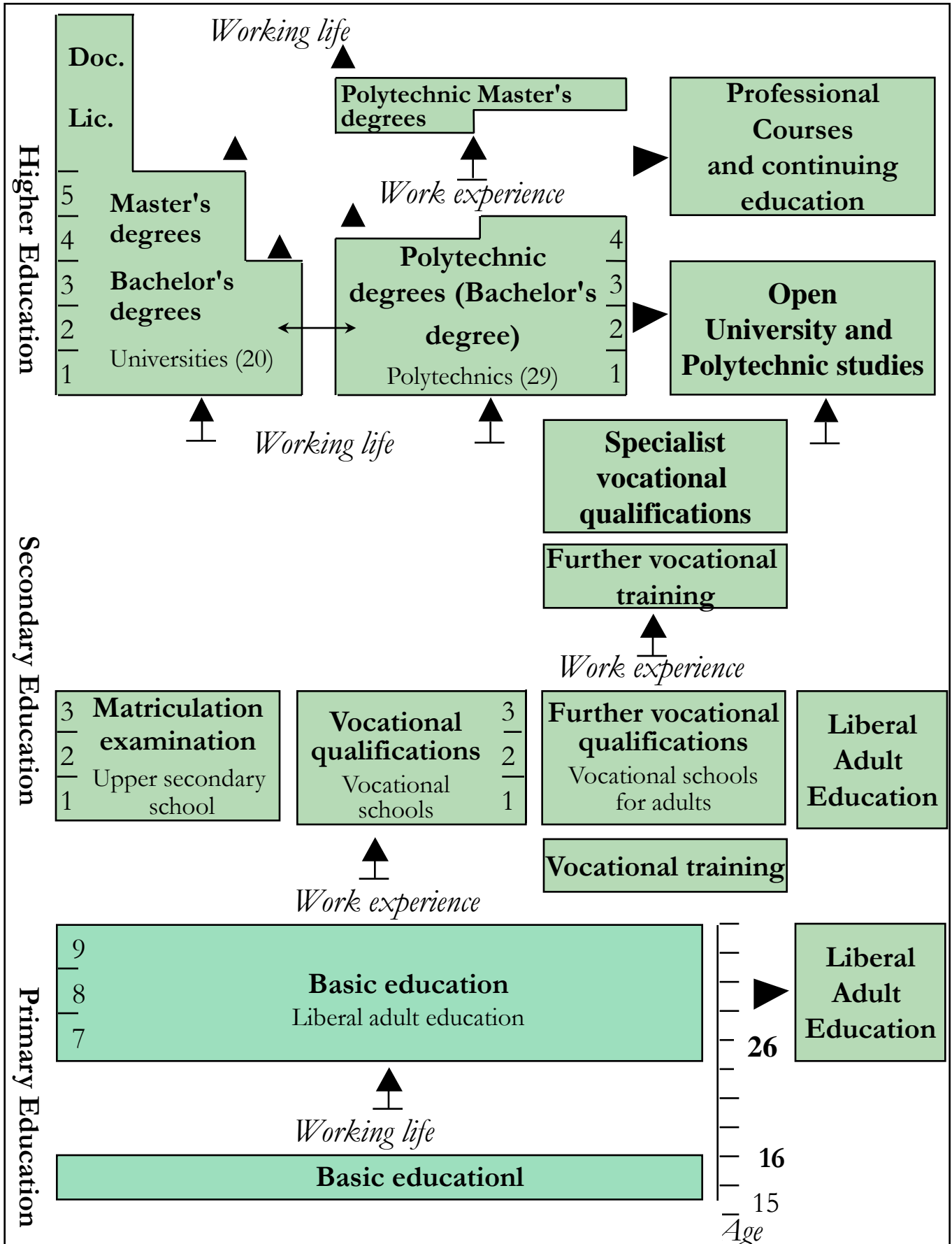


EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR ADULTS in Finland



FINLAND

Individualisation in Adult Education and Competence Based Qualifications in VET

BACKGROUND

- The **competence-based qualifications** system came into force in 1994, and competence tests have been arranged since then.
- The system has been developed in close cooperation between teachers and representatives of working life.

THREE LEVELS

- ***Vocational qualifications*** (basic level) may also be taken in the form of competence-based qualifications
- ***Further vocational qualifications*** demonstrate the vocational skills required of skilled workers
- ***Specialist vocational qualifications*** demonstrate a command of the most demanding tasks in the field.

HOW?

- Adults may demonstrate their vocational skills in competence tests **regardless of how and where they have acquired the skills.**
- Taking part in competence tests **does not require** formal training
- Many participants participate in preparatory training to rectify gaps in vocational skills learnt at work and to enhance vocational skills.
- The students participating in preparatory training are provided with individual learning programs.

STRUCTURE

- The qualifications structure is revised annually according to changes in working life and to feedback obtained from the world of business.
- At present, there are 373 qualifications (191 of them further vocational qualifications and 130 specialist vocational qualifications) included in the structure.

CBQ STAKEHOLDERS

Ministry of Education

- Decides which competence-based qualifications are included in the qualifications structure

National Board of Education (NBE)

- Specifies and confirms the requirements for the competence-based qualifications

Qualification Committees

- Arrange and supervise the competence tests
- award competence-based qualification certificates

Schools, colleges and other educational institutions

- organise preparatory training, organise competence tests, monitor competence tests according to the national guidelines
- award preparatory training and CBQ certificates
- are responsible for guidance and advising
- are partly responsible for assessment (along with working life representatives and the candidate)
- are responsible for carrying out the individualisation process

Working life

- plans the CBQ tests in co-operation with (training) organisation
- assesses the candidates with (training) organisation
- provides efficient on-the-job-learning possibilities
- communicates the working life's needs to educational authorities and organisers

Certification in competence-based qualification (CBQ) system

- Students are awarded the **qualification certificate** upon the completion of all the required qualification modules.
- On request, students may also be granted a certificate for **each passed module**.
- The certificates of competence-based qualifications are awarded by representatives of the **Qualification Committee** and the body that arranges the competence tests.

Individualisation - March 2007

Phase I / Application

- marketing and initial guidance
- APL canvassing
- planning of study / career paths with advisors and assessors
- canvassing and identifying counselling and guidance needs
- canvassing and identifying training needs
- support and counselling throughout the phase

Phase II / Competence tests

- counselling of advisors and assessors
- assessment and acknowledgement of prior competences
- planning of competence tests
- compiling an individual competence test plan
- taking competence tests
- support and counselling throughout the phase

Phase III / Completing the vocational skills

- compiling an individual study plan for preparatory training, including on-the-job learning
- flexible learning, multiple learning environments and methods
- canvassing and identifying customer's needs regarding life and work situation, prior learning and special learning needs
- support and counselling throughout the phase