

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Kvalifikatsiooni saamise toetamine
Name of the instrument - English translation	Support for obtaining qualifications
Scheme ID	278
Country	 Estonia
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Grant for individuals
Sub-type of instrument	Lump-sum support
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	All individuals meeting pre-determined criteria (i.e. individuals who obtained a qualification within no longer than 3 years or employed persons who have completed a respective labour market training arranged by Unemployed Insurance Funds or for whom an employer received the training grant) can apply for a financial grant for up to EUR 500 within 3 years (the minimum amount of funding is not set). The fund is allocated under the budget of Estonian Unemployment Insurance Funds. The fund can be used for obtaining formal qualifications (ISCED 2-5). The grant is transferred (the costs are reimbursed) to an individual or employer, who covered training costs, only when the participant receives a positive exam evaluation. There is no opportunity to apply for a grant more than once.
Short description of the related instruments	Not applicable

Level of operation	National
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	Not applicable
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable

Relevance	Key instrument
Legal basis	Tööhõiveprogramm 2017-2020 (directive) under Labour Market Services and Benefits Act §4 (1) (2006)
Objective(s) and target(s)	The instrument is part of the larger 'Work and Study' Programme 2017-2020. According to the respective act (Tööhõiveprogramm 2017-2020, 2016), the overall objectives of the programme are the following: 'to alleviate labor shortages, prevent unemployment and shorten the duration of unemployment, and assist persons whose employment is difficult due to long-term unemployment or other obstacles.' (§2)
Year of implementation	2015
Year of latest amendment	2020
Operation/management	This instrument is managed by the Unemployment Insurance Fund and is funded from the Unemployment Insurance contributions (from the second half of 2020, it is also funded from the European Social Fund). Annual budget allocations are stipulated in the founding legal act (Tööhõiveprogramm 2017-2020, 2016) and changes are made in consultation with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Social partner bodies (trained unions and employer associations/federations) are not involved in the operation/ management process of the grant.
Eligible group(s)	All individuals who obtained a qualification within no longer than 3 years. Also, individuals who are employed, who have completed a respective labour market training arranged by the Unemployed Insurance Fund, for whom an employer received the training grant from the Unemployment Insurance Fund.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	No preferential treatment
Education and training eligible	Programmes leading to a formal qualification (ISCED 2-5 levels) are eligible.
Source of financing and collection mechanism	Unemployment Insurance Fund (employees and employers contributions); National budget (minor allocations); the European Social Fund (since the second half of 2020)
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	An individual meeting pre-determined criteria can apply for allocation of EUR 500 in three years for training (i.e. obtaining a formal qualification). The amount of funding is transferred (reimbursed) directly to the learner via her/his bank account or to the employer who covered the training costs for an employee. The requirement in order to receive the reimbursement is a positive final examination of the participant.
Eligible costs	Costs related to pre-exam consultations, qualification exam cost, including state fees
Volumes of funding	Overall volumes of funding available:2018: EUR 37 7542019: EUR 25 2692020: EUR 26 880Overall volumes of

	funding actually disbursed:2017: EUR 3 1932018: EUR 12 7512019: EUR 31 776
Beneficiaries/take up	Total number of beneficiaries:2017: 392018: 1422019: 345
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund
Monitoring/evaluation reports available	Not available
Most relevant webpage - in English	https://www.tootukassa.ee/eng/content/prevention-unemployment/support-o...
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.tootukassa.ee/content/uus-toota-ja-opi/kvalifikatsiooni-saa...
Recent changes	01-09-2020. Change in sources of funds: this instrument is financed by the European Social Fund. Change in funding structure. Recent changes in response to COVID-19 No changes
Sources	Unemployment Insurance Fund https://www.tootukassa.ee/en/
	State Gazette of Estonia https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/104052018013