



Occupational Standards in Practice for Estonia

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EUEXImp Estonian Partners

- Voglers Eesti OÜ – drilling-blasting company
- Division of Mining of Tallinn University of Technology (TTU) – the leading explosives engineering R&D institution in Estonia
- Close co-operation between the partners from the beginning of the project



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Voglers Eesti OÜ

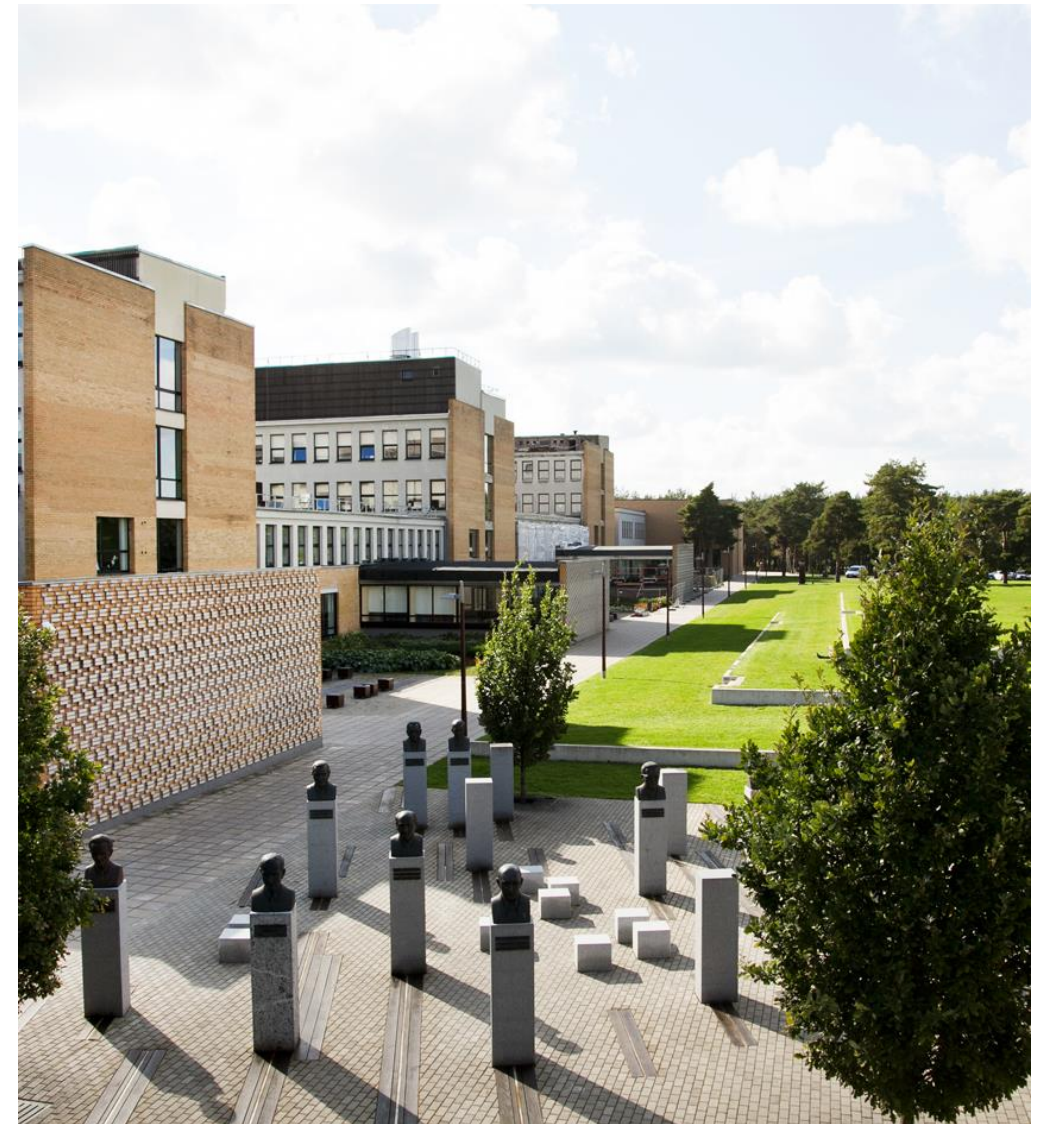


- The company has been operating for 21 years
- Various experience in drilling-blasting
- The key person involved in this project has a wide horizon in international expertise of blasting
- The company is also renting out workforce for different projects, with certificates for senior blasters, blasters and drillers.
- Voglers hopes to get more experience and knowledge with Pan-European value.



Division of Mining

- Division of Mining of TTU deals with research and education drilling and blasting technologies, usage of explosives in construction and military applications, including investigating environmental effects
- Division of Mining has been involved in previous projects
- Has long experience of research in the field of explosives engineering
- Division of Mining co-operates in the field of explosives engineering with mining and blasting companies and governmental agencies





The Main Question

- Is it possible to implement British standards in Estonia?
- The British training system was very similar, because this kind of training system works in Estonian Defence Forces
- In Estonia we almost have no training system for civilian explosives handlers



Voglers Eesti Sub-projects Elements

- Understanding vocational qualifications
- Consultation on which approach to take to qualifying company staff
- Role Profiling workers
- Confirming the qualifications required across the company
- Prioritising which qualifications need to be part of the project and which might wait
- Identifying which members of staff will be involved in the project and in the future
- Identifying a qualifications centre to provide the required registrations, training, assessment and verification
- Undertaking the qualifications
- Maintaining the Case study



Identifying Qualifications

- The company aspires to have all its staff formally qualified for their explosives-related roles
- The company came into the project with the idea that how they would benefit most
- The EUExImp project was not funded to provide the qualifications, only the environment and framework within which the partners could act
- Voglers were quite clear that their participation would need to provide some benefit to the company



Choosing the Candidates

- Voglers went forward with the assessment of one of the Explosives Safety Supervisors for a Level 3 Vocational Qualification in Explosives Safety Supervision.





Selecting the Assessment Organisation

- Voglers recognised that the key to this process would be their understanding of the assessment and verification process
- The 'standard' outcome-based assessment methodology relies on regular face-to-face contact
- With the learners being based in Estonia and the assessor and verifiers being in the UK, had the potential to become excessively costly
- Swedish company experience showed that it is possible to conduct much of the required operations remotely
- It is essential for the assessor to see the learner in the workplace actually doing their work



Assessment Planning

- One of the benefits of this qualification was the ability for the assessor and IV to work from UK, with the candidate in Estonia
- Working remotely to reduce costs, while still meeting the awarding body's requirement for rigour in verification, did not prove as difficult as imagined.
- Voglers made maximum use of videoconferencing and Witness Testimony to support the remote assessment
- Voglers made use of recent changes to Estonian explosives legislation and company priorities to provide a real-world basis for work that would be undertaken by the candidate



Effect on the Company and the Candidate´s Perspective

- Voglers Eesti OÜ considers that this experience was very useful and important for the company. It gave a clear overview of needed skills and competencies
- Voglers Eesti OÜ acquired a good example of formulating occupational standards
- The company has more good knowledge and an examples to share with the government authorities



Effects on the University

- TTU has obtained new experiences and knowledge of occupational standards and training systems in UK and wider in EU
- TTU gained experience about the feasibility of successful implementation of the British occupational standards
- TTU has taken the opportunity to elaborate training system that is in compliance with EU requirements.
- Working-out and applying training courses and evaluation standards, merging continuous education with the training system of explosives handlers
- TTU and Voglers are at the very beginning
- The training of practical explosives handlers is somehow insufficient



Effects on the University 2

- Integration of our EUEXImp experiences into the curriculum of mining engineering in TTU
- Carry out training of explosives handlers according to the needs of the Estonian mining industry and which can be exported with our graduates who work around the world





Effect on the Estonian VET Framework

- Comparison of Estonian occupational standards to EU occupational standards and training systems
- EUExImp experience was used in the preparation of Estonian occupational standards in 2015 to 2016
- We used the topics of existing UK standards and training courses for specifying the tasks and educational and experience-based demands for explosives handlers



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