Financing VPL in the Republic of Korea

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VPL in RoK

Definition

- A process of assigning values to all outcomes of learning, regardless of its type, including self-study, training from institutions, volunteering in the community, on-the-job practice, and even living experiences (Lee, Um & Lee, 2013)
- Objective indices to be utilized in further education, employment and career development of learners (Na, Oh & Shin, 2016)

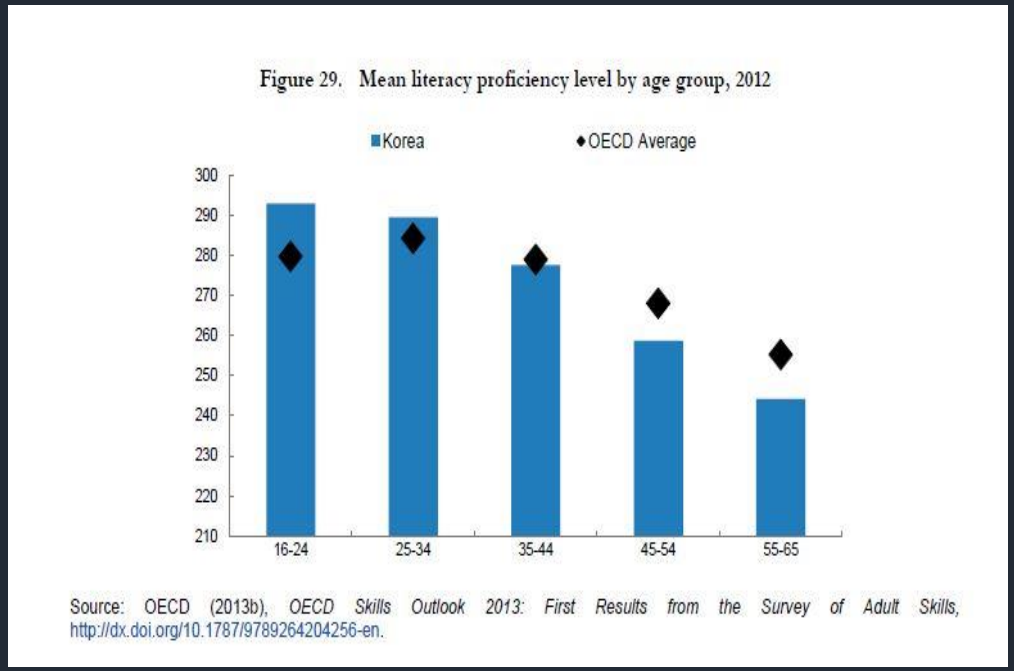
Objective

Development of a comprehensive framework of qualifications and standardization

- Informing learners of their specific achievements;
- Providing measurements for non-formal and informal learning;
- Giving learners tangible evidence of achievement that is formally recognized by the government;
- Increasing learners' motivation

VPL in RoK
: Why is VPL important?

- High level of educational achievement but low level of adult education participation
- Differences in skills across age groups
- Significant mismatch of skills and skills fast becoming obsolete



In order to enhance an individual's lifelong learning participation, validating and recognizing diverse learning outcomes and/or experience is needed.

1

Support Project for Adult Literacy Improvement

Recognition of Academic Qualification for Literacy Learners through Literacy Program

- For those who completed adult literacy programs that are certified by the local office of education, are handed out primary or secondary school graduation certificates
- Since 2011, a cumulative number of 8,802 learners have received a certificate of academic qualification.

1 MOE & NILE

- Support education institutions
- Develop curriculum for literacy education
- Train teachers
- Operate a program review commission
- Promote literacy programs

2 Local Governments (Offices of Education)

- Operate qualification screening committee
- Designate institutions for program installation
- Recognize academic qualification for literacy education program graduates
- Support institutions

3 Educational Institutions

- Operate programs
- Promote literacy programs
- Provide various support to learners

2

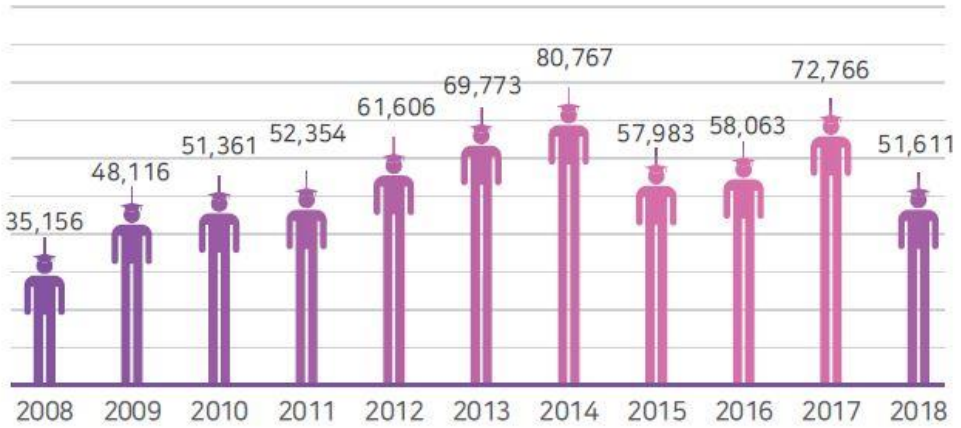
Academic Credit Bank System (ACBS)

- An **open education system** which **acknowledges various learning experiences and qualifications** acquired both in and outsider of the school system
- Provides a **Bachelor's Degree** when a person meets certain standards of credits accumulation in accordance with the Act on Recognition of Credits, etc.
- Apply for **license acquisition**, such as judicial examination, certified public accountant test, and national technology qualification test

Registered Learners

Those who have received degrees

Source : NILE (2019).



2

Academic Credit Bank System (ACBS)

Sources of Credits in the ACBS

01 Passing **Bachelor's Degree Examination for Self-Education** or completing required courses to substitute for exams

02 Acquiring **national and private certificates** approved by MOE

03 Taking **accredited courses** from non-formal education and vocational training institutions accredited by MOE

04 Completing **curricula at accredited universities and colleges**

05 Taking **part-time classes or extension programs** at accredited universities and colleges

06 Possessing skills or completing training to acquire skills for **Important Intangible Cultural Properties**

3

Bachelor's Degree Examination for Self-Education (BDES)

- BDES : An **open education system granting a Bachelor's Degree** to a person who passed a national exam, **without attending regular courses** provided by formal or non-formal educational institutions
- The outcomes of BDES can be used when learners apply for the bar exam, CPA exam, and/or teacher's license.

11 Academic Majors

4-step National Exam

1st step — General Education Acknowledgement Test

2nd step — Basic Major Course Acknowledgement Test

3rd step — Intensive Major Course Acknowledgement Test

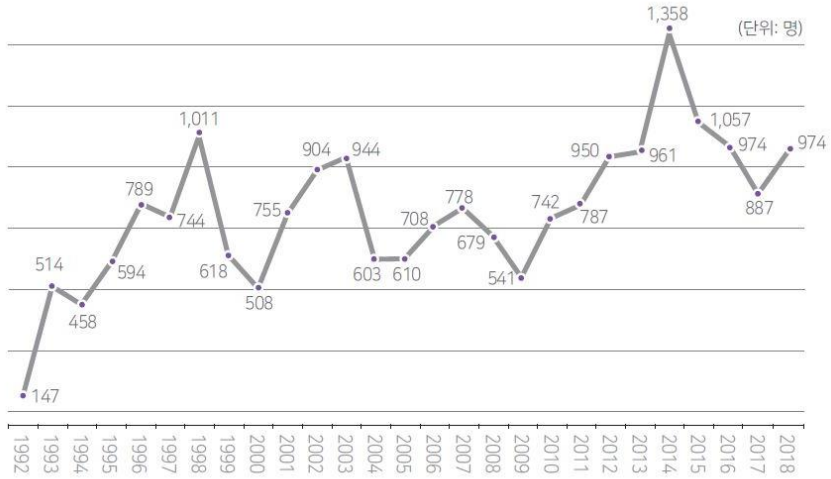
4th step — Comprehensive Test on Degree Acquisition

3

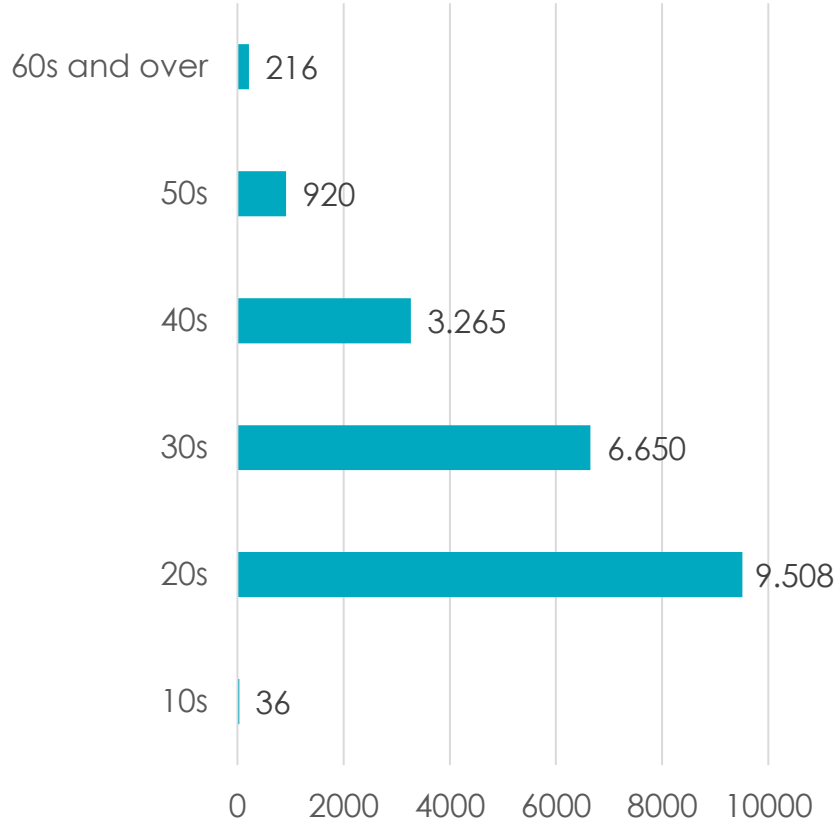
Bachelor's Degree Examination for Self-Education (BDES)

Number of Degree Earners by year

Total 20,595 since 1990



Number of Degree Earners by Age Group



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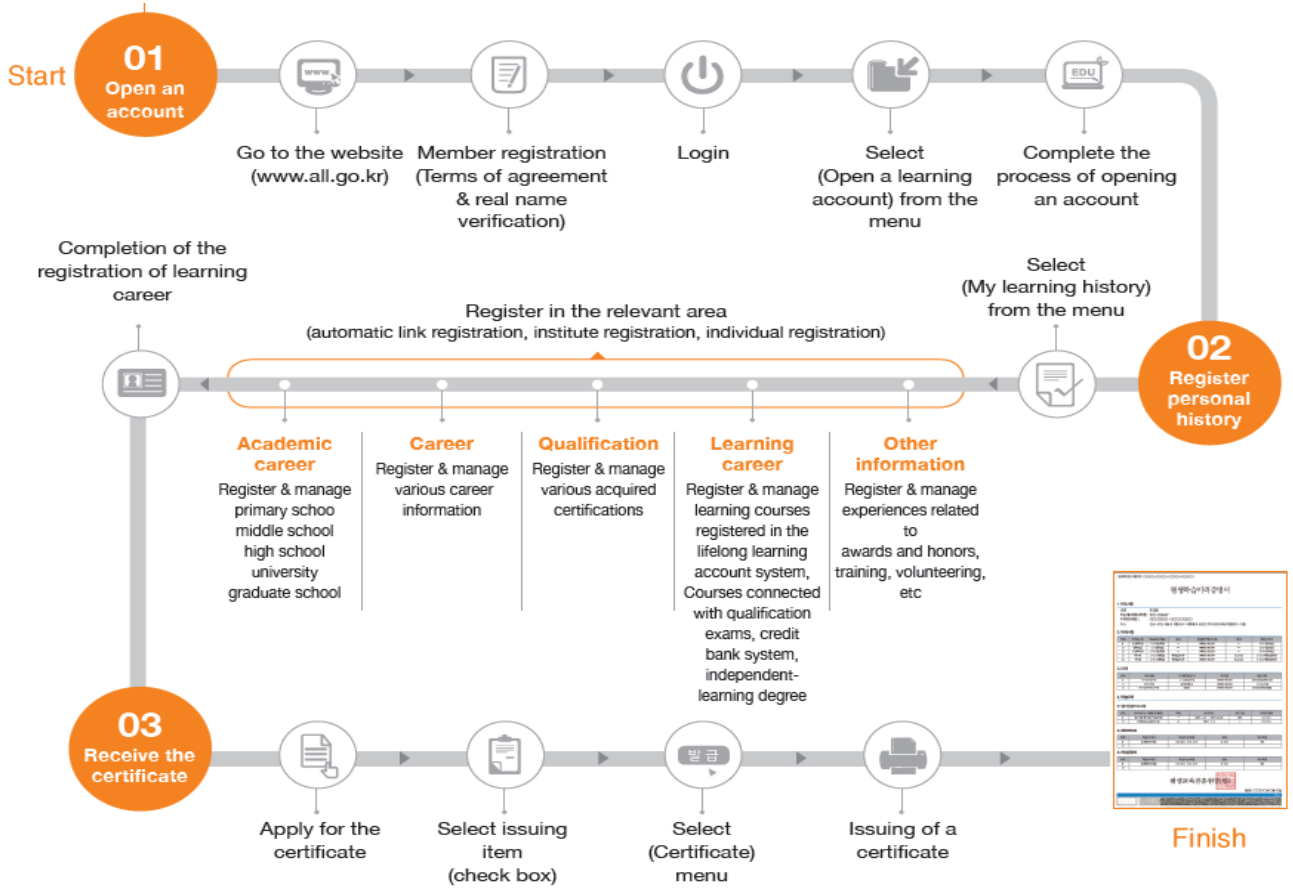
Lifelong Learning Account System (LLAS)

- An **on-line system** where learners **accumulate and manage their various learning experiences**
- Connects learning experiences to academic careers and qualifications, or supply them as background information for recruitment



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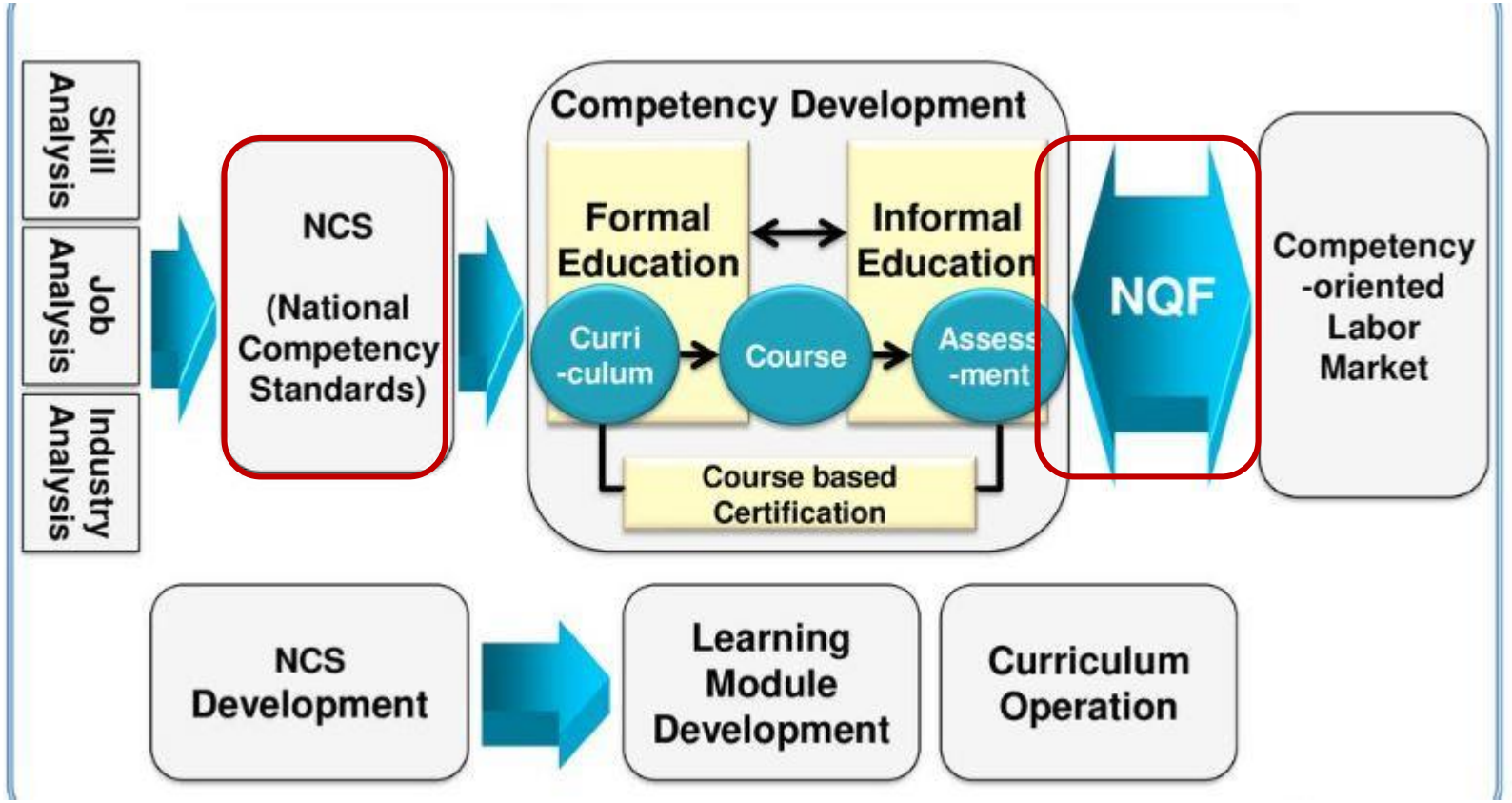
Emerging trends in VPL

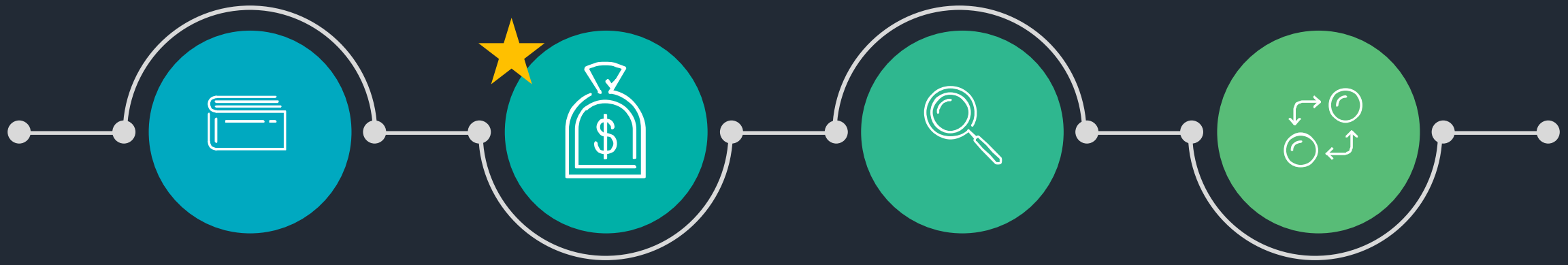
National Competency Standards and National Qualification Framework

- To secure the validity and consistency of evaluation with certain levels of achievement standards to make various learning outcomes compatible



Source: Lee, D. (n.d)

Financing VPL in RoK



Building the legal framework and rationale

Mobilizing necessary resources

Developing policies for validation of learning

Providing guidance and counselling

1

Building the legal framework and rationale

Constitution

Article 31 Government Duty

(1) **All citizens** shall have an **equal right to receive an education** corresponding to their abilities.

(5) The **State shall promote lifelong education**.

Framework Act on Education

Article 31 Right to Learn

Every citizen shall have **a right to learn throughout life** and to receive education according to his or her abilities and aptitudes.

Lifelong Education Act

Article 8 Study Leaves and Support for Study Expenses

The State, local governments, public institutions or various corporations may **grant their employees paid or unpaid leaves for study** to expand their opportunities for lifelong education, or pay them study expenses

Article 16 Support for Expenses and Assistance

(1) The State and local governments may implement or assist the lifelong education promotion projects

2

Mobilizing necessary resources

- There is a little public funding allocated for VPL only, but available for measures such as alternative education or obtaining qualifications.
- VPL is indispensable part of lifelong learning policies in RoK.

Dedicated public funding from national sources

Support Project for Adult Literacy Education

Funding allocated for validation undertaken by the illiterate

Lifelong Education Voucher

Providing financial support in the form of vouchers to cover tuition fees

Public funding but not specifically allocated to VPL

Mix of public and private sector funding

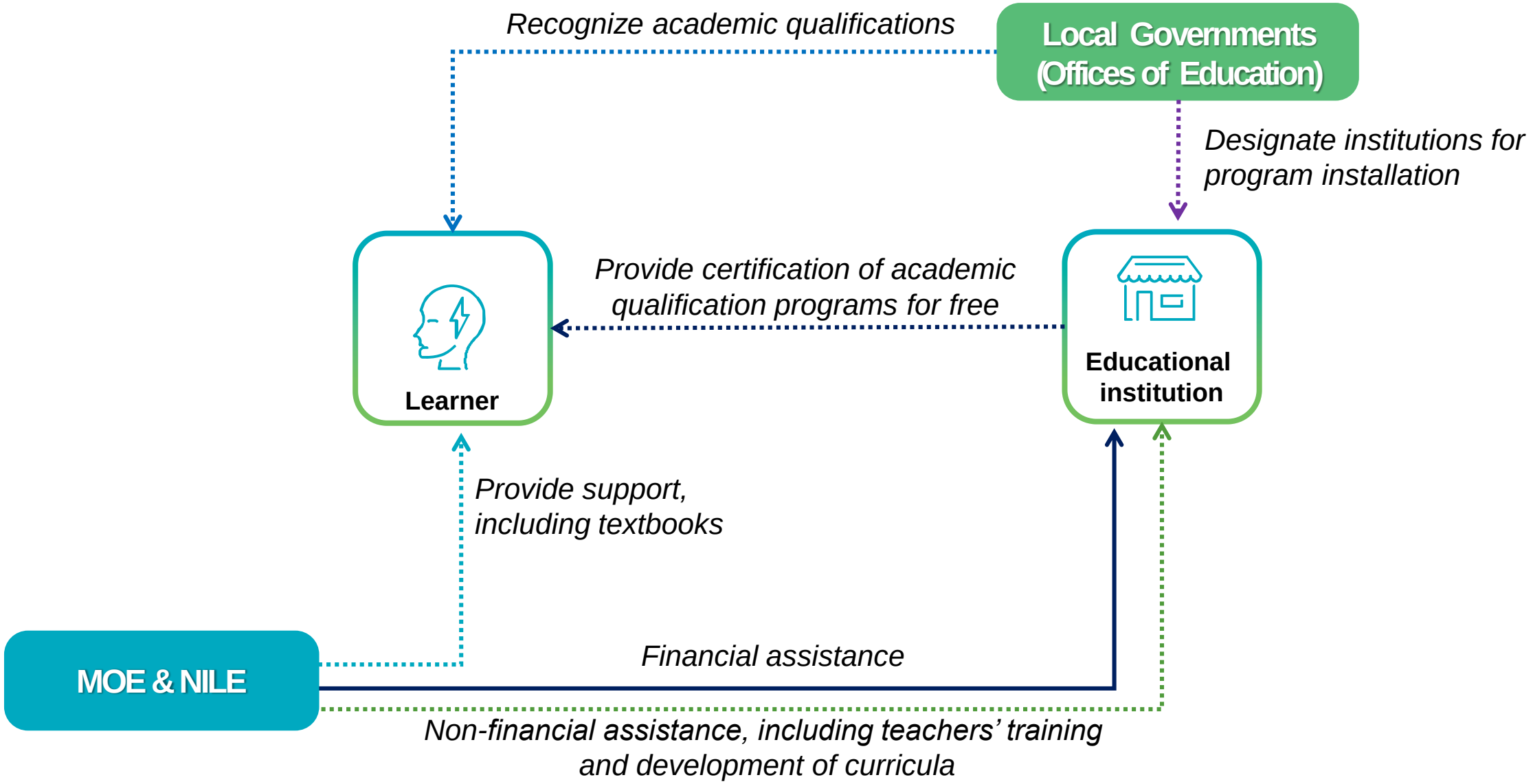
Vocational training programs and employment insurance

Academic Credit Bank System

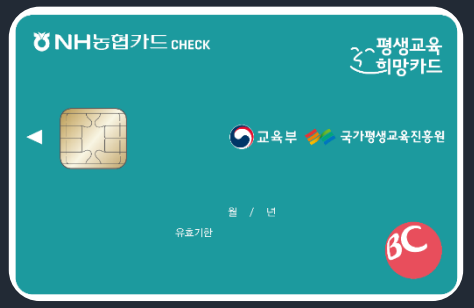
Bachelor's Degree Examination for Self-Education

Fees charged to individual learners

Support Project for Adult Literacy Improvement : Make VPL accessible to all learners



Lifelong Education Voucher(LEV)
: Make VPL accessible to all learners



What is the LEV?

- A government program that allows selected learners who are lower-income families, to participate in educational activities of their own choice and in accordance with their learning needs

Eligibility

- Over 19 years of age and, in accordance with the National Basic Living Security Act, either (a) recipients of benefits or (b) persons within the second-lowest income bracket

Details

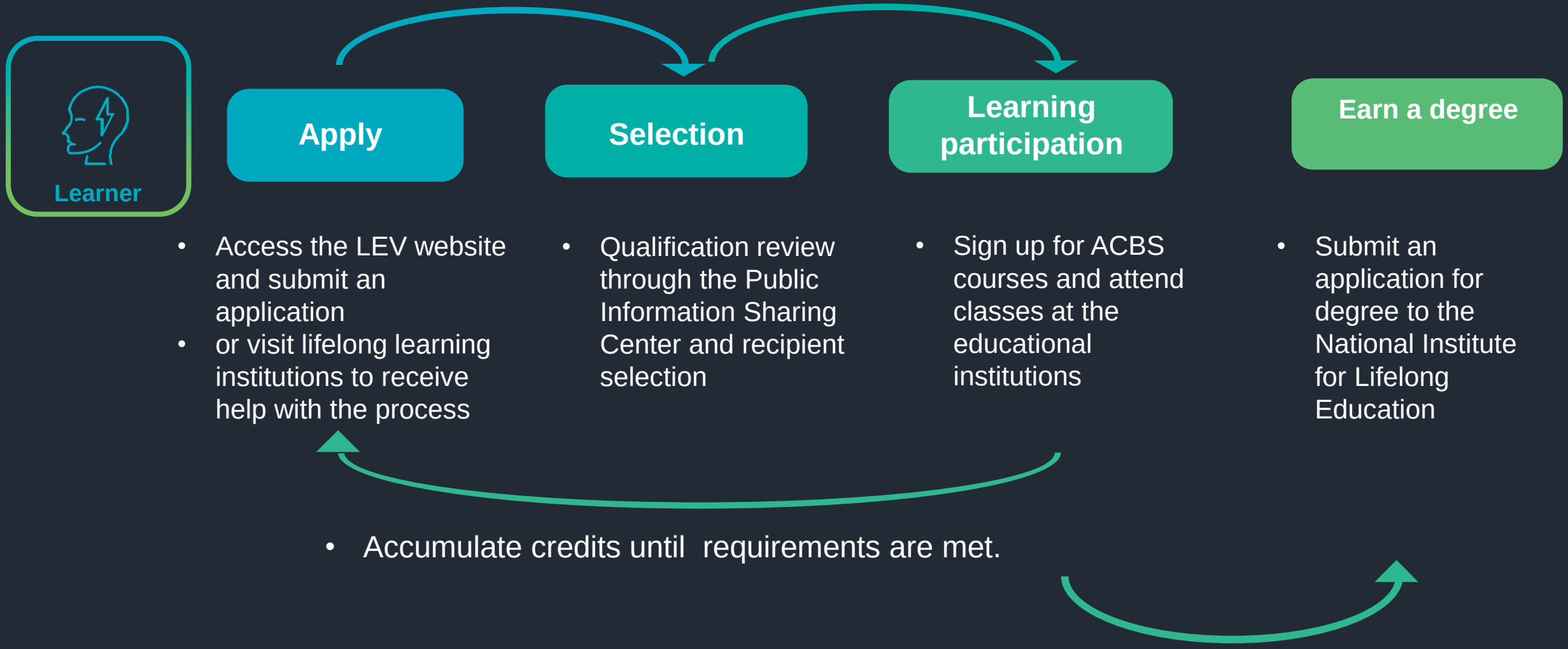
- Provide a voucher card worth ₩350,000 (270 EUR) per year for about 5,000 people
- Use the voucher card to pay tuition fees and other costs, including the purchase of books and materials

Relevant Programs

- Education programs for the purpose of acquiring academic certificates, including ACBS
- Lifelong education programs for reasons other than acquiring an academic certificate

Lifelong Education Voucher(LEV)

How to use the LEV?



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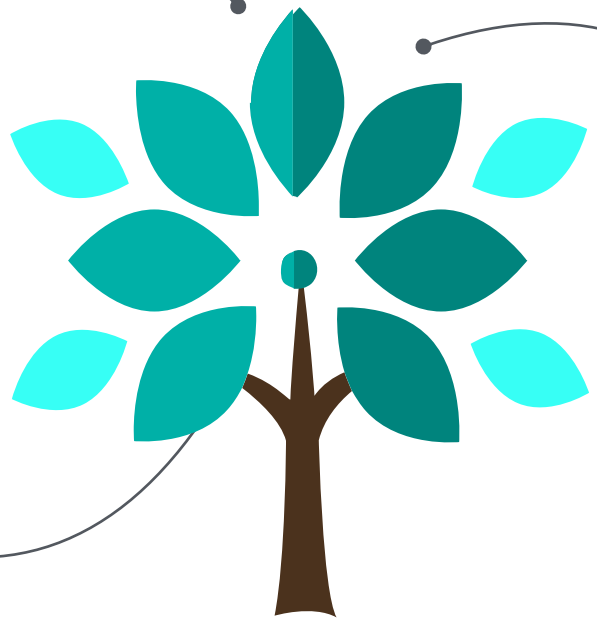
How to ensure sustainability, transparency and accessibility in a funding scheme

For a secure financing model

Sustainability

- Legal framework and rationale
- Political leadership



Transparency

- Strict qualification review system
- Designation requirements for institutions, and monitoring and evaluation

Accessibility

- On-line support system
- Providing guidance and counseling

Key take-aways
: Strategies for a Better VPL System

Sustainability

- **Legal Framework** : Policies implementation based on a legal foundation
- **Political Leadership** : Political efforts through the national long-term and mid-term plan

Accessibility

- **Online support system** : Platform for institutions and learners to apply for financial assistance and acquire necessary information
- **Guidance and counseling** : Provision of consulting services to institutions and learners

Transparency

- **Qualification Review** : Specific screening standards and a thorough review system leveraging reliable data
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** : Management of online and offline monitoring; Penalty system to hold institutions and learners accountable; Learners' and stakeholders' satisfaction survey

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