Adults – who have reached the age of 18 and are not required to participate in part-time compulsory education – may acquire higher-level or additional general-education qualifications in schools for adults (primary, lower secondary and general upper secondary schools). They may also acquire new or additional vocational qualifications and skills in non-school settings, as part of a more flexible continuing education system, including in vocational qualification courses.

Adult education and training is provided by both educational institutions within the school education system, and entities operating outside the school education system on the basis of the legislation on economic activity.

Public continuing education providers are continuing education centres. Public practical training providers are practical training centres. Public further education / training and retraining centres organise theoretical training sessions for juvenile workers and may also provide continuing education in non-school settings.

The types of non-school providers and the conditions and arrangements for continuing education in such settings are laid down in detail in the Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 11 January 2012 on continuing education in non-school settings (see Chapter 8 ‘Adult Education and Training’).

There are no separate or additional qualification requirements for teachers working in schools for adults or adult education institutions within the school education system. The rights and duties of teachers working in nursery schools, schools and other educational institutions are defined in the Teachers’ Charter. Adult education teachers are subject to the same qualification requirements, and thus they follow the same initial training paths, as teachers in schools for children and youth.

Individuals / trainers involved in adult education in institutions run by business entities outside the school education system do not have the status of teachers, and qualification requirements for them are independently laid down by the entities concerned.