

Using the CEFR to determine language levels necessary for subject learning

Ealta conference Dublin 30.05.2019

Eli Moe & Signe Wiger, Skills Norway

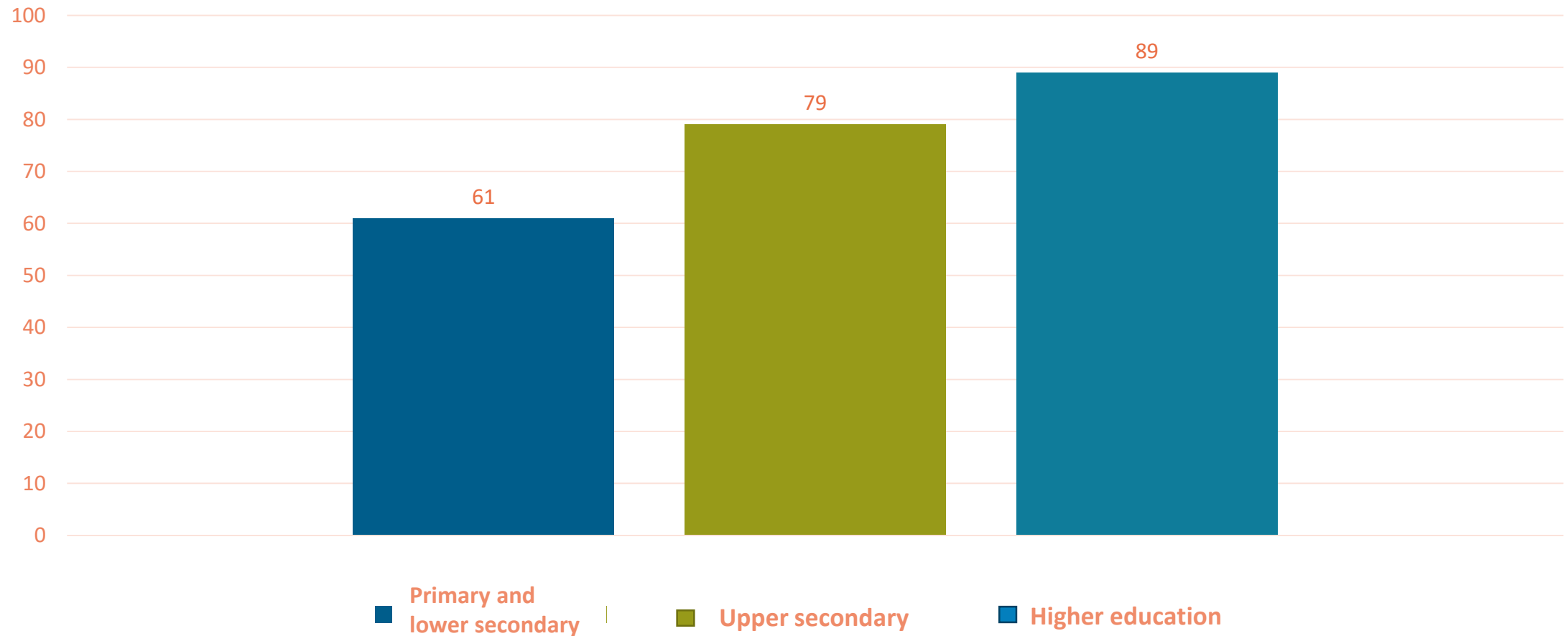
Political vision

Within 2021, the Government wants to introduce measures which ensure that adults with weak basic skills are offered 1) mapping of skills, 2) guidance on education and training, and 3) necessary flexible and adapted training which increases their chances of permanent work.

From: Report 16 (2015/16) from the Ministry of Education to the Parliament, *Social inclusion and a second chance*

Relationship between the level of education and employment

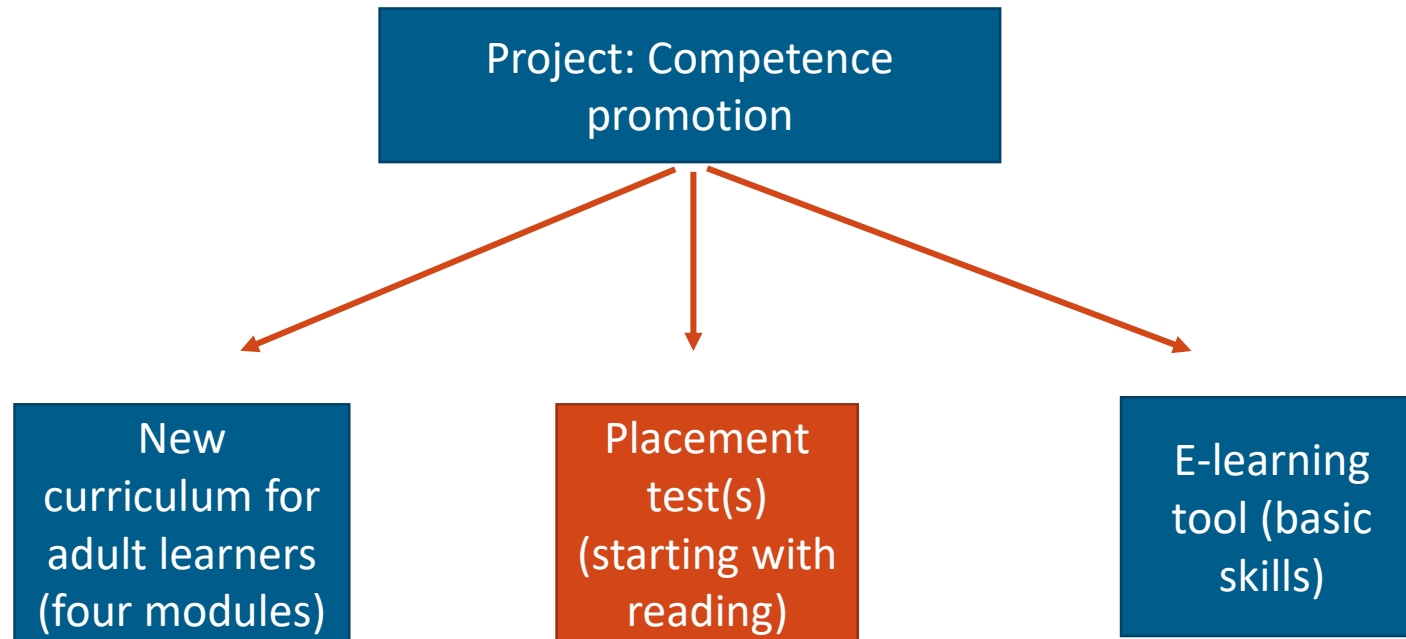
Employment rate in relation to level of education (25-66 years)



Aim: more
people in
permanent jobs



Commission from the Ministry of Education and Research



Aim of the program:
More students qualify
for work, upper
secondary school and
vocational courses

**Upper secondary
school**

**Lower secondary
school**

Primary school

New
educational
program and
curricula for
adults

Competence aims for each subject and module

	Norw. L2	Norwegian	Social science	Science	Mathematics	English
Module 4						
Module 3						
Module 2						
Module 1						

Example 1: Social science module 1

When finishing Module 1 in Social science, students

- **can give examples** of common professions and main industries in Norway
- **can in a simple way describe** their own skills and their wishes regarding education and work
- **can give examples** of a) their own duties, rights and possibilities in the Norwegian educational system and b) how their education can be financed
- **can, with support, talk** about the meaning of the terms society and democracy, and give examples of societies in which they participate

Language requirements in terms of CEFR levels in the area of A2 – B1

Example 2: Science module 3

When finishing Modul 3 in Science students

- **can describe** food chains and water cycles
- **can explain** how lifestyle can affect mental and physical health, and **give examples of** how health issues and disease can be prevented
- **can briefly explain** the terms energy and power
- **can describe** constructions and **discuss** why some are more stable and tolerate more stress than others

Language requirements in terms of CEFR levels in the area of B1 – B2

Language requirements indicated in the competence aims

	Norw. L2	Norwegian	Social science	Science	Mathematics	English
Module 4	B2	B2(+)	B2	B2	B2	B1/B2
Module 3	B1+	B2	B2	B1/B2	B1/B2	B1
Module 2	A2/B1	B2	B1	B1-	B1	A2+
Module 1	A1/A2	A2/B1	A2/B1	A2	A2	A1/A2

Recommendations for module placement

- Common sense: Lower CEFR level for placement than the level indicated by competence aims
- Teachers and people in charge of placement in various schools gave advice on language levels for placement through a questionnaire

Placement recommendations vs competence aims

	Norwegian L2		Norwegian		Social science	
	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
Module 4	B1	B2	B1	B2(+)	B1	B2
Module 3	A2/B1	B1+	B1	B2	B1	B2
Module 2	A2	A2/B1	B1	B2	A2	B1
Module 1	Under A1	A1/A2	A2	A2/B1	A1/A2	A2/B1

	Science		Mathematics	
	Start	End	Start	End
M 4	B1	B2	B1	B2
M 3	A2/B1	B1/B2	A2/B1	B1/B2
M 2	A2	B1-	A2	B1
M 1	A1	A2	A1	A2



Thank you!