

# Barriers to Adult Professional Competence Development in Latvia: Insights from Service Users, Providers, and Experts

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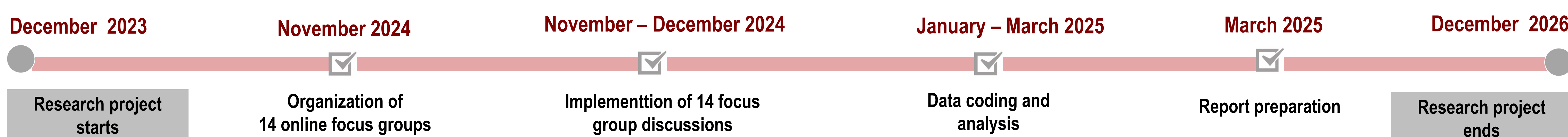
**Problem:** Adult education in Latvia faces challenges in promoting lifelong learning and aligning with labor market demands. An increase in participation rates does not always mean effective adult professional development and the transfer of its results into practice.

**Framework:** This study is part of the broader State Research Program "Education" project titled "Elaboration of Evidence-Based Solutions for Effective Professional Competence Development of Adults and Assessment of the Transfer of Its Results into Practice in Latvia." The project aims to develop an evidence-based framework and propose practical solutions for effective professional development of adults and the transfer of its results into practice, offering tools for assessing the impact of professional development on practice at organizational and system levels in Latvia.

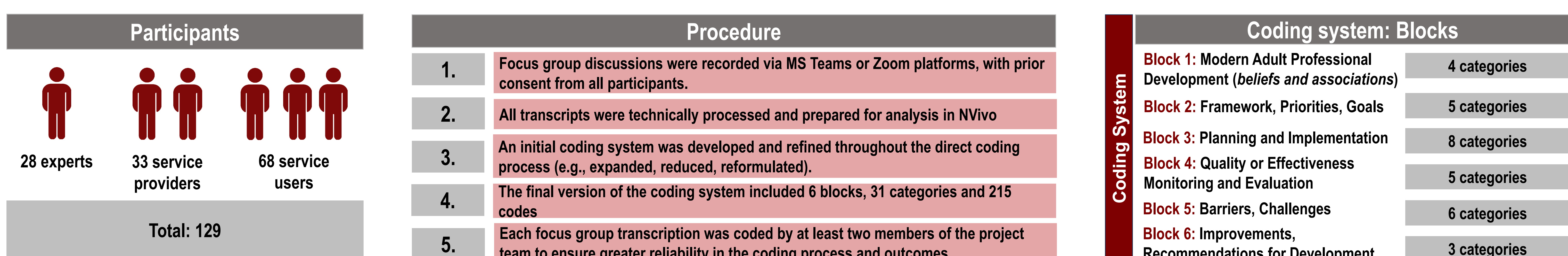
**Research question of the study:** What are the main obstacles to the effective implementation of adult professional competence development, including the transfer of results into practice?

This poster presents findings from **focus group discussions** representing three target groups: **experts**, adult professional development service **providers** and **users**.

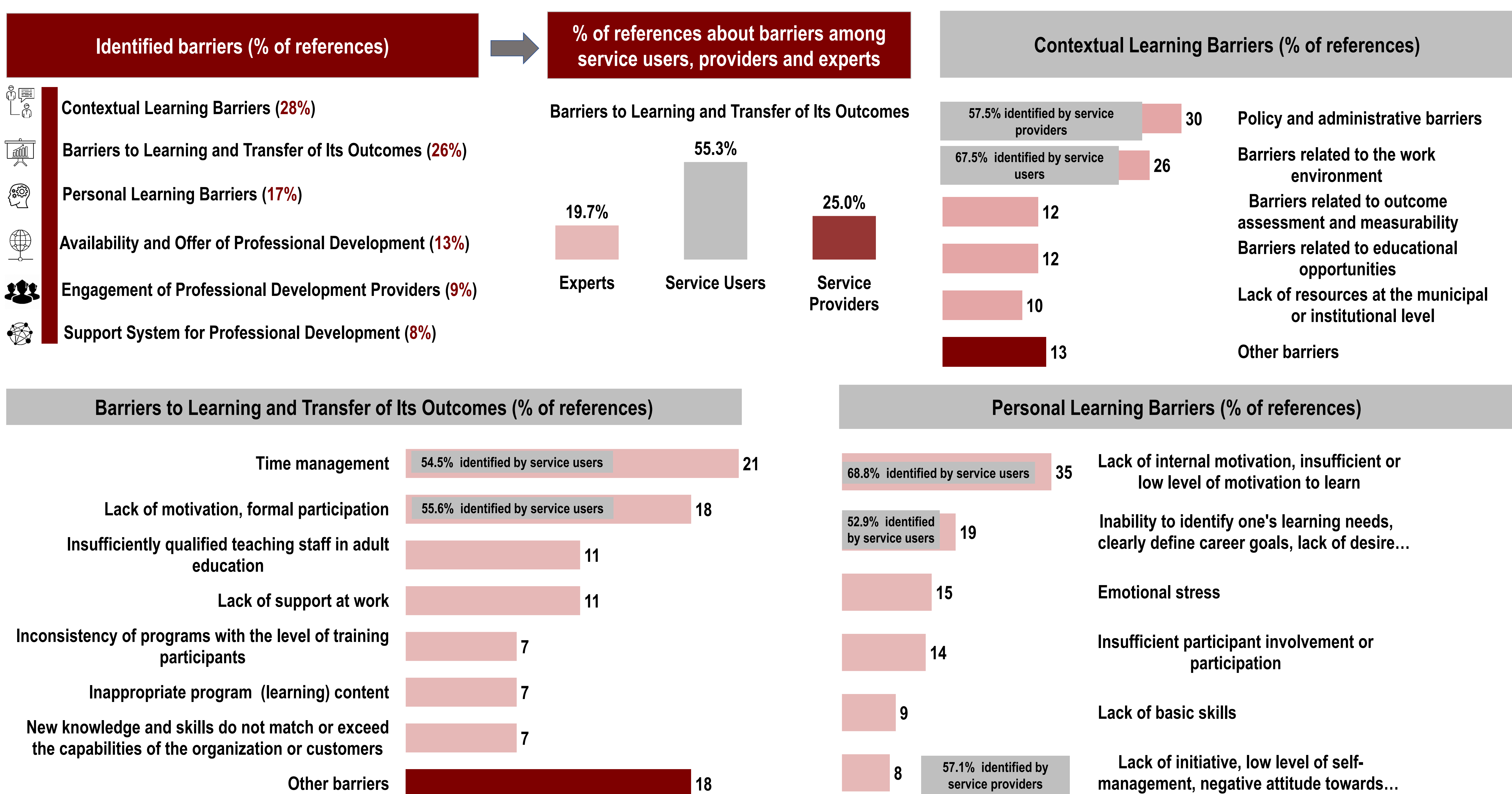
## Timeline of the study



## Focus Group Discussions: Method



## The main findings



## The main barriers identified by experts (% of references)

Financial barriers at the national level	Professional development opportunities do not meet labor market requirements	Insufficiently qualified teaching staff in adult education	Lack or overload of good adult educators
71,4%	58,3%	52,9%	43,5%

## Conclusions

- Promoting adult professional development requires an integrated approach that takes into account both individual and systemic factors.
- Improvements are needed in the professional development support system, particularly in terms of resource allocation and better coordination across different levels and sectors.
- It is important to promote public awareness of the importance of adult education for adult professional development and growth, and the need for lifelong learning.

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Follow the project activities on the website of the Scientific Institute of Pedagogy of the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology of the University of Latvia (UL FESP SIP)

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