

## VET in Lithuania

The Ministry of Education and Science is the main body responsible for shaping and implementing vocational education and training (VET) policy. The Ministry of Economy participates in human resources development and VET policy. Following the new VET Law, in force since February 2018, the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre (MOSTA) ensures the monitoring framework for VET and higher education, research and innovation. It plans human resources and forecasts new qualification requirements in line with national policies and the needs of the economy.

Vocational education and training in Lithuania is offered from lower secondary to post-secondary education (ISCED levels 2 to 4). To acquire a VET qualification, learners take a specified exam, after which a VET diploma is awarded. VET-oriented programmes in higher education lead to a professional bachelor degree (ISCED 655); they are provided by colleges, a type of higher education institution.

Lower secondary level VET programmes (two to three years, ISCED 252 and 254) lead to qualifications at EQF level 2. They are open to learners over 14 and training is mandatory until age 16. Those without completed lower secondary education can study VET along with general education.

At upper secondary level:

- two- to three-year programmes (ISCED 352) lead to a VET qualification at EQF level 3 and prepare students for entering working life;
- three-year programmes (ISCED 354) lead to a VET qualification at EQF level 4 and a *matura* diploma giving access to higher education and post-secondary ISCED 454 programmes. To receive a *matura* diploma a learner must take at least two *matura* exams. Graduates who apply to higher education ISCED 645 and ISCED 655 programmes in the same field of studies are awarded additional entrance points.

Post-secondary level VET programmes (one to two years, ISCED 454) lead to a VET qualification at EQF level 4 in specific fields. Implementation of EQF level 5 programmes is under discussion.

Formal continuing VET (CVET) is for learners who want to improve an existing qualification, acquire a new one or gain a competence needed to do jobs specified in regulations. CVET is designed for people with different education attainment levels, from primary to post-secondary; in some cases, a vocational qualification or work experience is a prerequisite. CVET programmes last no longer than one year and lead to qualifications at EQF levels 2 to 4, recognised by the State.

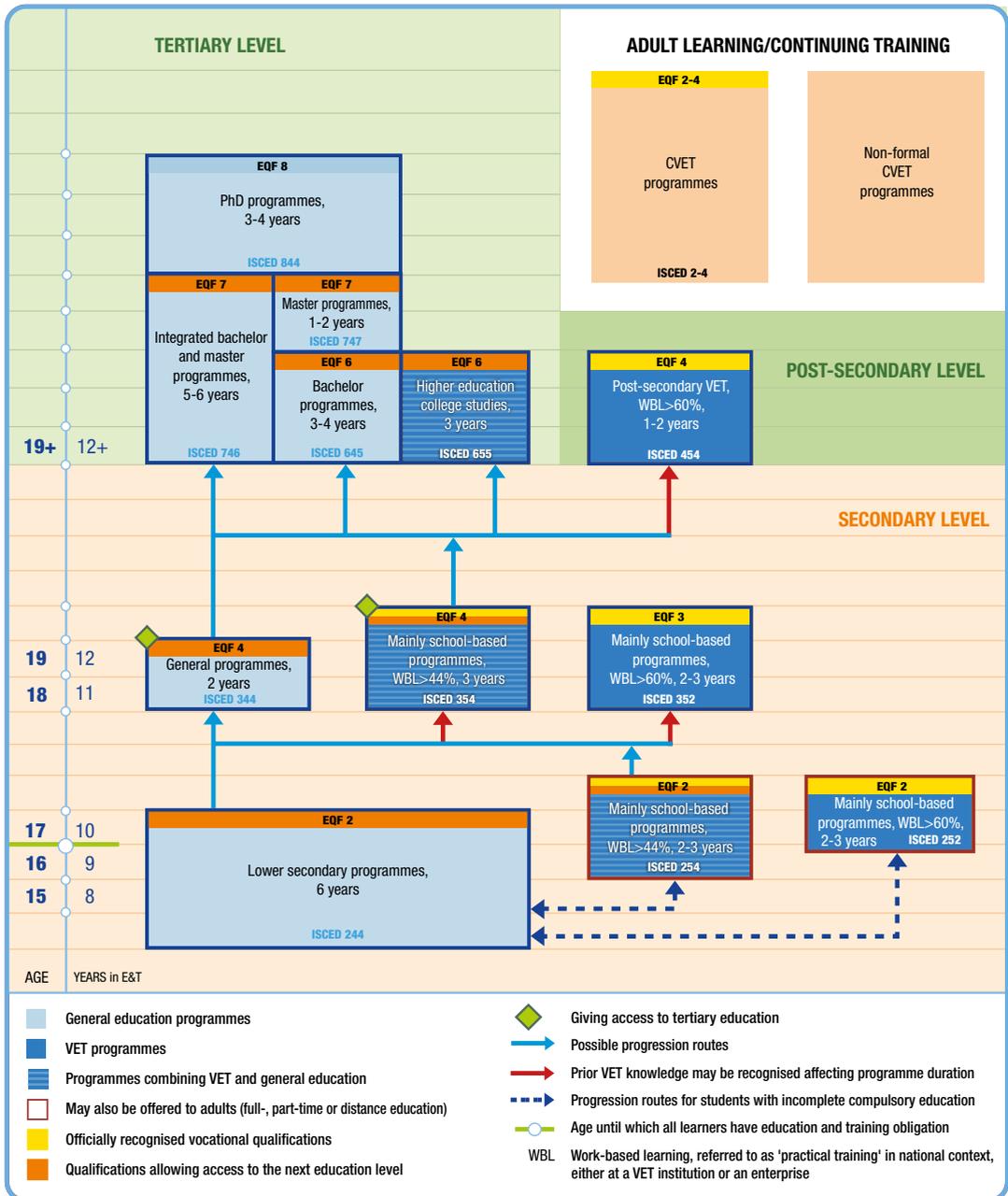
Non-formal CVET for the self-employed and employee training are organised in various settings. Some companies have their own training units and qualifications frameworks or apply internationally recognised sectoral qualifications and programmes.

Although VET in Lithuania is school-based, work-based learning (WBL), in workshops at school and at a workplace, is a significant part. In IVET, WBL takes place in school settings, with 8 to 15 weeks preferably spent in a company. To improve the quality of WBL in a school environment, 42 sectoral practical training centres have been established. In CVET, WBL corresponds from 60% to 80% of the programme, half of it preferably taking place in companies. Progressing implementation of apprenticeship is a national priority and policy initiatives are in process.

Qualification exams are detached from the training process and are carried out by accredited institutions. Social partners, enterprises and employers' associations may apply for accreditation.

Social partners participate in developing new qualifications, standards and VET programmes: the 2018 VET law boosted the role of sectoral professional committees in shaping VET qualifications and planning future apprentice intake.

Reforming VET management, financing schemes and quality assurance mechanisms are part of policy priorities and developments in progress to raise the prestige of VET and its attractiveness to VET stakeholders.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Lithuania.



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