

REFERENCE YEAR 2023

UNDERSTANDING OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Content updates and contributors

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Q1. Is there a stable legal basis for apprenticeships in your country?

 YES	 NO	 IN DEVELOPMENT
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The Federal Vocational and Professional Education and Training Act (VPETA) based on the Federal Constitution (Art. 63, para. 1), adopted in 2002 and introduced in 2004. This was further detailed by the Vocational and Professional Education and Training Ordinance, VPETO, adopted in 2003.

Q2. Is there an official definition of 'apprenticeship' or 'apprentice' in your country?

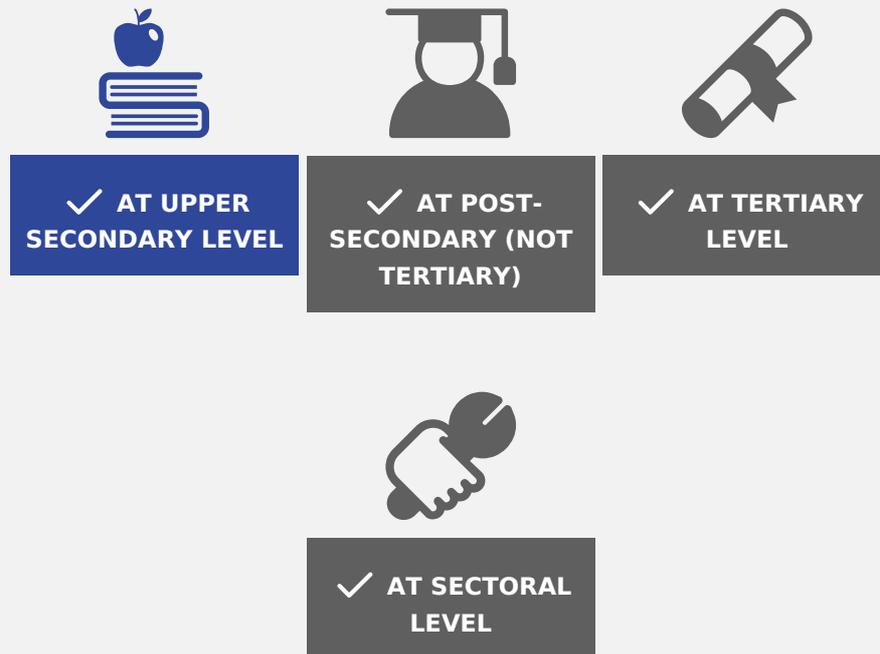
 

 YES	 NO
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The term "apprenticeship" is not used officially in written except for the definition of the Apprenticeship contract (art. 8 VPETO, art 14 VPETA). Rather, the terms "dual-track VET programme" is defined as "a VET programme where most learning takes place at a host

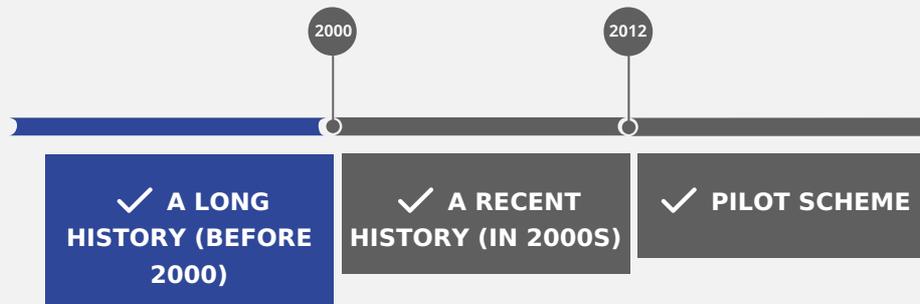
company or within a host company network" (art. 6 VPETO).

Q3. At which level do apprenticeship schemes exist in your country?



Dual-track VET programmes: including 2-year programmes (VET Certificates) and 3 or 4-year programmes (VET Diplomas). Altogether, there are around 240 programmes.

Q4. How well-established are apprenticeship schemes in your country?



Apprenticeships in Switzerland date back to the guild system where education and training was provided by businesses specialised in craftsmanship. The first Federal Vocational Education and Training Act came into force in 1933, which established the combined school and work-based model for upper-secondary level VET programmes. The current model is regulated by the VPETA since 2004. The Federal Act is largely based on cantonal regulations that developed from 1890 onward.