


Internationalisation in VET: development in the Carpathian Basin

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 HUNGARY

Timeline

2022 Design 2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 45418

Background

While vocational education and training (VET) is experiencing a 'renaissance' in Hungary and is becoming increasingly popular among those about to choose a career, acquisition of VET in the Hungarian language beyond the Hungarian borders is facing negative trends. The Hungarian government's efforts in VET provide an opportunity to put Hungarian-language VET at the centre of innovation throughout the Carpathian Basin (Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Subcarpathia-Ukraine). The goal is to promote Hungarian-language VET beyond the borders and to involve young Hungarian people from beyond the borders in the innovation processes in VET in Hungary. This can significantly increase the efficiency and competitiveness of training in Hungarian beyond the borders and contribute to the emergence of young people receiving Hungarian-language training with marketable professional knowledge on the labour market. While this serves to strengthen the Hungarian communities beyond the borders, it also improves the opportunities for Hungarian businesses to invest beyond the borders.

The Vocational education and training 4.0 strategy has formulated the demand and need for vocational education development in the Carpathian Basin.

Objectives

It is important to develop professional collaborations that involve students and teachers in Hungarian vocational training in regions outside the borders. This can generate a positive trend in the labour market, that would strengthen the integration and the relations of Hungarian vocational training in Hungary and beyond.

The goal is to support the development of the professional and general skills of Hungarian communities beyond its borders in a way that matches increasing European and global competition, thus exploiting the untapped reserves of Hungarian creativity and talent supporting economic, labour market and educational cooperation between Hungary and expatriate Hungarians.

In increasing the competitiveness of Hungarian employees in the labour market of the Carpathian Basin, the mobility of students and teachers, the development of mobility and knowledge transfer also play a major role.

Creating opportunities for students and stakeholders within the framework of Hungarian VET beyond the borders, so that through Hungarian-language education, students can acquire skills in various vocational occupations that they can also use for their prosperity in their home countries.

The involvement of Hungarian VET centres to make training in Hungarian available to as many young Hungarians living beyond the borders as possible.

Description

The working group of the VET Innovation Council, Vocational training development in the Carpathian Basin, mapped future opportunities. The working group carried out the mapping between 2021-22. At its November 2022 meeting, the VET Innovation Council adopted the findings and proposals of the working group. The department responsible for VET development of the Ministry of Culture and Innovation has already started to elaborate the concept for the development of vocational training in Hungarian in the Carpathian Basin, beyond these borders for Hungarians or dual citizens with Hungarian native language.

Theoretical subjects would be taught where required, providing a basic practical location for preparation for the professional exam. The actual practical training would take place at the external dual partners, or, in their absence, in Hungary at member institutions of the Hungarian VET centres, or at enterprises in Hungary.

The primary goal is to employ teachers/instructors living outside the borders. The Hungarian VET Centres involved are planned to coordinate and organise the further training of the selected teachers/instructors.

Measures planned:

Launching adult training programmes in Hungarian beyond the borders for the Hungarian mother tongue population living in the Carpathian Basin (mainly in Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Subcarpathia-Ukraine) where schools exist where the language of instruction is Hungarian. The venue of the training is planned to be these schools and the teachers are planned to be the teachers of these schools and teachers from Hungary. These programmes reflect the needs of the local labour market (based on demand in several sectors); it requires the identification of local needs and the identification of the sectors concerned.

Further training and preparation of teachers/instructors with Hungarian as their native language beyond the borders: a programme to support VET abroad, including the provision of teaching materials and training of instructors to deliver adult training programmes in Hungarian.

2022 Design

Since the findings and proposals of the working group were adopted by the VET Innovation Council at the end of 2022, the elaboration of details and the selection of partners in Hungary and abroad were underway. This initiative builds upon successful pre-existing programmes, utilising two key models as good practice examples.

Ukraine/Subcarpathian region – good practice:

In 2018, the Mátészalka VET Centre established a cooperation agreement with the II. Ferenc Rákóczi Subcarpathian Hungarian College (KMF) in Beregszász. This partnership supports young people living beyond borders in accessing vocational qualifications based on adult student status. The initiative began as a pilot programme during the 2019/20 school year, involving 100 participants. Its effectiveness led to the VET Innovation Council designating it as a good practice model for all VET centres in Hungary.

The core principles of this collaboration include: training course scheduling by the KMF; dual citizenship among participating students (Hungarian and Ukrainian); block-based

lessons in Hungarian VET institutions; supplementary training in Subcarpathia (delivered by the KMF) to integrate skills and Ukrainian language instruction; and alternating one-week study blocks in Hungary and in Subcarpathia. Duration of the training is two school years. Since the Russian-Ukrainian war, students have remained in Mátészalka throughout their studies. In Ukraine, it is sufficient to recognise for naturalisation the qualifications (EQF level 3,4) acquired in Hungary, it is not necessary to have them accredited.

Romania/ Erdély/Székelyföld – good practice:

In 2018, the Hungarian Government invested in renovating a minority convent building in Kézdivásárhely (Romania), creating the Kanta Training Centre. The Szent Ferenc Foundation of Déva now manages this facility. In 2022, discussions began to adapt it for vocational training. This collaboration aims to deliver high-quality, competitive VET in Hungarian for young people and adults from across the border, providing them with an adult legal status. The 2022/23 school year acted as a pilot phase, facilitated by the joint efforts of the Szent Ferenc Foundation of Déva, the Veszprém VET Centre, and the Baranya County VET Centre. This involved the mobility of both students and teaching staff.

2023 Implementation

In 2023 the initiatives outlined above continued. To illustrate, participation numbers across the years provide a clear picture of increasing engagement (see data in the 2024 implementation phase).

2024 Implementation

In the 2024/25 school year, the Mátészalka VET Centre coordinates the training of Hungarian-speaking students living beyond the borders. The table below shows student participation in the Hungarian VET programme across both Ukraine and Romania.

School year	Number of participants in Hungarian VET in Ukraine (persons)	Number of participants in Hungarian VET in Romania (persons)	Total number (persons)
2019/20	100	-	100
2020/21	248	-	248
2021/22	325	-	325
2022/23	336	34	370
2023/24	301	113	414
2024/25	295	149	444
Total:	1605	296	1901

2025 Implementation

The IKK Nonprofit Plc. in cooperation with five partner institutions – the Békéscsaba VET Centre, the Ózd VET Centre, the Berde Áron Economic Lyceum (Romania), the Stredná odborná škola obchodu a služieb (Slovakia), and Edunet Europe N.o. (Slovakia) – has successfully submitted a grant application to the Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary’s Erasmus+ National Agency. Based on this success, the Erasmus+ KA220-VET project titled ‘Minority Communities and C-VET’ has been launched, with its implementation phase running from December 2025 to January 2028. The project aims to expand the pilot programme that was previously launched in Ukraine to Romania and Slovakia.

The project aims to develop a cross-border, sustainable vocational education and training (VET) model that promotes the labour market integration of minority communities, fosters the internationalisation of VET systems, and supports the exchange of best practices within the European Education Area.

The methodology to be developed will be widely applicable, making the project a potential flagship initiative within the Erasmus+ programme.

Project activities defined in the project plan:

(a) Cross-border, mother-tongue VET model:

The project will be the first to develop and pilot a vocational training model that enables Hungarian minority communities to obtain professional qualifications listed in the Hungarian register of vocational qualifications in their native language.

(b) Targeted training and involvement of teachers and company mentors:

Teachers from Romania and Slovakia, as well as company mentors involved in work-based learning, will receive training focused on the characteristics and teaching methodologies of Hungarian vocational education. These trained professionals will subsequently deliver training for adult participants in the programme.

(c) Integration of work-based learning:

Within the framework of the project, pilot training programmes will be organised in the Tourism and Hospitality sector, comprising 920 hours of instruction, partially in the form of work-based learning. This will provide participants with the opportunity to gain direct professional experience in local enterprises (supported by company mentors trained during the project).

(d) Dissemination of best practices:

To facilitate the utilisation and sustainability of project results, a Methodology for Educational Organisation and a multilingual (Hungarian and Romanian, Hungarian and Slovak) Glossary of Professional Foreign Language Terms will be developed and made publicly available. In addition, webinars and a conference will be organised to promote knowledge sharing.

The project's total budget amounts to EUR 400 000.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Culture and Innovation
- VET Centres

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
Adult educators

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

European and international dimensions of VET

VET internationalisation strategies

Mobility of learners and staff

Transnational VET initiatives, including joint VET programmes

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Government Decision 1168/2019 \(came into force on 1 January 2020\) on the mid-term VET policy strategy 4.0](#)

[Mateszalka VET Centre on training beyond the borders](#)

[Kanta Training Center in Kezdivasarhely, Roumania](#)

[Erasmus+ project](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Using learning outcomes in VET and adult learning

Preparation and elaboration of the programme and outcome requirements (KKK) have been realised with experts, who know both their own profession and the learning outcome-based methodology well.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Supporting Lifelong Learning (LLL) in the adult education and training framework

The VET Act of 2019 differentiates vocational education and vocational training. Vocational education can be provided within the IVET framework on the basis of programme and outcome requirements (KKKs) and in formal school-based adult education.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Updating the Register of Vocational Qualifications

According to VET Act LXXX of 2019, the name of the national qualifications register has changed to the register of basic occupations (*szakmajegyzék*), which includes a list of basic qualifications qualifying holders to perform a wide range of activities within a certain economic sector.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Completed

Mid-term VET policy strategy 4.0

The government has accepted, by government Decision No 1168/2019. (III.28.), the new 'Mid-term VET policy strategy for the renewal of VET and adult education (AE), the VET system's answer to the challenges of the fourth Industrial Revolution'.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Reducing early school leaving and supporting inclusion in VET

The 2015 reform of the 2011 Act on VET enabled graduates of three-year VET programmes to automatically continue their studies in the same school for two additional years and to take the upper secondary school leaving examination (*matura*), which is the entry requirement for higher education.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Career orientation, career counselling

Since 2015, the National Office of Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning has been responsible for the development and operation of the national careers guidance system.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Strengthening WBL and apprenticeship approaches

In 2015, the VET concept for the economy was elaborated and carried out via several legislative amendments, aiming to strengthen apprenticeship. The Act on VET and the Act on General Education were amended to strengthen work-based learning, in particular through:

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/45418>