System of vocational qualifications (SVQ)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT | PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE | CYPRUS

Timeline

2021 **Implementation** 2022 **Implementation** 2023 **Implementation**
2024 **Implementation**

ID number 44710

Background

Vocational qualifications standards are important for the development of NQFs and of training programmes based on standards which guarantee a direct link with labour market needs. They are also important for the recognition of prior learning.

Objectives

To provide the opportunity for individuals to have their knowledge assessed and certified, according to a pre-set competence standard.

Description

The System of vocational qualifications (SVQ) is based on Vocational qualification standards (VQS) developed by the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (HRDA) with the assistance of vocational qualifications technical committees. The SVQ assesses in real or simulated working conditions the ability of a person to carry out specific tasks according to a VQS. At the same time, the SVQ sets out the framework for the design and development of training activities to prepare the candidates for successful assessment, to obtain a certificate of a vocational qualification, and also to acquire the necessary skillset to perform the tasks for professions corresponding to the VQS that served as the basis of their training. The system is addressed to adults, especially unemployed, inactive and low-qualified individuals, who enhance their employment opportunities, either by recognising their prior learning or attending training programmes designed on the basis of VQS. It is also a system beneficial for companies, particularly small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), which improve their productivity and competitiveness by recruiting qualified new personnel (or up-reskilling their existing employees). Employed people, regardless of their age, may also take advantage of the system.

Also, those who want to become trainers in vocational training must pass the assessment and certification procedure following the SVQ and acquire the Trainer of vocational training qualification (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5).

The SVQ is an integral part of the CyQF, which is linked to the EQF. Aiming at the direct

comparison and reference of the VQS with other qualifications in the CyQF as well as the EQF, the SVQ has adopted the level descriptors of the EQF.

In 2017 the Board of Directors of the HRDA, approved the introduction of new, and the revision of the existing, VQS. 411 persons were certified in occupations of the tourism sector, wholesale and retail trade sector, construction sector and vocational trainer, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5).

In March 2018, a call for tenders for VQS assessors was published and a contract was signed with the successful tenderer. In April 2018, a call for tenders for the development of new and the revision of existing VQS was published. 315 persons were certified in occupations of the tourism sector, wholesale and retail trade sector, repair of motor vehicles sector, construction sector and for vocational trainer, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5).

In 2019, 363 persons were certified in occupations of the tourism sector, wholesale and retail trade sector, repair of motor vehicles sector, construction sector and for vocational trainer, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5).

In 2020, 309 persons were certified in occupations of the tourism sector, wholesale and retail trade sector, repair of motor vehicles sector, construction sector and vocational trainer, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5).

2021 Implementation

In 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions evaluations were carried out following the health and safety protocols.

386 persons were certified in occupations of the tourism sector, wholesale and retail trade sector, repair of motor vehicles sector, construction sector and vocational trainer, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5).

2022 Implementation

In 2022, HRDA's Board of Directors approved the 167 new/revised VQS which were developed or revised in 2021. 83 persons were certified in air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics and as vocational trainer, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF 5, SVQ Level 5). Moreover, 235 persons were certified in vehicle repair, construction and as trainer of vocational training, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF).

2023 Implementation

618 persons were certified in cooling and air-conditioning systems, dry wall, construction, project management and as trainer of vocational training, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF).

2024 Implementation

As of 1 January 2024, the SVQ is being implemented only with HRDA funds (previously the system was co-funded by ESF). HRDA's Board of Directors approved the revision of 164 VQS. 310 persons were certified in hospitality, cooling and air-conditioning systems, plumbing, central heating systems, construction and trainer of vocational training, Level 5 (EQF/CyQF).

Bodies responsible

- Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (HRDA)

Target group

Learners

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Entities providing VET

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

> Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

Osnabrück Declaration

> Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

System of vocational qualifications (SVQ) [S?st?μα ?pa??e?μat???? ???s??t?? -S??]

ReferNet Cyprus. (2021). Development of a Competence-Based System of Vocational Qualifications in Cyprus.

Related policy developments

2024 **Implementation**

System for the assessment and accreditation of continuing vocational training providers

The system for the assessment and accreditation of training providers has been in place since 2016. The aim of the system is to assess natural and legal persons involved in the organisation and implementation of training activities or/and in the provision of infrastructure (e.g.

CYPRUS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

> **Cite as**
>
> Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). System of vocational qualifications (SVQ): Cyprus. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].
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