

Development of experimental vocational training programmes

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 LITHUANIA

Timeline

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43487

Background

Shifting Lithuanian vocational training programmes towards modularisation created opportunities for learners to acquire a vocational qualification not only by studying a full training programme but also by taking individual modules and choosing the most suitable way and pace of learning. Experimental training programmes bring close together general education and vocational education and training.

Objectives

This measure aims to promote vocational education and training (VET) and make it more attractive, bringing more students to choose the vocational training path earlier and allowing young people faster entry into the labour market. This should have a positive impact on youth employment in Lithuania.

The development of experimental training programmes brings opportunities for students who have completed the first part of the basic education programme. They can study according to the professional education programme and, at the same time, according to the general education programmes – the second part of the basic education programme and the secondary education programme – in order to acquire basic education, secondary education and national qualification framework (NQF) level 4 qualification.

The experimental vocational training programme is understood as the initial vocational training programme for obtaining the NQF level 4 qualification, implemented together with the second part of the basic education programme and the secondary education programme.

Description

According to the Government Strategic Analysis Centre (STRATA) study *University, college or vocational training institution?*, based on data retrieved from the 2013/14 school year to the 2018/19 school year, the number of students who chose to study in vocational education institutions together with second part of the basic education programme education has doubled. The number of students who chose to study only according to initial

vocational education programmes (ISCED 2) has been constantly decreasing, and in the 2018/19 academic year it was 9.5 times lower than the number of students studying in vocational education institutions in line with the second part of the basic education programme. In 2018, 90.5% of students who received basic education in vocational training institutions continued their studies in initial vocational education programmes, together with the general secondary education programme in order to obtain secondary education together with qualifications (STRATA, 2020).

In 2020, a decision was made to conduct an experiment of convergence of general education and vocational education programmes in 10 vocational training institutions. Study hours have been recalculated for the students participating, and vocational training has started to be taught in parallel with general education from Grades 9 or 10, instead of the usual Grade 11.

In 2020, ninth grade students, who started studying in 10 vocational training institutions participating in the experiment, have the opportunity to obtain not only a matriculation certificate, but also a professional qualification in the same year and enter the labour market in four years. Feedback from participating schools and students shows that interest in such an idea is growing and increasing numbers of schools would like to participate in the experiment.

After evaluating the expressed interest of schools and students, it is planned to develop the experiment in the framework of the national development programme New generation Lithuania, in order to ensure high-quality integration of general programmes of basic and secondary education and vocational training.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, a description of the measure, a description of the financing conditions of the measure, and an invitation to VET institutions to participate in the experiment of convergence of general education and vocational education programmes were prepared. 4 000 students who had completed the first part of the basic education programme had the opportunity to study according to the professional education programme, and at the same time to study according to the general education programmes – the second part of the basic education programme and the secondary vocational education programme – with the aim of obtaining basic education, secondary education and level 4 qualifications. Experimental vocational training programmes will enable more flexible and faster acquisition of professional qualifications while still studying under general education programmes.

2023 Implementation

Implementation of experimental training programmes is supported by the development of the national programme 'New Generation Lithuania' Component 'Quality and affordable lifelong education for every resident' progress measure 'To create a VET system that meets the needs of the market'. ESFA has announced a call for joint project proposals under 'Development of experimental vocational training programmes'. VET institutions implementing experimental training programmes apply for additional funding to implement experimental programmes in a high-quality way. The project's target group is students who have completed the first part of the lower secondary education program and are studying in vocational training programmes to obtain the level 4 qualification together with upper secondary education. Expenditures intended for implementing experimental vocational training programmes are covered according to the fixed amount of VET funding per one learning credit for the relevant year calculated according to the Methodology set by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania.

2024 Implementation

Experimental vocational training programmes are being implemented in 79,58 % of VET schools (at least one experimental VET programme is implemented in 35 out of 44 VET schools). The most popular sectors are information and communication

technologies and personal services. In October 2024, ESFA announced a new call for joint project proposals titled 'Development of experimental vocational training programmes'.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, 24 VET institutions participated in the call for joint project proposals 'Development of experimental vocational training programmes' and received funding totalling more than EUR 550 000 to implement experimental programmes. More than 500 learners have chosen to acquire a LTQF level 3 or level 4 qualification through experimental programmes.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC)
- European Social Fund Agency (ESFA)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Learners with disabilities
Adult learners
Low-skilled/qualified persons
Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses
Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

Subsystem

Further reading

[Information about the measure and calls \(only in Lithuanian\):](#)

[Information about the measure and calls \(only in Lithuanian\):](#)

[Procedure for experimental VET programmes leading to LTQF level 4 \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Completed

Creating a unified enrolment system for VET and HE institutions

In May 2017, the electronic system used for admission to higher-education establishments was extended to VET institutions, which had previously organised the admissions process on their own. Since then, the system has covered 19 universities, 21 colleges and more than 70 VET institutions.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Modularisation of VET curricula

In spring 2015, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport decided that formal IVET and CVET programmes would consist of mandatory (85%) and elective (15%) modules grouped into introductory, professional and final categories.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Development of experimental vocational training programmes: Lithuania. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43487>