

Integrated student evaluation system (ISES)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 CYPRUS

Timeline



ID number 42095

Background

Cyprus is reforming its education and training system. The development of a unified, valid and reliable assessment/evaluation system for primary and secondary education (including both lower and upper secondary VET) is part of this reform.

Objectives

The Integrated student evaluation system (ISES) aims to:

- (a) give emphasis to formative assessment and to diagnose student needs in relation to specific expected outcomes;
- (b) facilitate the necessary education interventions for improvement (based on the early diagnosis of student needs);
- (c) test and develop alternative forms of assessment/evaluation.

Description

The Integrated student evaluation system (ISES), which includes formative assessment and diagnosis of student needs, is in place since the 2019/20 academic year. Based on the operating regulations of secondary education, semester core exams have also been implemented.

Through actions compatible with the framework of teachers' professional development on formative assessment, alternative forms of student evaluation and modern teaching methods, teachers are supported in implementing ISES.

The education ministry is engaged in a dialogue with all social partners and is recording constantly all suggestions for the improvement of ISES in the best interests of students, teachers and society.

2018 Design

The committee established by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth for the

development of a new student evaluation system was tasked with formulating a policy document for implementing an integrated and unified student evaluation system, as well as submitting a specific action plan for the implementation of the proposed policy. The committee delivered its proposal in 2018, which was subsequently discussed between the Ministry and all stakeholders.

2019 Legislative process

In 2019, the Parliament passed new legislation on student assessment, providing for its gradual implementation.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, ISES was implemented in primary and upper secondary education (including technical and vocational schools).

2022 Implementation

The ISES was operational and ran as regular practice.

The new Integrated Student Evaluation System supports VET attractiveness by aligning it with the modern and digitalised provision of training and skills in the following ways: the system provides real-time feedback to both students and educators, enabling a more personalised learning experience and, additionally, the system promotes transparency in the assessment process, facilitating the recognition of learning outcomes across Europe. This makes it easier for students to transfer and validate their qualifications, boosting VET's attractiveness by ensuring its relevance within the EU-wide skills framework.

The ISES emphasizes formative assessment and the diagnosis of student needs in relation to specific expected outcomes. This approach aligns with the goal of developing modularised curricula that focus on learning outcomes, particularly key competences, as outlined in the 2015–20 strategic plan for VET.

2023 Approved/Agreed

In 2023, the Parliament amended the legislation on pupil assessment, canceling the exams of the first semester. The amendment concerns the entire secondary education student population, including upper secondary education students in VET.

2024 Completed

In 2024, the legislation was implemented under the 2023 amendment.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (MESY)
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY) (until 2022)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Teachers

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

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

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

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

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Integrated student evaluation system \(ISES\)](#)

[Integrated student evaluation system \(ISES\)](#)

[Amendment of legislation](#)

Related policy developments

2020 Completed

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training

A strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training was approved in April 2015 (2015-20). It aims to reform the public VET system.

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Integrated student evaluation system (ISES): Cyprus. 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/42095>