

Supporting internationalisation in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 ESTONIA

Timeline



ID number 41185

Background

In order to improve European cooperation in VET, the Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on vocational education and training encourages the creation of opportunities for learning mobility of vocational learners and staff, and sets an EU-level objective for 8% of learners in VET to benefit from learning mobility abroad.

Estonian VET learners and teachers have been benefiting from mobility grants provided by the Erasmus+ programme since 2014. To monitor and further expand the use of mobility opportunities, it is necessary to develop methodology to collect the mobility data.

Implementation of Europass framework, increased participation in Erasmus+ and other development projects, cooperation projects and mobility schemes, and international skills competitions and contests are the main tools to support internationalisation.

Learning mobility abroad supports the internationalisation of VET, dissemination of best national practices and, from the learner's perspective, enables the enriching of studies with new knowledge and skills that are applicable in the transnational labour market.

Objectives

To improve the quality of VET and diversify its learning opportunities through internalisation and learning mobility.

To monitor and further expand the use of mobility opportunities.

Description

The following measures are foreseen:

- (a) promoting learning mobility in VET: supporting the internationalisation of VET, including support for the implementation of Europass, improving data collection and analytics, monitoring and analysis of learning mobility;
- (b) participating in Erasmus+ and other development and cooperation projects, and mobility schemes to mobilise best international experience;

- (c) participating in EU-level debate and development activities on the creation of key profiles for VET in Europe;
- (d) participating in international skills competitions and contests.

2021 Design

In order to monitor and further expand mobility opportunities, it was first considered necessary to develop a methodology to collect the mobility data.

In 2021, a national mobility indicator was developed: share of VET graduates who have participated in learning mobility for at least 2 weeks during their studies (%). Data collection and analytics on Erasmus+ and other mobility schemes were improved. Guidelines for data collection and submission via the e-learning management system Tahvel were provided to VET schools. Since January 2022, VET schools have started submitting mobility data to the national education information system according to the new methodology.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, mobility data started to be collected. The development of data collection systems and methodology continued, and first results were expected the following year.

In 2022, the Europass environment was updated, including recognition of non-formal and informal learning, digital certificates. It followed the renewal of the professional qualification system with transition to a skill-based approach and introduction of core profiles. The following Europass tools were also created: interactive guidance materials, information events and a network of disseminators (*Europassi targad*).

2023 Implementation

The national mobility indicator in VET is the percentage of VET graduates who have participated in learning mobility for at least two weeks during their studies. In 2023, the first results indicated that 7% of VET graduates participated in short-term mobility.

2024 Implementation

Based on the baseline determined in 2023 (7% of VET graduates participated in short-term mobility), target levels for the indicator was set at 10% for 2028, 11% for 2029, and 15% for 2035.

In 2024, 8% of VET graduates participated in short-term mobility. Compared to 2023, mobility increased the most in the fields of ICT (from 6% to 12%) and engineering, manufacturing and construction (from 8% to 11%).

To recognise the participation in the international skills competition Worldskills, a proposal was discussed to include participation in Worldskills in the mobility indicator.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, a study on the effects of Erasmus+ staff mobility in VET confirmed its strong contribution to teachers' professional growth, innovation, and international cooperation, while also highlighting the need for better dissemination of results, stronger institutional support, and more systematic use of mobility experiences in staff development.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research

- Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Agency

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

European and international dimensions of VET

VET internationalisation strategies
Mobility of learners and staff

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

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

Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Agency](#)

[WorldSkills Estonia](#)

[Survey on effects and perceived impact of Erasmus+ staff mobility in VET](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Education Strategy 2021-35

The education strategy applies an integrated approach to the development of the education system to make better use of Estonia's high-quality education for the benefit of people, society and the economy.

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Pilot

VET quality assurance

A working group was set up to review the national approach to quality assurance. The group was composed of representatives of the education ministry, employer and employee organisations, VET schools and other partners.

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Supporting internationalisation in VET: Estonia. 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/41185>