

Scholarship policies

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SLOVENIA

Timeline



ID number 40661

Background

In 2015-19, attracting young people to VET has been supported through the Scholarship policy, adopted by the Government of Slovenia in 2015. According to the professional guidelines, prepared by the Public scholarship, development, disability and maintenance fund of the Republic of Slovenia, in cooperation with the Employment Service of Slovenia, most of the deficit professions are still at the upper secondary VET level. Enrolment in some programmes increased in the period 2015-19 (e.g. carpenter) while in some professions even scholarships are not an incentive to increase enrolment (e.g. chimney sweep).

Objectives

The main objective of the Scholarship policy is to encourage young people to enrol in vocational and technical education programmes in upper secondary education.

Other objectives are:

- (a) preventing the mismatch between labour supply and demand;
- (b) improving enrolment in the fields of education that are important for economic development and employability;
- (c) encouraging enrolment in upper secondary vocational and technical programmes at risk of extinction due to insufficient enrolment interest but still relevant for the labour market;
- (d) promoting VET.

Description

The Scholarship policy 2020-24 includes an overview of the legal bases and of the scholarship allocation system, an overview and indicators of the Scholarship policy 2014-19, describes the current situation on the labour market, and defines deficit areas for the next five years. It sets up the implementation framework for awarding scholarships for professions in deficit (goals, funding, indicators) to encourage young people to study for these professions (programme 'Scholarship for deficit profession'). To achieve this goal, approximately 1 000 scholarships are awarded each academic year by the Public scholarship, development, disability and maintenance fund of the Republic of Slovenia. The Scholarship policy falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social

Affairs, and Equal Opportunities (MDDSZ).

More specifically, the work done in the framework of the scholarship policy consists of the following parts/steps:

- monitoring of the situation on labour market and the entry of young people into educational programmes;
- collecting of data based on the cooperation with employers, data collected by the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS) and/or in the framework of ESS employment forecast and data obtained by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Based on this data the ministry sets up vocations in demand/shortage occupation and education programmes, that are included in the scholarship policy. The ministry annually updates this information based on recent data and, if necessary, supplements the scholarship policy. The shortage fields are determined yearly in cooperation with the social partners and youth representatives.

2020 Approved/Agreed

The Scholarship policy 2020–24 was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 27 January 2020.

2021 Implementation

From 2020/21 onwards, the scholarships have been financed only by the Ministry of Labour. In 2021, 1 006 new scholarships were awarded, bringing the total to 2 885 active scholarship holders.

2022 Implementation

At the end of 2022 the programme ‘Scholarship for deficit profession’, started in 2016 and financed by ESF and the Ministry of Labour, was concluded. Nevertheless, it continues to be implemented and funded within the MDDSZ regular activities.

Following information about the ‘first phase’ of the programme are important to mention: From school year 2016/17 to 2019/20 3 564 students have been included into the scholarship programme. The highest number of scholarships were allocated to the programmes for Joiner (carpenter, woodworker), Industrial Mechanic, Electrician and Confectioner. The lowest numbers of scholarships were allocated to the programmes for Metal construction maker, Chimney sweep and Tinsmith – Roofer.

For the 2022/23 school year the scholarship amounts to EUR 102,4.

2023 Implementation

For the 2023/24 school year, 1 000 new scholarships for deficit professions were awarded, each amounting to EUR 118.48 per month. The highest number of scholarships were allocated to the programmes woodworker, confectioner, and gastronomy and tourism technician/hotelier-gastronomist, while the lowest were awarded to the programmes stonecutter, painter-calligrapher, and glazier. As of 31 December 2023, the total number of scholarship recipients was 2 890.

2024 Implementation

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in cooperation with relevant partners, is preparing the new scholarship policy for professions in deficit 2025–2029, which is set to be adopted in early 2025.

2025 Implementation

In January 2025, the Government of Slovenia adopted a new Scholarship Policy for

Professions in Deficit (2025–2029).

Although enrolment in some education programmes increased during the 2020–2024 period, enrolment in others did not grow sufficiently. As a result, most of the professions and education programmes identified as deficit areas in the previous scholarship policy remain classified as such, with a few new additions.

Under the new policy, the Republic of Slovenia continues to provide funding for approximately 1 000 new scholarships each year, amounting to EUR 1.23 million annually. In addition, around EUR 1.5 million per year is allocated for continuing scholarship payments to existing recipients who meet the eligibility criteria. As in the previous period, the funds are secured in the national budget.

The monthly scholarship amount for professions in deficit is currently EUR 125.81, and it will be annually adjusted in line with the cost of living. It can be awarded alongside other types of scholarships, except for corporate (employer-sponsored) scholarship.

Scholarships continue to be awarded by the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, based on a public call published annually by the end of January. Each year, the Fund determines the eligible education programmes for new deficit scholarships based on labour market needs and enrolment trends in previous school years. Scholarships are granted for the entire duration of the education programme.

In the 2024/2025 school year, 1000 new scholarships were awarded. The total number of recipients amounted to 2.853, with a total expenditure of EUR. 3.768.662.

The public call for the 2025–2026 school year was published in January 2025. Students could submit their applications for the scholarship between 1 August 2025 and 30 September 2025. Decisions on the awarding of scholarships are issued within two months after the closing of the public call.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MDDSZ)
- Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund

Target group

Learners

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

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[The Scholarship policy 2020-24](#)

[Scholarship for deficit occupations](#)

[The Scholarship policy 2025-2029](#)

Related policy developments

2025 **Implementation**

Promoting VET to learners

The 2016-20 ESF-funded project VET promotion, coordinated by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (CPI), promoted VET as an attractive education option and supported the young and talented in moving forward in their career.

 SLOVENIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

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