


Amendments to the Act on VET (61/2015)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SLOVAKIA

Timeline

2021 Approved/Agreed

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 39147

Background

Still low attractiveness of dual VET (below 10% in all VET school students each year) led to efforts to simplify further the conditions for entering and providing dual VET, reduce the administrative burden of companies interested in dual VET, and strengthen the position of employer and professional organisations ('sectoral assignees').

Objectives

Initiated by employers' representatives and based on the experience of the ESF project 'Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET', amendments to the VET Act came in force from 1 September 2021 aimed to:

- (a) significantly strengthen the influence of employers' representatives on the provision of secondary VET, for example by:
 - (i) extending the responsibilities of the Employer Council for Dual VET to the entire system of vocational education and training that is also visible in the change of the name to the Employer Council for VET;
 - (ii) empowering 'sectoral assignees' to propose the experimental verification of new VET programmes in order to strengthen supply of programmes aligning the needs of the labour market;
 - (iii) extending the rights of 'sectoral assignees', such as to withdraw the right of VET school to use the title 'centre of VET' and, similarly, to grant and withdraw the right of the company to use the title 'supra-company training centre';
- (b) make the conditions for providing dual VET more flexible, for example by:
 - (i) reducing the administrative burden for companies by simplifying the verification of the company's ability to provide practical training, the possibility to conduct regular practical training abroad (i.e. outside mobility projects) and introducing an obligation for schools to provide employers with administrative data on dual learners and allow for access to information on their school performance;
 - (ii) allowing the inclusion of training abroad offered as a consequence of the Erasmus+ mobility or intra-company agreements into the number of training hours prescribed by curricula, provided commitments set by the contract on the provision of practical training between Slovak entities are also accepted by an international provider;

- (iii) introducing the title 'supra-company training centre' to companies already offering practical training fulfilling specific requirements. These centres can be seen as an extension of dual into 'trial', as they offer practical training also for learners who sign a learning contract with a self-employed person, a small or medium-sized enterprise that otherwise only have limited opportunities to offer practical training;
 - (iv) considering as also qualified for the position of head instructor or instructor in dual VET practitioners without respective certificate of apprenticeship if they passed the exam 'verifying professional competence' according to the Lifelong Learning Act (568/2009);
 - (v) making it possible for students to receive a company scholarship intended for students in the system of dual education also in the case of attending practical training in other premises than the premises of the company they have signed individual learning contracts with;
 - (vi) expanding dual VET beyond traditional apprenticeship, covering also programmes preparing kindergarten teachers, tutors and social care workers;
- (c) make the law more flexible by:
- (i) abolishing the prescribed minimum number of teaching hours (1 400) aimed at practical training in VET programmes offering double qualification (a 'maturita' school-leaving certificate and a certificate of apprenticeship) to open the door for diversified solutions embedded into respective State education programmes; for the exceptional case of limited access to practical training caused by pandemic restrictions a minimum number should be prescribed;
 - (ii) allowing, in some cases, higher flexibility concerning hiring professionals providing practical components of VET, to help address an emerging lack of staff in VET schools.

Initiated by the labour ministry to create an umbrella institution covering earlier responsibilities of education and labour ministries led to the 2024 amendment of the Act on VET strengthening the position of the Sector Councils Alliance toward VET. The SCA has been newly granted responsibility towards

- (a) publishing not only the 'National System of Occupations' but also the 'National Qualifications System' on its website;
- (b) ensuring creating and updating qualification and assessment standards;
- (c) coordinating 'vocational education and training for the labour market at the national level' in addition to employer and professional organisations identified by the education ministry as so-called 'sectoral assignees'.

Description

Strengthening the position of 'sectoral assignees' and the Employer Council for VET over the VET system as a whole from 2021 induced a debate over creating a new institution covering the VET system as a whole. The Sector Councils Alliance has been newly created to take over some responsibilities from the education and labour ministries from 1 January 2025.

2021 Approved/Agreed

A final version of the amendment to the Act on VET was adopted by the government on 25 August 2021 and by the parliament on 20 October 2021.

2022 Implementation

The amendment came into effect on 1 January 2022.

2023 Implementation

The Employer Council for Dual VET, renamed the Employer Council for VET by the

2021 amendment of the Act on VET, strengthened its influence across the entire initial VET system. However, in February 2023, the Sector Councils Alliance (SCA), a new influential institution, was established, initiated by the labour ministry and employer representatives.

2024 Implementation

The new Act on adult education (292/2024) was adopted by the government on 21 August 2024 and by the parliament on 30 October 2024. It substantially amended the Act on VET empowering the Sector Councils Alliance (SCA) as a key player in initial VET from 1 January 2025.

2025 Implementation

The amendment of the law approved on 21 October 2025 focused on further support of dual VET. It introduces agentic dual education, which gives a legislative basis to intermediary bodies ('agents') that help organise and coordinate cooperation between schools and companies, especially smaller firms, and allow practical training to be carried out at third locations (for example, on construction sites). This amendment also backs a new initiative – the creation of centres of excellence in VET. In addition, the legislation creates a flexible framework for new forms of practical training that respond to the challenges of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, without prescribing specific formats - this is intended to give schools room to innovate. This act, as *lex specialis*, as a rule, further specifies changes introduced by the universal Education act (245/2008). These changes have an important impact on VET, in particular concerning three stipulations:

- (a) introducing the so-called secondary industrial schools;
- (b) empowering dual companies to block learners moving to another school;
- (c) explicit backing of the introduction of modules into school curricula.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (until 2024)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Teachers

Trainers

Entities providing VET

Companies

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

European and international dimensions of VET

Mobility of learners and staff

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Act on VET \(61/2015\) as amended by the Act 413/2021 \(in Slovak\)](#)

[Act on VET \(61/2015\) as amended by the Act 324/2025 \(in Slovak\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Amendments to the Education Act (245/2008)

In January 2021, the education ministry submitted to public discussion an extensive amendment of the Education act (245/2008), which provoked a heated debate with more than 1 000 comments, of which more than 680 were fundamental.

 SLOVAKIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

COVID-19 crisis measures and post-pandemic well-being initiatives in VET

After the closure of schools, teachers began spontaneously to move to distance learning using communication platforms (such as Zoom); at the same time, the burden of work was transferred onto learners and households.

 SLOVAKIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

2025 Implementation**Information and support structures for dual VET**

The 2016-20 ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET provides support through its web portals. Eight contact points (officially called Dual points) have also been set up within this project.

 SLOVAKIA**Type of development**

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation**Incentives for companies to offer dual VET**

To encourage enterprise involvement in dual VET, the VET Act (61/2015) had introduced corporate tax reliefs for training companies:

 SLOVAKIA**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation**Introducing dual VET**

The Act on VET was amended in March 2015 (61/2015). Its main objectives were to introduce a dual VET scheme and tax incentives for enterprises to provide training. The reform entered into force in September 2015 and made available upper secondary VET delivery in three forms:

 SLOVAKIA**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/39147>