

VET graduate pilot tracking

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BULGARIA

Timeline

2020 Implementation 2021 Completed

ID number 38844

Background

The model/prototype for VET graduate tracking was created in the line with principles and standards proposed by the EC Graduates Tracking Working Group. The Methodology incorporates review, selection, piloting and analysis of comprehensive administrative data from education (MES registers for secondary school data, higher education registers and register of diplomas and VET certificates) and labour market (National Social Security Institute registers for labour contracts, register of unemployed persons) and use a survey among VET graduates. Administrative data monitor continuation of studies in higher education, the speed of entry into the labour market, employment, unemployment, professional realisation, income and labour mobility within the country. In addition to administrative data collection and analysis, a sociological survey was conducted among graduates to measure their satisfaction in the applicability of skills and competences acquired in VET schools. Administrative data analysis and survey results are included in the final analysis of tracking model implementation.

Objectives

- (a) implementation of actions in the national context related to Council recommendation on graduate tracking;
- (b) ensuring quality of VET provisions and labour market relevance of VET skills and qualifications;
- (c) development of pilot model for VET graduate tracking, which combines analysis of administrative data in education and the labour market with sociological survey among VET graduates;
- (d) testing the model in three regions (NUTS III): Burgas, Stara Zagora and Vratsa;
- (e) elaboration of a prototype for VET graduate tracking, applicable at national, regional, local and school levels.

Description

The VET graduate pilot tracking project (No 609397-EPP-1-2019-1-BG-EPPKA3-EQAVET-NRP) is funded by the Erasmus+ programme. It is implemented by the education ministry in the period April 2019 to March 2021.

A graduate tracking mechanism (prototype) has been developed under the project to

monitor the career development of VET graduates. The prototype was presented and adopted by the Consultative Council for VET and the education minister on 29 September 2020. The prototype includes a sequence of actions, sources of information, indicators to track and analyse the administrative data from the education and the labour market systems combined with a survey among graduates in the three pilot regions (NUTS III): Stara Zagora, Vratsa and Burgas.

The administrative data in the analysis prototype cover the following key indicators: inclusion of VET graduates in the higher education system, pace of entry into the labour market, employment, unemployment, professional development, income and labour mobility in the country. In addition to this analysis, the sociological survey measures the satisfaction of VET graduates with their studies and training programmes, the applicability of skills acquired in their workplace or/and in further study pathways. The analysis will be available till the end of March 2021.

The methodology used in the prototype is universal in its nature, hence it can be used for tracking secondary school graduates.

2020 Implementation

The prototype was tested in the pilot regions by analysis of administrative data for all VET graduates in 2018.

2021 Completed

The project was completed in March 2021. The report and analyses are available on the education ministry website.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Project information, tracking methodology and results and analyses of its piloting](#)

[Final analysis of tracking model implementation](#)

[VET graduate pilot model](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

National programmes supporting VET priorities

There are three national programmes with VET as their focus, not all starting in the same period. All these programmes are managed by the VET Directorate of the education ministry:

National VET programme

 BULGARIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). VET graduate pilot tracking: Bulgaria. 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/38844>