

Work-based learning experiences for lower and upper secondary learners (ages 13-16 years): MyJourney project

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 MALTA

Timeline

2015 Implementation 2016 Implementation 2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation 2019 Implementation 2020 Implementation

ID number 37590

Background

The policy is a development linked to the *Framework for the education strategy for Malta 2014-24*. This reform challenges this compulsory one-size-fits-all schooling regime with a system consisting of different learning experiences. The rationale behind this reform underscores the practical nature of vocational education that facilitates educational engagement of learners who may struggle with the learning pedagogy of the mainstream academic subjects. The progress of students in the vocational subjects is not assessed through formal examinations as in the mainstream subjects but through ongoing assessment by the subject teacher, verified internally by another subject teacher, and evaluated by an external verifier from the national assessment board. This is a paradigm shift to the exam-oriented system. The vocational subjects introduce a new way of teaching, requiring a new assessment model to measure what the learners are capable of demonstrating rather than what they can remember.

Objectives

Target 4 aims to 'raise levels of student retention and attainment in further, vocational, and tertiary education and training'. The reform aims to support tackling early school leaving and to provide an education system for all learners by addressing their different learning aptitudes, intelligence and patterns.

Description

Since 2015, measures to support the work on all forms of work-based learning for young people and adults include partnerships with social partners and other stakeholders. In this respect the education ministry is entering into partnership agreements with economic operators to provide work-based learning experience for students in lower and upper secondary (13-16 years).

These pathways are part of the project, *MyJourney: achieving through different paths*, which seeks to promote increased links between education and industry. The envisaged

model is work-based learning integrated into vocational school-based programmes leading to MQF/EQF levels 1 to 3 qualifications. A competence-based education for the work life presumes the active role of workplaces in producing the subject learning outcomes (SLOs). Close cooperation between schools and workplaces assures the currency of SLOs, provides real-life work environments warranting the assimilation of the aims of work life, establishes fruitful relationships with real companies, and facilitates the learning of entrepreneurship competences. The project promotes the notion that learners who are given the prospect to participate in work-based learning gain access to multiple communities of practice and so have the opportunity to engage in rich opportunities for learning. Such occasions enable learners to develop competences that allow them to grow as individuals, shape and develop their own identity, become involved with production/service industry and experience the day-to-day challenges of the workplace. These processes contribute to the development of their expertise in the occupation that cannot be simulated in a school-based environment.

2015 Implementation

The introduction of VET subjects was a gradual reform; it started at a national level in 2015 following a piloting phase.

2016 Implementation

Implementation continued.

2017 Implementation

Implementation continued.

2018 Implementation

Implementation continued.

2019 Implementation

In September 2019, the *MyJourney* reform was launched in its entirety, with the addition of applied subjects to the vocational and academic subjects. Lower secondary learners have now an opportunity to select options/subjects (general/academic, vocational and applied) alongside their compulsory lessons. The following nine vocational subjects and their corresponding applied ones are available:

- (a) agribusiness, engineering technology;
- (b) health and social care;
- (c) hospitality;
- (d) information technology;
- (e) media literacy;
- (f) hairdressing and beauty;
- (g) retail;
- (h) textiles and fashion.

All these subjects lead up to EQF/MQF level 3 qualification, with no dead-ends.

2020 Implementation

Currently, partnership agreements have been drawn up and agreed upon in three VET/applied subjects; agribusiness, health and social care, and hospitality. Through these agreements, students, accompanied by their subject teacher/s, visit particular workplaces and are provided with the opportunity to observe processes, shadow personnel and perform age-appropriate, hands-on tasks related to their fields of study. Each student has the opportunity to perform a maximum of nine visits evenly spread throughout the three-year course. Various industry partners are being identified and meetings are being held for prospective partnership agreements in the remaining six

VET/applied subjects. During 2020, these work-based learning experiences were suspended due to COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry for Education (MFED)(until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Employment (MEDE) (until 2020)

Target group

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[MyJourney website](#)

[Framework for the education strategy for Malta 2014-24](#)

Related policy developments

2020 Completed

The National vocational and training policy (2015)

The National vocational and training policy mapped the VET sector in Malta and identified areas for future actions.

 MALTA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/37590>