

# Education and training measures responding to the COVID-19 crisis

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****REGULATION/LEGISLATION** **HUNGARY**

## Timeline

**2020 Approved/Agreed****2021 Implementation****2022 Discontinued****ID number 36537**

## Background

COVID-19 has fundamentally affected the education and training sectors.

## Objectives

The Hungarian government has taken official measures - through governmental decrees - to impede the expansion of this epidemic.

## Description

International mobility programmes have been suspended and, as of 16 March 2020, the education process continued digitally (remote learning, homework and assessment).

According to the Ministerial Decision of the Minister responsible for VET No SZFHÁT/100762/2020-ITM, published on 10 November 2020, general education (non-vocational) classes and vocational theoretical classes in VET institutions were organised online, as well as those parts of practical training that do not require a physical presence. Practical training needing face-to-face attendance was organised in person in school workshops or, for dual training, in companies, if possible in weekly block courses in small-scale groups. VET institutions must elaborate a plan for the delivery of the local curriculum (dual training) in cooperation with companies. The online schedule should include consultation, catch-up sessions and assessments to motivate and facilitate learners to remain in the programme and to ensure they are not left behind.

### **2020 Approved/Agreed**

Legal arrangements for VET delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Government Decree 1102/2020 of 14 March implemented a new work mode both in public and VET institutions (it remains in force until further notice). On 14 March, the Hungarian government ordered all schools and VET schools to switch from classroom teaching to distance/online/digital education and training from 16 March.

Government Decree 70/2020 of 26 March, defining the rules relating to the provision of education and vocational qualification examinations in adult training courses during

the state of emergency, declared for the prevention of a major outbreak of the epidemic endangering human life and property, for the elimination of its consequences, and for the protection of the health and lives of Hungarian citizens.

School buildings were not locked. School directors and education staff responsible for the delivery of online learning remained on duty. Teachers could enter the school buildings to provide digital education as needed; work continuity was maintained, so teachers would be entitled to their normal remuneration. The basis for this arrangement was laid down in the national Digital education strategy.

After the closure of schools, education courses were also provided on public television, teaching materials were sent to pupils through the Internet and in the form of You Tube videos. On the home page of the Education Authority, methodological guidelines were provided to teachers (links to e-books, education videos and methods for self-evaluation and assessment etc.). Homework was provided through the online KRÉTA system, available both for pupils and their parents.

In VET Centres throughout the country, small group activities (five pupils per group) were organised for learners who had no digital devices or Wi-Fi at home and activities took place at dedicated digital welfare points.

Government Decree 119/20 of 16 April 2020, on the organisation of *matura* exams during the emergency period in May-June, stipulated the possibility of non-attendance at exams and that if a learner did not attend the exam, there would be no sanctions and s/he could attend the autumn exam session.

The Minister for Innovation and Technology requested the directors of the National Office for VET and Adult Learning (NOVETAL) to work on a proposal for how to organise the *matura* examinations in VET. In April 2020, based on their proposal, the minister published the Individual Ministerial Decision No JEF/36644/2020-ITM, setting out the regulations for organising complex vocational exams; the examination session for the academic year 2019/20 took place in May and June 2020. On 8 May, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology published its official information on the rules for entering the country/crossing the border for learners arriving in Hungary to take a vocational exam.

## 2021 Implementation

According to the individual decision of the Minister for Innovation and Technology (SZFHÁT/47809/2021-ITM), students in VET were allowed to take exams under strict protective measures in May and June of the year 2021. The exams had to be conducted with a small number of students in compliance with safety regulations, including to keep the one-and-a-half meter protective distance. Wearing a protective face mask was compulsory. The VET institution had to provide the protective equipment and the possibility of hand disinfection for the examinees and also for the members of the examination committee. The place of the exam, and the tools, had to be disinfected before and after the exam. Based on the special regulations, the absence of a student who did not take one of the exams due to the emergency situation had to be considered as justified absence. The student was granted the possibility to take the exam in October or November, which could not be considered as a corrective or replacement examination. The VET institutions also organised the sectoral foundation exams after 10 May 2021.

According to the individual decision of the Minister of Innovation and Technology (SZFHÁT/122787-1/2021-ITM), from 1 December 2021, it is possible to enter any VET institution with a protection card, so-called vaccination certificate, only. (After receiving vaccination against COVID-19, the authorities send the vaccination certificate. It is an official document/card certifying that the person in question became protected against COVID-19). Employees, VET teachers and students in Technicums and in vocational schools were exempt from this rule. According to a new procedure, the head of the VET institution had the right to set the rules for wearing face masks on the institution's premises, that anyone is entitled to use the face mask and that the use of the face mask could not be prohibited to anyone. In dual training, if

practical training could not be organised in the 'traditional way' due to epidemiological restrictions, the VET institution and the dual placement decide together to reschedule the specialised vocational education and the practical training or to organise both by the VET institution on its own.

On 28 October 2021, Government decree 599/2021 (X.28.) was published on the mandatory use of vaccination against corona virus for employees of public and local government institutions.

Employees were exempt from the obligation if:

- (a) receipt of vaccination were contraindicated for health reasons;
- (b) the individual supported this fact with a written medical official opinion.

## **2022 Discontinued**

Measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been discontinued.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Culture and Innovation

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Adult learners

### **Education professionals**

Teachers  
Trainers  
School leaders

## **Thematic categories**

### **Modernising VET infrastructure**

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Developing and updating learning resources and materials

### **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

[Government Decree 1102/2020 \(14 March 2020\)](#)

[Hungary: national VET responses to COVID-19](#)

Rules to be applied during the pandemic emergency

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VET protection measures during the epidemic period

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Rules for conducting professional examinations in the May-June exam period in the 2020/21 academic year.

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Government decree 599/2021(X. 28.) on the compulsory use of vaccination against coronavirus by employees of state and municipal institutions

## Related policy developments

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### 2024 Implementation

#### **Public Education Registration and Study Information System (NEPTUN-KRETA)**

The provisions of the Act on National Public Education CXC of 2011 allowed electronic filing and storage of school documents.



##### **Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

##### **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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### 2024 Implementation

#### **Green and digital transition in the Hungarian VET**

Hungary's Digital Education Strategy was launched in 2016.



##### **Type of development**

Strategy/Action plan

##### **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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#### **Cite as**

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

