

Updating the Register of Vocational Qualifications

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 HUNGARY

Timeline



ID number 36494

Background

The Hungarian parliament adopted VET Act LXXX of 2019, which, to conform to the qualifications structure of the EU Member States, required a reduction in the number of qualifications listed in the Hungarian qualifications register.

Objectives

The goal of the modifications is to differentiate traditional school-based VET programmes from short-term courses, and to ease the mutual recognition of the VET qualifications of EU member countries.

Description

According to VET Act LXXX of 2019, the name of the national qualifications register has changed to the register of basic occupations (*szakmajegyzék*), which includes a list of basic qualifications qualifying holders to perform a wide range of activities within a certain economic sector. The number of basic vocational qualifications listed in the register, which came into force on 1 September 2020, has been reduced to 174. The Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) may propose changes to the existing vocational qualifications and to create new ones.

As part of these qualifications, partial vocational qualifications (*részszakma*) are available for VET learners within the framework of adult training courses or in the School workshop programme (a support programme to strengthen basic skills and acquire a first qualification). The basic vocational qualifications must be exclusively taught in the formal school system (IVET and adult education) in the new VET institution types.

High school graduates may also enrol in VET programmes, both in Technicums and three-years vocational schools without general education content, thus they can acquire within two years a technician diploma or a basic vocational occupation.

2019 Approved/Agreed

In 2019, a new VET legislation was worked out, the Act LXXX of 2019 on VET. It became effective as of the 1st of January, 2020.

2020 Implementation

In the current system, because programmes run in parallel, learners have a wide range of opportunities to choose between the free-of-charge and formal school-based VET programmes within IVET and adult education, or faster and shorter vocational programmes within the adult training system where a fee is charged as a general rule.

Partial VET qualifications are no longer listed in a separate register, as was the case in the earlier qualifications system (OKJ). They are included among the IVET programme and outcome requirements (*Képzési és Kimeneti Követelmények, KKK*) available online for all basic IVET qualifications listed in the new national register of vocational occupations (*szakmajegyzék*). From September 2020, 64 partial VET qualifications have been available in IVET (in-school workshop programmes, *műhelyiskolai program*), vocational schools and special vocational schools) as well as in adult training programmes.

The new provisions were introduced in a phasing out system according to the government Decree on the implementation of VET Act LXXX of 2019. Adult learning providers, in the former qualifications system (HuQR/OKH), were allowed to start courses teaching a qualification listed in the national qualifications register (HuQR/OKJ) till the end of 2020, on the condition that the final examinations (including retakes and correctional exams) were taken before 31 December 2022.

Full IVET qualifications are listed in the new register of vocational occupations (*szakmajegyzék*), which contains, for each occupation, both their qualification standards, recognised by the State, as well as the respective programme and outcome requirements (*Képzési és Kimeneti Követelmények, KKK*). The latter are published by the Minister for VET based on the proposal of the sector skills councils and not as a legal regulation.

A register of vocational occupations was created in 2020. The government Decree 319/2020 (VII. 1.) modified the related provisions of VET Act LXXX of 2019 in this regard. The register included 175 VET qualifications (basic vocational occupations).

One of the novelties of the new register is the creative sector, in the framework of which skills and knowledge applicable to the creative industries can be acquired through vocational education, in Technicums and vocational schools. In the previous years, young people with creative, artistic skills were able to choose only the artistic vocational grammar school. In 2021, the professions have been categorised into sub-sectors. Creative Technicums give students the possibility to develop their talent, acquiring vocational occupations in creative industry and visual technique, of the arts and sound technologies respectively. The graphic designer occupation is a good example, which can be chosen as an art in the vocational grammar school, while the industrial graphic designer occupation can be learnt in a creative Technicum. There are 14 vocational occupations in the creative sector. Five vocational occupations can be acquired in the framework of a 3-year vocational school programme (practice-oriented VET programme), 9 vocational occupations within the framework of Technicums.

For each occupation, the programme and outcome requirements (KKK) clearly define which specialisations exist within the occupation in line with the classification of the Hungarian Standard Classification of Occupations (Foglalkozások Egységes Osztályozási Rendszere, FEOR). KKK also indicate the related job(s) a learner can perform after successfully completing the basic sectoral course of IVET programmes, which precede the specialised VET studies that deliver the full qualification (occupation). For example, if somebody successfully finishes the basic course in the health care sector, he/she is entitled to perform a nursing assistant job (*segédápoló*, FEOR code 5222).

The list of occupations that are available in a given year in VET institutions is published on the website of the Innovative Training Support Centre (IKK).

2021 Implementation

The register of vocational occupations is published as Annex 1 to Government Decree 12/2020 (II. 7.) on the implementation of VET Act LXXX of 2019 and is continuously updated. The updated versions are also periodically published on the website of the National Office for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning (NOVETAL).

The latest version includes 177 basic vocational occupations (coming into force as of 1 January 2022). Programme and outcome requirements (KKKs) as well as programme curricula were developed for the 177 basic vocational occupations listed in the Register of Vocational Occupations (published until 1 September 2021 on the NOVETAL website).

2022 Implementation

In 2022, a new sector (Education) and a related vocational occupation of education specialist assistant were created. The occupation is offered by the Pedagogical Technicum, a five year technician programme. The related KKK (Programme and Outcome Requirements), PTT (Programme Curricula) and a training programme have been developed in cooperation with three universities, with a high number of practical hours to allow prospective students gaining practical experience with children of different ages and from different types of institutions.

Additionally, four new professions (Primary care worker, Infant and child care worker, Mechatronics technician for hybrid and electric motor vehicles, Education assistant) were added to the register of vocational occupations, and one (Practical nurse) was deleted.

The current register of vocational occupations in force from 2022 lists 179 basic vocational occupations. For the four new basic vocational occupations, programme and outcome requirements (KKKs) and programme curricula (PTTs) have been developed for the vocational occupations mentioned above.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the Register of Vocational Qualifications was further expanded. Changes included the introduction of a new Kindergarten Teacher. This was introduced in response to the increasing demand for kindergarten teachers due to compulsory kindergarten education and an existing shortage of professionals in the field. Additionally, the profession is ageing, with the average age of kindergarten teachers in 2023 around 55 years. Other updates included revisions to existing qualifications in healthcare and manufacturing and the removal of the Histology Assistant occupation. Additionally, the Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Mechatronics programme was extended to four years to better align with training needs, with a corresponding increase in duration for adult vocational education. This extension allows for the integration of up-to-date green and digital technologies into the curriculum.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, the register of vocational qualifications was further expanded, introducing the new vocational qualification of Mobile Home and RV Manufacturer, Mechanic. This addition was made in response to labour market demands identified by the Sector Skills Councils.

Additionally, the Environmental Technician qualification was reclassified. Previously part of the agricultural qualifications under the environment preservation and water management sector, it was transferred from the Minister for Agriculture to the Minister for Environment Protection (under the Ministry of Energy) while remaining within the same sector.

As of 1 November 2024, the register of vocational qualifications includes 179 basic vocational qualifications across 25 sectors.

2025 Implementation

Among the new basic vocational qualifications and specialisation pathways introduced in 2025, the Digital Painter and Media Designer qualification stands out as a significant step towards a modern, future-oriented VET offer.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Culture and Innovation
- Sector Skills Councils
- VET Innovation Council
- IKK Innovative Training Support Center (IKK Nonprofit Plc.)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Other

School based VET
providers

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

The VET Act LXXX of 2019 (came into force on 1 January 2020)

Government Decree No 12/2020 on its implementation (published on 7 February 2020)

Register of vocational occupations (szakmajegyzek), Annex No 1 of the government Decree No 12/2020 on the implementation of the new VET Act LXXX

Government Decree 319/2020 (VII. 1.) amending government Decree 12/2020 (II. 7) on the implementation of the Act on VET LXXX

The register of vocational occupations and related legislation

The Hungarian Standard Classification of Occupations

Programme and Outcome Requirements (KKKs) and Programme Curricula

Government Decree No 800/2021 (28. XII.) amending certain government regulations related to vocational education and training

Government Decree 380/2021 (30.VI.) amending certain government decrees in the field of vocational education and training

Website of IKK Nonprofit Zrt.

Act XXXIII of 2023 on the amendments to the Act resulting from the ex-post impact assessment of the restructuring in VET

Government Decree 292/2023 (VII. 6.) on the amendments to the Government Decree 12/2020 on the implementation of the VET Act resulting from the ex-post impact assessment of the restructuring in VET, Entry into force: 1 July 2023.

Government Decree 129/2024 (VI.17) on the amendments to the Government Decree 12/2020 on the implementation of the VET Act:

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Digital transition in the Hungarian VET

Hungary's Digital Education Strategy was launched in 2016.

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Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Internationalisation in VET: development in the Carpathian Basin

The working group of the VET Innovation Council. Vocational training development in the

The working group of the VET Implementation Strategy, Vocational Training Development and Carpathian Basin, mapped future opportunities. The working group carried out the mapping between 2021-22.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2021 Completed

IVET programmes and institution types implemented according to the Act LXXX of 2019 on VET

Hungary from the school year 2020/21 introduced the following IVET programmes, and changed the name (types) of the existing IVET institutions as follows:

Five-year technological programmes (*Technicums*)

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Using learning outcomes in VET and adult learning

Preparation and elaboration of the programme and outcome requirements (KKK) have been realised with experts, who know both their own profession and the learning outcome-based methodology well.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Supporting Lifelong Learning (LLL) in the adult education and training framework

The VET Act of 2019 differentiates vocational education and vocational training. Vocational education can be provided within the IVET framework on the basis of programme and

outcome requirements (KKKs) and in formal school-based adult education.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Completed

Mid-term VET policy strategy 4.0

The government has accepted, by government Decision No 1168/2019. (III.28.), the new 'Mid-term VET policy strategy for the renewal of VET and adult education (AE), the VET system's answer to the challenges of the fourth Industrial Revolution'.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Strategy/Action

plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Green transition in the Hungarian VET

VET has an important role to play alongside higher education and public general education, as learners' decisions as employees and/or managers after graduation are based on the knowledge, skills and experience they have acquired.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Strategy/Action

plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2020 Completed

Referencing the Hungarian national qualifications framework (HuQF) to EQF

The HuQF was referenced to the European qualifications framework (EQF) in February 2015.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation**Reducing early school leaving and supporting inclusion in VET**

The 2015 reform of the 2011 Act on VET enabled graduates of three-year VET programmes to automatically continue their studies in the same school for two additional years and to take the upper secondary school leaving examination (*matura*), which is the entry requirement for higher education.

 HUNGARY**Type of development**Practical
measure/Initiative**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

2024 Completed**Sector skills councils (SSCs)**

The 2017 Act CXCVII amending the 2011 Act on VET and adult training opened up the way for establishing sector skills councils (SSCs) from July 2018. The 2017 Act CXCVII and the governmental Decree No 213/2018 (XI.22.) reinforced the role of employers in education and training.

 HUNGARY**Type of development**Practical
measure/Initiative**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/36494>

