

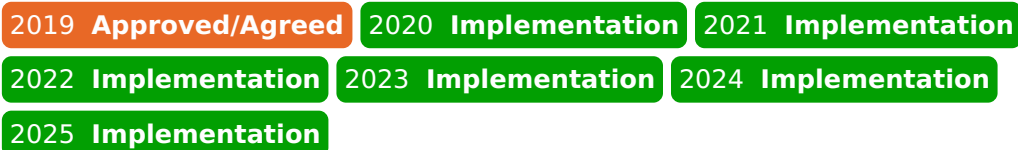
Analysis and proposals for optimising the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BULGARIA

Timeline



ID number 35915

Objectives

To improve the relevance of VET provision to labour market needs.

Description

In June 2019, the Consultative Council for VET, an advisory body to the education minister, assigned the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET) to prepare an analysis for the optimisation of the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET).

The analysis of LPVET contains findings, conclusions and possible solutions related to:

- (a) providing an opportunity for upgrading the qualification acquired;
- (b) aligning VET with international classifications in education;
- (c) ensuring an opportunity for using My Competence to optimise the LPVET;
- (d) providing an opportunity for relating VET to the higher education majors with a view to ensuring the upgrading of qualifications and a better transition from secondary to higher education;
- (e) ensuring the relevance of the LPVET to the ESCO classification;
- (f) implementing the recommendations on the project of the education ministry, Technical assistance in the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework in VET, funded by the European Commission;
- (g) formulating a vision for the LPVET, based on the activities carried out under the analysis.

The analysis also includes reviewing of qualification registers that exist in Poland, Portugal and Finland, as well as thoughts on their applicability in the Bulgarian context.

2019 Approved/Agreed

The analysis containing specific proposals for the future development of the LPVET was

submitted to the education ministry in December 2019.

In 2019, NAVET received two proposals to supplement LPVET with new professions or specialties. One of these proposals was supported at a meeting of the expert commission and presented to the education ministry for approval by the education minister.

2020 Implementation

The report containing specific proposals for the future development of the LPVET (submitted to the education ministry in December 2019) was officially presented to the education minister at the beginning of 2020. After an in-depth analysis prepared by NAVET in 2019, with proposals for optimising LPVET, work continued in 2020.

An updated detailed report was prepared under the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) project Technical assistance for the implementation of sector skills councils supporting the implementation of the NQF.

This analytical report provided policy recommendations that strengthen the links between the VET qualifications system and the economic and labour market structure to the education ministry and relevant stakeholders. The document included suggestions on how to make LPVET a modern tool for more closely linking the demand and supply of skills and professions to the needs for the digital and green transformation of the economy, society and for personal and professional development in the context of lifelong learning. The in-depth report contained suggestions revealed for LPVET structure, level of detail, length and consistency between the different categories of the list and described practical steps and options for the revision of the LPVET structure.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, six proposals for updating the LPVET were submitted.

The inclusion of two professions - programmer of artificial intelligence and programmer of robots and the deletion of the military orchestrator profession - was proposed by relevant industry stakeholders and the defence ministry.

The qualification for the public transport driver was updated from EQF/NQF level 2 to EQF/NQF level 3 due to the high level of responsibility on individuals.

During the reporting period, a working group with representatives from the education ministry, the labour ministry and NAVET was created to prepare for the actualisation of LPVET. NAVET prepared an exemplary framework for optimising LPVET and organised a meeting with the chairmen of the expert commissions to consult on some of its parameters.

The education ministry's project Technical assistance project for the implementation of sector skills councils, supporting the implementation of the NQF, had been completed and its final report included recommendations for a sectoral approach to defining qualifications.

NAVET continued to cooperate with stakeholders who submitted proposals for changes to LPVET. During the reporting period, two orders were issued by the education minister to update LPVET.

The changes to LPVET were compatible with all documentation, and all consequent measures developed by the education ministry.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, NAVET organised and held a discussions with interested parties to review and update LPVET. The discussions focused on possible changes in professional areas 811(Hotel, restaurant and catering), 812 ('Travel, tourism and leisure') and 542

(Production technologies - textiles, clothing, footwear and leather).

Also in 2022, in anticipation of the reform of the VET system, the LPVET had not been updated for first time in the last 14 years.

In December 2022 the specialised administration of NAVET developed and submitted for approval a draft of an updated Order for the development and maintenance of the LPVET.

In 2022, the preparation of a project for the modernisation of the VET system-within which there's a plan to update the professions and specialties in 10 vocational areas of LPVET-began.

In December 2022, with the ordinance issued by the education minister a working group for the preparation of VET Act amendment was established. Representatives from the education ministry, the labour ministry, Ministry of Economy and Industry, NAVET, social partners, training providers were involved in the activity. The working group is mandated with the task to propose VET Act amendments in the line with conclusions and recommendations of the ex post impact assessment of the VET Act, which had amongst its key pointers the need to redesign LPVET.

2023 Implementation

In 2023 a project to reform the VET system named *Modernisation of VET* was launched. The lead organisation is the education ministry and NAVET is a partner in the project. The main objectives of the project are:

- (a) modernising VET in response to the labour market dynamics through joint work between schools and other VET providers, businesses and other institutions;
- (b) improving the skills and competences of VET educators and students in the VET system in partnership with business;
- (c) increasing VET attractiveness.

In 2023, as part of the project planning 20 sectoral skills councils (SSCs) for different economic sectors began their operation. One of their main function was to suggest a modern version of the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET). After the adoption of the new VET Act (planned for 2024), the new LPVET is planned to be structured by professions and the specialties part will be removed.

In 2023, only one change was made to the list related to the vocational field Military and defence. The occupation *Sergeant - chief petty officer in the Navy - armed forces medical support* was added (EQF level 5)

2024 Implementation

In issue No 27 of the Bulgarian State Gazette (29 March 2024) the Law on amendment and supplement to the vocational education and training (VET) Act (VETA) was promulgated.

One of the most significant changes of the law, was the removal of specialties from the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET) and the introduction of broad-based professions by consolidating qualifications. A large part of the professions had updated names.

Based on Article 6, paragraph 4 of the new VETA, a new *Order for developing and maintaining the List of Professions for Vocational Education and Training, the criteria and deadlines for its updating* was approved in June 2024.

The draft version of the new LPVET was discussed within NAVET's expert commissions and in July 2024, was opened for public consultation.

The education ministry prepared the new LPVET after wide consultations and social dialogue with all interested parties.

After the mandatory public consultations in August 2024, the education ministry approved the new LPVET. The new LPVET contains 193 professions, of which 40 are in the digital and green sector.

It is planned that VET will be provided based on the professions included in the new LPVET from the academic year 2026/27 (from January 2026) for students admitted to the VIII grade, and for persons over the age of 16.

The new professions emphasise work activities which are strongly related to digitalisation and sustainable development in various economic sectors.

The LPVET is a dynamic system and professions may be added or removed based on justified proposals from the respective ministries and from nationally representative employer and employee organisations. The LPVET can be updated twice a year.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, implementation activities focused on preparing the system for the application of the new List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET - 2024), approved by Order No. RD09-2230/09.08.2024 of the Minister of Education and Science. The new LPVET will apply from 1 January 2026 for adult learners and from the 2026/27 school year for students admitted to grade VIII in the same year. To facilitate the transition, a comparative table was prepared, mapping the professions and qualification levels between LPVET 2003 and LPVET 2024. An English translation of the LPVET (2024) was also made available. Within the framework of the *Modernisation of VET* project, new State Educational Standards are being developed in line with LPVET 2024, planned to enter into force for learners as of the 2026/27 school year and for adults as of January 2026.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET)
- Consultative Council for VET
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems
Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Information for the development and maintenance of LPVET-NAVET website](#)

[Information on the Modernisation of VET project on NAVET's website](#)

[Information of the approval of the Law on amendment and supplement to the VET Act on the website of the Bulgarian parliament](#)

[Information on the work of NAVET's expert committees with regards to the List of professions for vocational education and training \(LPVET\)](#)

[Information on the new Order for developing and maintaining the List of professions for vocational education and training \(LPVET\), the criteria and deadlines for its updating](#)

[Information on the public consultation on the List of professions for vocational education and training \(LPVET\)](#)

[List of Professions for Vocational Education and Training \(LPVET - 2024\), approved by Order No. RD09-2230/09.08.2024 of the Minister of Education and Science](#)

[Comparative table between LPVET 2003 and LPVET 2024](#)

[English translation of the LPVET \(2024\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

The modernisation of vocational education and training project, European Social Fund (ESF)

The Modernisation of vocational education and training (VET) (hereinafter Modernisation of VET) project is co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the operational programme *Education 2021 -27* with direct beneficiary the education ministry.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem


IVET CVET

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

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Curriculum update

In 2018, updated curricula were adopted for upper secondary education (grades 11 and 12). The learning objectives are set for both general education and VET learners, including a learning module on 'civil education' aimed at the acquisition of social and civic competences.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

The consultative council for VET

In 2018, a consultative council for vocational education and training (VET) was established by the education ministry with the participation of other ministries, the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET), organisations of employers and trade unions and other bodies and civ

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Amendments to the VET Act

The VET Act of 1999 was amended in August 2016 (entered into force in August 2017), confirming that apprenticeships should offer the possibility to acquire professional qualifications through practical training, organised in cooperation with enterprises.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/35915>