

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN** **CYPRUS**

Timeline

2015 Approved/Agreed**2016 Implementation****2017 Implementation****2018 Implementation****2019 Implementation****2020 Completed****ID number 28830**

Description

A strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training was approved in April 2015 (2015-20). It aims to reform the public VET system. The plan was set up by the Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (STVET) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY). It sets the further development of the quality and competences of VET teachers as a priority. Practical workshops were planned on modern teaching methods aimed at updating VET teachers' knowledge in their field of specialisation.

This comprehensive strategic plan includes measures and activities that cover all the public VET programmes offered by the MoECSY:

- secondary technical and vocational education (morning classes);
- evening schools of technical and vocational education (second chance schools);
- lifelong learning programmes of vocational education and training (afternoon and evening classes);
- the apprenticeship system;
- post-secondary institutes of VET (accredited as a public school of higher vocational education and training).

The following main measures are included in the strategic plan:

- further enhancement of the cooperation between STVET and industry, enabling access to suitable modern technical equipment, educational material and infrastructure, through practical training in industry; another example is the increase in the duration of the work-based learning component;
- organisation of information campaigns regarding the prospects for employment offered by technical vocational education and training (TVET) in Cyprus;
- development of new curricula oriented towards learning outcomes (and particular emphasis on key competences) and based on ECVET units. The new curricula for secondary technical and vocational education were introduced as of the school year 2016/17;
- further development of the post-secondary institutes of VET which began their operation in November 2012, offering graduates of secondary education (young people over the age of 18 years old) the opportunity for further vocational education and training. In April 2017, the Cyprus agency of quality assurance and accreditation of higher education accredited the institutes as a public school of higher vocational

- education and training(EQF level 5);
- reform and upgrading of the apprenticeship system;
- enhancement of the quality and competences of teachers and trainers through specialised training programmes;
- completion of the process for the establishment of the national qualifications framework (CyQF);
- the development of mechanisms for VET graduate tracking.

2015 Approved/Agreed
2016 Implementation
2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation Amongst the measures included in the plan is enhancement of the cooperation between STVET and industry, enabling access to suitable modern technical equipment, educational material and infrastructure, through practical training in industry. In order to improve employers' engagement, the education ministry has signed memoranda of cooperation with the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and industry (June 2019), and the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (July 2019). The memoranda included measures for the development of new, or the review of existing, VET specialisations, to ensure their alignment changing labour market needs. They also included measures for the facilitation of placement of VET learners in enterprises.
2020 Completed The 2015-20 strategic plan was completed in 2020. The department of STVET started drafting a strategic plan to cover the period 2021-26. The measures to be included in this strategic plan will be based on the guidelines put forward in the Osnabrück Declaration and the Council recommendation on VET.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY) (until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) (until 2019)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
 Young people (15-29 years old)
 Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
 Adult learners

Education professionals

Teachers
 School leaders

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Acquiring key competences

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Decision of the Council of Ministers no 78.657, dated 15 April 2015, with which the 2015-20 Strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training was approved](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Framework for teacher professional development

Since 2015, and partly also due to the 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training, a framework for teachers professional learning (TPL) is implemented (following adoption by the Council of Ministers).

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Recruitment system for VET teachers

A law designed to make teacher recruitment more effective was adopted in July 2015. Teacher appointments have since then been based on:

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

The framework for VET programmes (permeability and flexibility)

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training provides for all initial vocational education and training (IVET) and continuing vocational education and training (CVET) curricula under the remit of the education ministry to be modularised and to use ECVET points to

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

VET - employers' matching platform

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training aims to set up a national monitoring system of initial vocational education and training (IVET) and continuing vocational education and training (CVET) graduates, to inform the upgrading of the VET system.

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 Completed

Apprenticeship helpdesk for SMEs

From October 2016 to September 2018, the Erasmus+ project Apprenticeship helpdesk for small and medium sized enterprises in Cyprus (and Poland) aimed to build the capacity of key intermediary bodies to support those SMEs (small- and medium-sized enterprises) offering training places for apprentice

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2018 Completed

Developing the apprenticeship system

Based on the 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training, a proposal for upgrading the apprenticeship system, in cooperation with the apprenticeship board, was approved in August 2015. The reform affects both the preparatory and core programmes;

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2020 Completed

Increasing the duration of work-based learning in school-based VET

In December 2015, after consultation with employer organisations (the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation), the government decided to increase the work-based learning component (increased duration of industrial placements) of secondary te

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2024 Completed

Integrated student evaluation system (ISES)

The Integrated student evaluation system (ISES), which includes formative assessment and diagnosis of student needs, is in place since the 2019/20 academic year. Based on the operating regulations of secondary education, semester core exams have also been implemented.

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training: Cyprus. 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/28830>