

The 2014-20 lifelong learning strategy

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 BULGARIA

Timeline



ID number 28829

Description

The 2015 action plan highlighted the importance of key competences. It provides small-scale training in career management skills and is expanding entrepreneurship education as a key competence through training (simulation) companies, young entrepreneur fairs and by establishing training enterprises in arts and sports VET schools. The 2016 action plan, approved in April 2016, provides for the further development of career guidance and planning for pupils, students and adults. The project Development of system for career guidance in school education, funded by the European social fund (ESF), was put into operation during 2016-17. As a result of the project implementation, a national portal for career guidance for learners was set up, offering a wide range of materials to support career guidance and student choice of further training paths, either in VET or in general education. The 2017 and 2018 action plans and the implementation plan for the development strategy for VET for the period 2015-18 aim to:

- (a) provide accessible and high-quality career guidance services for learners;
- (b) provide career guidance services for adults;
- (c) improve coordination and cooperation between career guidance systems in education and in employment services.

In order to provide conditions for the transition to a functioning national system for lifelong learning (LLL) in 2020, a set of tasks related to increasing the level of recognition of learning outcomes in mobility activities was undertaken: facilitating the implementation of Europass, the European skills passport and validation; development and expansion of the adult literacy system in order to ensure access to the labour market; providing access to lifelong learning for learners from different institutions, including learners from the primary and lower secondary stage of the basic education level and the first high school stage of the secondary education level; promotion of lifelong learning in all segments of the population as a factor for personal development and sustainable employment and social inclusion.

A number of measures were implemented aimed at modernizing the material base and improving the educational infrastructure, raising the qualification of the pedagogical specialists, organising internships in enterprises during and after graduation, providing training vouchers for acquiring the professional qualification and / or for training for the acquisition of key competences in connection with subsequent employment.

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

The 2019 action plan included activities and tasks that address all areas of learning and cover different stages of personality development: pre-primary education, general school education, vocational education and training, higher education and continuing adult learning.

To implement the National lifelong learning strategy for the period 2014-20, 2019 initiatives focused mainly on:

- (a) raising the level of recognition of learning outcomes in mobility activities;
- (b) facilitating the implementation of Europass and the validation of prior learning;
- (c) developing and expanding the adult literacy system to ensure access to the labour market;
- (d) providing access to forms of lifelong learning (LLL) through cultural institutions.

The 28 regional lifelong learning coordination groups and the National adult learning network were set up, and a number of events were organised.

An implementation measure of the European adult learning programme and the National lifelong learning strategy 2014-20, was the organisation of the National lifelong learning days for the fifth consecutive year by the education ministry.

This initiative took place during 9 to 11 October 2019 in Veliko Tarnovo in the context of project No 592041-EPP-1-2017-1-BG-EPPKA3-AL-AGENDA National coordinators for the implementation of the European learning programme for adults, funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

The programme included events such as presentation(s) of adult education and training institutions, an information seminar for journalists, a national conference, an award ceremony for contribution to the adult learning sector, a promotion event for the European electronic learning platform (EPALE) and other cultural events.

The events were attended by various representatives from ministries, agencies, district and local administrations, non-governmental organisations, social partners, employers, members of the coordinating council of the national platform United for adult learning, regional coordinators for lifelong learning, directors and teachers/trainers from the National network of adult education and training institutions.

2020 Implementation

The 2020 action plan in the implementation of the National strategy for lifelong learning includes activities aimed at:

- (a) implementation of the National qualifications framework and development of sectoral qualifications frameworks;
- (b) expanding the opportunities for validation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning;
- (c) development of the system for career guidance and provision of conditions for development of skills for career planning, for pupils and students and for adults;
- (d) expanding the use of the European system for identification, assessment and certification of knowledge, skills and competences the Europass documents and the European skills passport;
- (e) development and introduction of flexible forms and paths to ensure permeability in the education and training system, including promoting people not covered by the traditional education system by expanding the range of learning

- opportunities;
- (f) expanding the adult literacy system in order to ensure access to the labour market;
- (g) providing conditions for expanding the scope and increasing the quality of pre-school education and training;
- (h) applying a comprehensive approach to increase educational achievements and reduce the share of early school leavers;
- (i) improving the quality of school education and training for the acquisition of key competences, improving learner achievement and personal development;
- (j) increasing the attractiveness and improving the quality of vocational education and training to ensure employment and competitiveness;
- (k) modernising higher education;
- (l) coordinating the interaction of stakeholders for the implementation of the lifelong learning policy.

From 7 to 9 October 2020, national days for lifelong learning were held in the town of Gabrovo. These days aim to guide, motivate and encourage more Bulgarian citizens to get involved in lifelong learning activities, even in the new conditions, imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 is the last year of the lifelong learning strategy.

In 2020, the National coordination group for lifelong learning has approved actions to formulate proposals from the institutions and organisations represented in the group on membership of the European network of basic skills (EBSN).

2021 Completed

In 2021, there was a follow-up assessment of the impact of public policies in the adult learning sector that were developed under the project No 614188-EPP-1-2019-1-BGEPPKA3-AL-AGENDA: *National coordinators for the implementation of the European lifelong learning programme* (funded by the Erasmus+ programme). The report presents the progress achieved in the implementation of the National lifelong learning strategy 2014-20 and outlines the main trends and challenges in the field.

The main indicators of progress for meeting the set goals are:

- (a) the number of early school leavers aged 18-24;
- (b) the relative share (%) of people with a higher education qualification among the 30-34 age group;
- (c) the number of people employed in the 20-64 age group.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science

Target group

Learners

Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers

Adult learners

Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Low-skilled/qualified persons

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Ministry of Education and Science - List of strategic documents](#)

[Information on the implementation of the project National coordinators for the implementation of the European agenda for adult learning](#)

[Follow-up assessment of the impact of public policies in the adult learning sector \(National lifelong learning strategy 2014-20\)](#)

Related policy developments

2020 Completed

The 2015-20 VET development strategy

The 2015-20 VET development strategy addressed the acquisition of key competences in secondary VET for personal and professional needs.

 BULGARIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The 2014-20 lifelong learning strategy: Bulgaria. 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/28829>