

Master craftsman qualification and examination model

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 CZECHIA

Timeline



ID number 28807

Background

Master craftsman examinations are among measures of the Strategy for education policy of the Czech Republic until 2020 and also of the Long-term plan for education and development of the education system for 2015-20. They support the further professional growth of vocational education graduates by introducing a master craftsman examination that could be taken no earlier than three to five years after graduation; passing this would allow for entry to tertiary education. The plan also mentions the legislative changes to be prepared in cooperation with other responsible ministries.

Objectives

The project aims at developing the system of master exam and master qualifications in the Czech Republic as a tool of education and training, and recognition of master craftsmanship, thus contributing to quality improvement of further education and training in the crafts.

Description

The project Master craftsman examination system (*Mistrovska zkouska system*) was launched in November 2017 and lasts until 2021. The project defines the overall master craftsman examination model and prepares comprehensive expertise for its implementation. Elements of the master exam system are developed and reviewed. For the different master qualifications, these elements comprise both qualification and assessment standards, guidelines for the assignment of the master exams, curricula of training programmes and their textbooks. The project develops the necessary methodologies and designs the processes for organising the master exams.

The master craftsman represents a new type of qualification as well as a new tool for CVET and recognition of advanced craftsmanship in vocational fields. While graduates of four-year secondary VET programmes (ISCED 354) can continue to develop their professional skills in tertiary professional schools or in higher education, craftsmen do not have such a possibility. Typically, they are graduates from three-year VET programmes with the vocational certificate (ISCED 353, EQF 3) which does not directly lead to tertiary education.

The master craftsman qualification opens new perspectives as it represents EQF 5 level. The aim is also to increase:

- (a) the overall quality of craftsmanship;
- (b) the prestige of crafts in the perception of society;
- (c) the interest of young people (and their parents) in education in craft industries;
- (d) holders' chances of succeeding abroad as the qualification will be made compatible within the EU.

By 2019, 32 standards of master's qualification and 10 test frameworks for the master craftsman examination have been developed. on the development of textbooks has begun.

2017 Design

2018 Design

2019 Legislative process

In 2019, a pilot of 20 qualifications for 60 craftsmen started. A methodology for the development of educational programmes was created. Working groups for the development of educational programmes and materials were set; work on the development of qualification and assessment standards started in 32 (of overall 45) master qualifications. The master's exam will consist of several parts (practical, theoretical professional, theoretical general) to verify competences in the following areas:

- (a) creation of a masterpiece (design, construction);
- (b) management of work within the scope of the field (complete turnkey contract: plan, budget, assignment work);
- (c) management of the company's employees.

The general part of exam was developed in 2019.

In December 2019, an Amendment to the Act No 301/1992 Coll. on the Chamber of Commerce was prepared by the Ministry of Trade and put into the legislative process. The master exam has been embedded in the proposed amendment. Preparation, organisation and the performance of the master examination will be ensured by the Czech Chamber of Commerce and the Agrarian Chamber of the Czech Republic. It will be possible to take the exam after five years of practice. Currently, there are about 200 people interested in passing the exam. The first exams will take place in 2021.

2020 Legislative process

The master qualifications for the first wave of the master craftsman exams were developed and revised. Over the summer of 2020 the relevant training programmes and textbooks were created. The second wave of the development of master qualifications was carried out in close cooperation with guilds and professional associations, whose members form the basis of the working groups. Workshops for examiners have been prepared.

Works continued on the permeability of the master craftsman exam with the tertiary level. Qualification and evaluation standards for 35 fields of study will be formulated, together with exam content frameworks, including sample questions and five training programmes (in line with the content frameworks).

2021 Legislative process

In February 2021, the debate by the Legislative Council of the Government on the draft amendment to the Act on the Czech Chamber of Commerce and the Agrarian Chamber of the Czech Republic was suspended for the purposes of amending the wording of the text by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

In August 2021, the Government submitted a legislative proposal amending the Act No

301/1992 Coll. on the Czech Chamber of Commerce and the Agrarian Chamber of the Czech Republic, as amended and the Trade Licensing Act No 455/1991 Coll. as amended. However, it was not approved by the Chamber of Deputies prior to the autumn elections. One of the reasons was that it was granting a relatively large decision-making power to the Chamber of Commerce, which would determine which guild shall be in charge of master craftsman examinations and organise them (specific crafts and trades do not necessarily belong to the same guild).

In 2021, the Methodology for the development of standards and content frameworks for Master craftsman examination was revised and completed; the Methodology for the development of training programmes was revised; and the Methodology for the development of teaching texts was created. Standards, content frameworks and training programmes for 48 qualifications were completed. At the end of 2021, teaching texts for 47 fields of study were produced and the forms of training that the system of master craftsman examination will be able to offer to the candidates were developed.

By the end of October 2021, external assessors (representatives from training providers, sector councils and professional communities) completed the assessment of about 150 standards and almost 100 training programmes related to the Master craftsman qualifications. The assessments served as a basis for the SWOT analysis and qualitative evaluation, with a positive conclusion on the quality of the outputs.

Within the system concept of the Master craftsman examination, systemic tools were created and set up and optimal tools for cooperation of vocational schools (the so-called Master craftsman schools), guilds and professional organisations were sought in 2021. In the course of 2021, the selection of these schools was finalised.

The concept of cooperation among schools, guilds, the Chamber of Commerce and the Agrarian Chamber in the system of Master craftsman exam was completed. The project will continue until June 2022.

2022 Completed

The Methodology for developing the common component and the areas of the vocational component of the assignment for the exam (the area of business management -financial and personnel) was prepared; and the Relationship model between schools, guilds and professional associations for the purposes of the implementation of training and Master craftsman examinations was developed.

The project created qualifications and evaluation standards for 48 master craftsman qualifications instead of the planned 45. Furthermore, curricula for 48 master craftsman qualifications instead of the planned 45, and teaching texts for 47 master craftsman qualifications instead of the planned 45 were developed. The increase was a consequence of the response to a rather complex situation impacting development activities in the Covid-19 period. All the other outputs were produced as planned.

The methodological material entitled the Procedure for the formation and preparation of examination boards was developed, including procedure for the selection and preparation of lecturers. The legislative anchoring of the Master craftsman examinations has not yet taken place.

The Master Craftsman Examination project was completed in June 2022.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- Czech Chamber of Commerce
- National Institute for Education (until 2019)
- National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic

Target group

Learners

Adult learners

Education professionals

Trainers

Entities providing VET

Companies

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8

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

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

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Master exam at the Czech Chamber of Commerce's website](#)

[Master exam at the website of the National Institute for Education \(National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Qualification requirements for trainers in companies

Recommendations issued by the education ministry in 2016 on agreements between VET schools and enterprises for in-company training of learners stipulate that a professional

qualification and necessary experience are mandatory features of these contracts.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2016 Completed

Promoting work-based learning (Year of crafts)

2016 has been declared the Year of crafts by the association of SMEs. The intention was to improve the image of manual work and crafts, and push for the introduction of practical education in basic education.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Master craftsman qualification and examination model: Czechia. 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/28807>