

# The National vocational and training policy (2015)



## Timeline



ID number 28668

## Background

The establishment of the Malta qualifications framework (MQF), and its referencing to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) in 2009, was a national cornerstone in building better VET. The MQF pushed forward parity of esteem between vocational education and general or academic education, as well as making possible permeability between VET and HE, so supporting lifelong learning. Vocational education and training has become a key factor of both the social and the economic needs of the country. It has opened up opportunities to a range of individuals who can further their education and skills through VET courses while providing a solid contribution to labour market exigencies by shaping skills development in accordance to the needs of specific sectors.

## Objectives

It provides a strategic opportunity for an outlook on possible goals for the furthering and widening VET in Malta. Policy recommendations are two-pronged: addressing quality and attractiveness as well as ensuring labour market relevance. These notions are interlinked in providing and sustaining stronger vocational education in Malta.

## Description

The National vocational and training policy mapped the VET sector in Malta and identified areas for future actions.

- 2015 Approved/Agreed
- 2016 Implementation
- 2017 Implementation
- 2018 Implementation  
The coming into force of the Work-based Learning and Apprenticeship Act in March 2018 provided the legal framework that consolidated for work-based learning the parity of esteem between general and VET subjects within the framework of the

secondary education certificate.

### 2019 Implementation

The policy continued to be implemented, including the complete implementation of the MyJourney reform in October 2019. This included large investment in resources, a broader choice of VET subjects on offer, and the inclusion of applied VET subjects in the curriculum during the last three years of compulsory education.

### 2020 Completed

The policy has completed its life cycle. Through its implementation period, VET in Malta was consolidated, gaining status.

It has given rise to three main VET policy documents: *MyJourney: achieving through different paths*, the introduction of VET subjects as an option in the last three years of compulsory education, the MCAST strategic plan, and the ITS strategic plan 2021 -25.

Other major outcomes of the policy include: the consolidation of MCAST as the country's leading vocational education and training institution providing VET courses to meet the needs of the economy, the provision of VET degree courses, and research in VET areas.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry for Education (MFED)(until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Employment (MEDE) (until 2020)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Young people (15-29 years old)  
Adult learners

### Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies  
Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses  
Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

### Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)  
Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[The National vocational education and training policy 2015](#)

## Related policy developments

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### 2025 Implementation

#### Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) international cooperation in further and higher education

The rationale for ITS international collaboration efforts and activities is that the cooperation with top international universities and institutions provides students with the possibility to graduate from a reputable institute and also get the opportunity to study for a period of time within the

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#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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### 2025 Implementation

#### Validation arrangements

In 2015, the *National vocational education and training policy* highlighted the need for training programmes for staff involved in validation, and for validation for learners with disability or learning difficulties.

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#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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**2020 Completed**

## **The European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) implementation**

The 2015 National vocational education and training policy proposed measures to:

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### **Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

### **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2025 Implementation**

## **Introduction of VET subjects to compulsory education schools (My journey project)**

In 2015/16, VET subjects at Malta qualifications framework (MQF) level 3 (EQF level 3) were introduced in compulsory education in all lower secondary schools: the compulsory secondary education system in Malta comprises students from age 11 to age 16 (lower secondary) and two years of upper second

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### **Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

### **Subsystem**

IVET

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**2018 Approved/Agreed**

## **The Work-based learning and apprenticeship Act**

Following consultation in 2016, a draft act was proposed by the education ministry on a framework for developing quality work placements, apprenticeships and internships.

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### **Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

### **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The National vocational and training policy (2015): Malta. 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/28668>