

Information and support structures for dual VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SLOVAKIA

Timeline

2015 Implementation	2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation
2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation	2025 Implementation	

ID number 28564

Background

The Act on VET adopted in 2015 (61/2015) included setting up elements of a 'dual' system that would attract more employers and offer quality training. Companies are free to find individual learners and sign training contracts with them. However, these individual contracts must be complemented by a contract between the company and the relevant VET school which describes how they cooperate. Initial data from the first year of implementation of dual VET (2015-16) showed that the supply of training places by companies significantly exceeded demand.

Objectives

The ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET aims to support all dual system players: learners and parents by guidance, schools, and companies in facilitating partnerships.

Description

The 2016-20 ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET provides support through its web portals. Eight contact points (officially called Dual points) have also been set up within this project. Their role is to support the implementation of the dual system and make the matching of supply and demand easier. The employer council maintains its own portal. The 2013-15 ESF project Development of secondary VET-related portal focused on matching supply and demand, while the German-Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry also offers a dedicated website.

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, a massive media campaign is financed from the ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET, to attract learners completing lower secondary education. A dedicated website has contacts to eight dual points seated in administrative centres of regions, and to the newly created orientation centre expected to offer services nation-wide. Developing the scope of activities and setting up processes including monitoring of the efficiency of service, have been outsourced to two private companies that are also responsible for similar tasks concerning dual points.

2020 Implementation

A new Dual in a nutshell web portal offering one-stop-shop services has been created within the ESF project, Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET.

2021 Implementation

The ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET was completed in September 2021. The final conference was held on 21 November 2021. The *Dual in a nutshell* web portal offers online excursions in companies offering dual VET, but the updated one-stop-shop information on 2022/23 school year opportunities in dual VET is missing. Currently, quality information on school and programme choice is offered by regional authorities, such as the Žilina self-governing region which has information about opportunities including dual VET on a dedicated My secondary portal. A new application developed in cooperation with the education ministry with the Digital League and operated by Blue Lemon Ltd. is currently promoted by the education ministry as a matching tool between schools and learners. However, the application does not contain detailed information on opportunities to enter dual VET offered earlier.

2022 Implementation

From 1 January 2022, the eight pilot dual points implemented under the ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET were transformed into organisational components of the State Institute of Vocational Education with seven of them located at the regional seats of the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre. The dedicated websites of the project were embedded into the website of ŠIOV and the information on training places in companies is offered on the website of the Employer council for VET.

2023 Implementation

The responsibilities of regional coordinators at the State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV) were transformed into two main tasks: promoting dual VET in cooperation with the two existing talent centres, and supporting companies that offer dual training by collecting data for the administration of reimbursement for training costs from the State budget.

The Talent Centrum in Nitra performed 102 activities, impacting 1 861 lower secondary learners, while the Talent Centrum in Trnava performed 108 activities, reaching 2 137 lower secondary learners. 67% of learners served by the Talent Centrum in Trnava indicated that visiting the talent centre helped them make decisions about their future qualifications.

2024 Implementation

In addition to the two talent centres in Nitra and Trnava, a talent centre in Žilina is

being prepared to start activities in 2025 based on a memorandum signed between the State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV) and the Žilina self-governing region in October 2024.

Regional coordinators of ŠIOV are expected to ensure guidance related to lifelong learning supported by strengthened cooperation between the education ministry and employer and professional organisations.

2025 Implementation

Since September 2025, the talent centre in Žilina is fully functional as the third talent centre in the country, complementing the centres in Nitra and Trnava and expanding regional support for dual VET and career guidance.

The amendment of the Act on VET (61/2015), adopted on 21 October 2025, introduced the so-called system of agency dual education. The aim is to contribute to and support the development and implementation of the dual education system with an emphasis on the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises. The agency is a new intermediate player in addition to the training company, the secondary vocational school and the learner. This system should attract and support companies that are interested in having dual learners, but are unable to conclude a contract with them at the beginning of the study, or to fully cover 50% of practical training as set in curricula, or are interested in reducing the administration burden. The agency offers a flexible way, as it can coordinate the provision of practical training at more training companies and can deal with the entire administration. The quality of practical training should be ensured through the relevant employer and professional organisation. These organisations also maintain a list of agencies active within the study fields of their responsibility and are also obliged to set criteria that must be fulfilled by respective agencies.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth
- State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV)
- National Institute of Education and Youth (NIVAM)
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (until 2024)
- Methodological-Pedagogical Centre (until 2022)

Target group

Learners

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

Education professionals

Teachers
School leaders
Guidance practitioners

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Lifelong guidance

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET website](#)

[Web portal of Slovak-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry on dual VET](#)

[Dual in a nutshell web portal](#)

[The Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET project final conference](#)

[My secondary portal](#)

[Web portal of Employers Council for VET \(former Web portal of Employers Council for Dual VET\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Amendments to the Act on VET (61/2015)

Strengthening the position of 'sectoral assignees' and the Employer Council for VET over the VET system as a whole from 2021 induced a debate over creating a new institution covering the VET system as a whole.

 SLOVAKIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2021 Completed

Teacher CPD on dual VET

To familiarise VET teachers and trainers with dual VET, short credit-awarding courses were designed within the 2013-15 ESF project Development of secondary VET.

 SLOVAKIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET



2025 Implementation

Guidance for young people

The ESF project Dual education and increasing attractiveness and quality of VET launched in 2016 and run by the State Institute of Vocational Education (ŠIOV) aims at improving career guidance and counselling services for learners in VET and those who consider entering this field.

 SLOVAKIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET



2025 Implementation

The Employer council for dual VET

An umbrella body, the Employer Council for dual VET, was set up in 2016 aiming to strengthen cooperation between respective sectoral assignees involved in dual VET. The Council is partially financed from the State budget.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET



2025 Implementation

Incentives for VET schools to provide practical training

In December 2016, a call was launched to invite proposals for the modernisation of the equipment and premises of school-based practical training (VET schools' workshops and specialised facilities, e.g. libraries).

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Introducing dual VET

The Act on VET was amended in March 2015 (61/2015). Its main objectives were to introduce a dual VET scheme and tax incentives for enterprises to provide training. The reform entered into force in September 2015 and made available upper secondary VET delivery in three forms:

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

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