

The 2017 Apprenticeship Act

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SLOVENIA

Timeline

2017 Approved/Agreed

ID number 28547

Background

Slovenia assigned a high priority to the work related to work-based learning and apprenticeship. Reintroducing an apprenticeship system (including by adapting the legislation and related programmes) alongside the work-based learning system already in place was considered. A thematic country review on apprenticeship was conducted in close cooperation with Cedefop in the years 2015-17. The aim was to carry out an in-depth analysis of the situation to support Slovenia on reintroducing apprenticeship.

Description

The new Act on Apprenticeship, adopted and published in 2017, is the result of joint work and consultation with all main VET stakeholders: the ministries of education, labour and economy, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for VET (CPI), schools and social partners (chambers and trade unions). It defines apprenticeship as a means to accomplish three-year upper secondary VET programmes, equal to school-based programmes. The act strengthens the role of chambers in monitoring the scheme, defines the roles and responsibilities of companies offering practical training, the terms of the apprenticeship contract, and the rights and obligations of apprentices, considered students. Monthly remuneration is foreseen for the duration of the practical training in companies. The scheme is open to the unemployed.

2017 Approved/Agreed

Following the adoption of the act, the first pilot programmes were initiated in 2017.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ) (until 2023)
- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MDDSZ)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[European Commission \(2018\). Teachers and trainers matter: How to support them in high-performance apprenticeships and work-based learning, 12 policy pointers. Luxembourg. Publications Office of the European Union, 2018, page 8](#)

[Cedefop ReferNet Slovenia \(2018\): new Apprenticeship Act](#)

[The 2017 Apprenticeship Act](#)

Related policy developments

2021 Completed

Reform of upper-secondary education project

A 5-year project Reform of upper-secondary vocational education, funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), started in November 2016.

The project includes the following activities:

 SLOVENIA

Type of development


Practical
measure/initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2017 Completed**Thematic country review on apprenticeship 2015-17**

A thematic country review (TCR) on apprenticeship was conducted in close cooperation with Cedefop in 2015-17. The aim was to carry out an in-depth analysis of the situation to support Slovenia on reintroducing apprenticeship.

 SLOVENIA**Type of development**

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The 2017 Apprenticeship Act: Slovenia. 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/28547>