

# VET specialisation track in initial teacher training

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE



NETHERLANDS

## Timeline

2016 Completed

ID number 28456

## Background

This measure was included in the update of the Teacher agenda action plan 2013-20, which was approved in November 2015. The action plan aimed to improve initial training of VET teachers, as prospective VET teachers were less satisfied with their preparation compared to general education teachers. Managers in VET schools were also less satisfied with new teachers than managers in general education schools.

## Description

From 2016 onwards, teacher training colleges (higher professional education) have offered programmes for a VET teaching qualification at bachelor level. More specifically, the vocational education specialisation track has been introduced in teacher training bachelor programmes. The aim of this specialisation is to prepare teachers adequately for pre-vocational secondary education and upper secondary vocational education. Before the implementation of this measure, teacher training focused primarily on teachers in general education.

Research in 2018, showed that all teacher training institutions have implemented the track, leading to a significantly increased focus on VET.

2016 Completed

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

## Target group

Education professionals

Teachers

## Thematic categories

## Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

## Subsystem

IVET

## Further reading

[Policy letter on training of VET teachers, 18 December 2012](#)

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[Background information on teaching in VET](#)

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[Policy research on specialisation tracks in teacher training](#)

### “ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). VET specialisation track in initial teacher training: Netherlands. 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/28456>