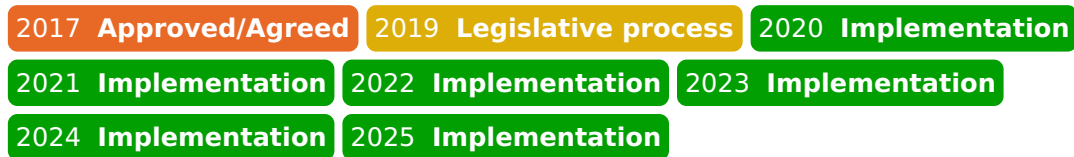


Strengthening the role of sectoral expert councils

POLICY DEVELOPMENT **PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE**  LATVIA

Timeline



ID number 28385

Background

Within an ESF project (2010-13) aiming to develop a sectoral qualifications system, 12 sectoral expert councils were established in 2011. Sectoral expert councils operate on the basis of tripartite cooperation; members include representatives from employers' organisations, trade unions, ministries (education, economics, welfare agriculture, communication and transport) and the State Employment Agency. By 2015, their activities included analysis of the vocational education system and content, piloting a validation system for EQF level 3 and 4 qualifications, research and analysis on skill needs and skill forecasts, and the development of sectoral qualifications and modularisation of VET programmes.

Objectives

To strengthen the role of advisory bodies supporting the development of quality IVET programmes in line with the needs of the labour market.

Description

Social partners (employer and employee organisations) have been actively involved in the design of the implementing regulations of apprenticeship through participation in the sectoral expert councils. The 2017 amendments of the VET law strengthen the role of the councils in their various roles: promote cooperation between companies and schools; evaluate and collect information about the companies involved in apprenticeship; consult companies on issues related to apprenticeship; evaluate the implementation of apprenticeship and propose improvements; evaluate the compliance of the company with the apprenticeship individual plan; and give companies the right to participate in apprenticeship.

The Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) and Latvian Agricultural Organisation Cooperation Council (LOSP) are the coordination institutions of sector expert councils, according to the VET Law.

2017 Approved/Agreed

Amendments in the VET law strengthening the role of the sectoral councils were approved in 2017.

2019 Legislative process

In 2019, amendments to the 2016 Procedures by which work-based learning is organised and implemented were initiated regarding two issues: regulating the implementation of WBL also outside Latvia, in the EU and EEA and Swiss confederation, including the implementation of WBL on ships; and revising the tasks and responsibilities of sector expert councils, based on the practical experience acquired since the adoption of the WBL regulation in June 2016.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the government revised Procedures by which work-based learning is organised and implemented, including norms on revising the tasks and responsibilities of sector expert councils. This was based on the practical experience acquired since the adoption of the WBL regulation in June 2016.

In 2020, the sector expert councils contributed to the following developments: promoted the planning and implementation of VET programmes in collaboration with labour market stakeholders, especially regarding traineeships and work-based learning; revised the sector qualifications' frameworks in compliance with the labour market requirements; updated the professional standards and professional qualification requirements in order to ensure the development of corresponding VET programme in the labour market; evaluation of educational and training results in particular sectors, as well as providing opinion on needed enrolments.

Based on a contract with the education ministry, the Employers' Confederation of Latvia was intensifying its work in the coordination of sectoral expert council activities and raising their VET policy competence. This included seminars and workshops that promote national and EU VET priorities for improved collaboration with Latvian and international counterparts.

2021 Implementation

Based on the renewed contract with the education ministry for 2021, the Employers' Confederation of Latvia continued to improve its work on the coordination of sectoral expert council activities. This included seminars and workshops that promote national and EU VET priorities and improves collaboration with Latvian and international counterparts.

In September 2021, the education ministry agreed with the representatives of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Science in Riga on future joint activities regarding further developments in the work of the sectoral expert councils in Latvia.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the education ministry continued discussions with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Science on potential support for the capacity building activities.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, reconsideration of the approaches to the implementation of WBL and the organisation of the work of SEC started. To implement a broader and best practice informed approach, collaboration with the German and Swiss education ministries gained momentum. Two WBL projects in collaboration with these ministries were in the pipeline.

2024 Implementation

The collaboration project between the Latvian and the German education ministries started in June 2024. The project aimed to build capacity of sector expert councils. Piloting in three sectors - wooden industry, agriculture and heavy machine building - was taking place, with a plan to subsequently introduce the most successful approaches in other sectors.

2025 Implementation

In August 2025, the sector expert council (SEC) in the field of metalworking and machinery was divided into two councils: (a) metalworking and machine building, and (b) machine science.

The implementation of a collaborative project between the Latvian and German education ministries, funded by the German government, continued by attracting and motivating VET learners to enrol in specific sectors, particularly through work-based learning (WBL). The project also strengthened the capacity of SEC to set criteria for company suitability for WBL and provided local and regional forecasts of skills needs across different labour-market sectors, recognising that local demand differs from national-level needs.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science
- State Employment Agency (NVA)
- Social partners
- State Education Development Agency (VIAA)

Target group

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies
Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Cedefop ReferNet Latvia \(2013\). 14 sectors have been explored to improve initial vocational education content](#)

[Procedures for the organisation and implementation of work-based learning \(in Latvian\)](#)

[Employers' Confederation of Latvia web page about sectoral expert councils](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

VET provider development strategies 2021-27

Future development of every VET provider is to be stated in its development strategy, shaped in consultation with the sectoral expert councils and local municipalities. The strategies are aligned with the sectoral and regional development plans.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2021 Completed

The 2015-17 implementation plan for the 2014-20 Education development guidelines

The implementation plan adopted in June 2015 provides directions for improving the access to education and preventing early school leaving from general and vocational education, especially for young people subjected to social exclusion.

 LATVIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

VET internationalisation and Baltic collaboration

In 2014, the Erasmus+ project National authorities for apprenticeships: Implementing work-based learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (WBL-Balt)' was launched, led by the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science.

 LATVIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28385>