

Modernising VET legal framework



Timeline



ID number 28331

Background

The previous version of the VET Law was in force from 2007 until 2017. The main efforts to improve the VET system have been related to the mismatch between the supply of education and the demands of the labour market, for which the education system has been criticised for many years.

Objectives

When amending the VET Law in 2017, three main goals were identified:

- (a) to change the VET system fundamentally in response to changes in the State's economic development;
- (b) to change the management and funding of VET schools in a way that would attract more social partners and more funding;
- (c) to change the quality assurance system to increase the prestige of VET.

Description

A new VET Law was adopted on 14 December 2017, with some of its articles coming into force on 1 February 2018 and others on 1 January 2019. The law emphasised the importance of workplace learning and apprenticeship, clarifying the regulation on apprenticeships. It also enhanced the role of sectoral professional committees, in particular with respect to the planning of apprenticeships and the coordination of qualifications systems at a sectoral level. In addition, the law redefined the rules for quality assurance in line with European quality assurance in vocational education and training (EQAVET) (including in the areas of self-assessment, internal quality management, regular external evaluation, accreditation and indicator-based monitoring of VET). Financial support to VET learners was also reformed. VET institutions became self-governing (meaning their shareholders should be employers, municipal institutions). Under the legislation, MOSTA (the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre) is in charge of monitoring VET and human resources, collecting and analysing data, forecasting skills

needs, and preparing recommendations for the provision of training in line with this.

In implementing provisions of the Law on VET in 2018, it was planned to amend more than 20 by-laws. The main changes proposed were related to strengthening the quality of VET, ensuring general transparency in the sector and restructuring the VET forms of organisation. Decisions were first made on the last of these. In 2017, for the first time, centralised admission to VET programmes was put in place.

Another measure involved in implementing the Law on VET's provisions is the restructuring of the network of institutions involved in this area. The aim of this is to create preconditions for high-quality VET, effective use of finances, and optimal investment in VET infrastructure and human resources. This transformation also seeks to help match the programmes implemented by VET institutions to the needs of companies operating in the region and to trim excess assets.

Important steps have also been taken to improve the quality of VET to aid adaptation to constantly changing labour market conditions, enabling flexibility and for people who have already acquired education to acquire required specific competences and qualifications. The implementation of modular programmes in VET schools has been encouraged, as well as the recoding of all curricula.

2017 Approved/Agreed

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, further provisions of the law were implemented, with a new version of the VET financing methodology and a description of the Procedure for organising apprenticeship VET developed, coordinated and adopted. These legal acts were approved by resolutions of the Government of Lithuania. Other changes were made through the adoption of orders at the level of the Minister for Education, Science and Sport, including in relation to documents on matters such as restructuring the network of VET institutions, the development of lifelong learning, and regulating the development and licensing of VET programmes. The development of a new model for the assessment of competences and the recognition of qualifications continued, along with that for the external evaluation of VET quality, the development and approval of new versions of qualifications standards, and the redesign of VET content.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports approved a procedure for the assessment of acquired competences, according to which a VET diploma is issued. Possibilities to participate in the assessment of competences extend to self-trained candidates who have acquired professional competences through apprenticeships, work experience, self-education, and non-formal learning. The competence assessment is organised by the Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC). Accredited institutions uniting and representing employers' associations delegate experts to the competence assessment commissions – practitioners and professionals of the sector from companies – to assist in the preparation of tasks. Candidates are required to complete practical skills-related tasks in the sectoral practical training centres (SPTCs) and to take a standardised test of the theoretical part of competences through an electronic testing system administered by the National Education Agency.

In 2020, in order to ensure the quality of VET, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports established a procedure for external evaluation of the activities of VET providers. This assessment applies not only to VET institutions but also to all other providers of formal VET. In the external evaluation procedure. The results achieved by VET providers are monitored according to five indicators: filling of State-funded VET places, the share of apprentices, dropout rates, learning achievements, and employment of graduates.

In 2020, the description of the procedure for awarding student scholarships and

material support was updated. From September 2020, excellent VET students can receive scholarships equivalent to scholarships in Higher Education. Meanwhile, they also get material support like HE students do.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the National Education Agency organised external evaluation of VET providers in line with the methodology approved in 2020, common for VET institutions and other training providers offering formal VET. The evaluation helped test the suitability of the methodology for all VET providers.

VET institution assessment was carried out on the basis of the three year self-assessment reports, three year activity report, statistics, publicly available information about them and information gathered during remote meetings with target groups (students, teachers, graduates, social partners). The activities of VET institutions were evaluated in five areas:

- (a) leadership and management (including quality management, involvement of the community and employers, provision of vocational training that meets the needs of the regional labour market);
- (b) implementation of vocational training programmes (including the organisation of teaching, satisfaction of students and teachers);
- (c) staff (including the qualification and retraining of vocational teachers);
- (d) teaching and learning resources (including the adequacy of material and methodological resources);
- (e) teaching and learning outcomes (including student qualifications, employability of graduates, satisfaction of students and employers with the competences acquired by employed graduates).

2022 Implementation

In 2022, external evaluators and VET providers received training on such topics as: how to use indicators for quality assurance, qualitative and quantitative research and data collection methods as well as for preparation of self-assessment reports.

In 2022, the development programme for the Economic Recovery and Resilience Measures for Lithuania was approved. Component 4 of the Economic Recovery and Resilience Measure 'Quality and accessible lifelong education for every resident' includes a component dedicated to the development of VET with the title: 'Improve the correspondence between the competences acquired in VET and the labour market needs in order to adapt to the changing environment'.

Aiming to implement the objectives of the above-mentioned measure, the minister of Education and Science approved on 9 June 2022 the development programme for VET, 'Creating a vocational training system that responds to the needs of the labour market' (No. 12-003-03-04-03). The aim of the development measure is to increase the attractiveness of vocational education and its compliance with the needs of the labour market, by expanding the opportunities for acquiring professional competences in general education schools and at the workplace, by providing support to learners from disadvantaged groups, and by providing regional vocational education institutions with modern infrastructure according to the latest trends.

Within the measure, the review of VET Law (2017) and the introduction of some additional legal acts are foreseen regarding:

- (a) the appointment of VET institutions by the minister for education, science and sport for assessment of acquired competences;
- (b) the establishment of financing schemes for development of VET in the form of apprenticeship;
- (c) the launch of a national platform on progress in VET in order to identify the need for updating/developing VET curricula.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the procedure for assessing acquired competencies was amended (Order No. V-1294 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport, 4 October 2023, amending Order No. V-15 of 14 January 2015 on the approval of the description of the procedure for assessing competencies acquired by a person). The revised procedure stipulates that the Minister of Education, Science and Sport appoints Competence Assessment Centres to assess the practical skills required for level 4 and 5 qualifications and defines their responsibilities.

2024 Implementation

In June 2024, a legal act regulating the procedure for the external evaluation of VET providers' activities (*Description of the procedure for the external evaluation of the activities of vocational training institutions and other vocational training providers providing formal vocational training*) was amended. The amendment authorises KPMPC to organise and carry out the external evaluation of VET providers' performance. Until 3 July 2024, this responsibility was held by the National Education Agency.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport initiated amendments to the 2017 Law on VET. The suggested amendments restrict the issuance of licenses for the implementation of VET programmes and clarify the conditions for suspending and/or revoking licenses. The amendments also seek to formalise Lithuanian as the language of instruction in VET programmes, with an exception for foreigners enrolled in CVET programmes, where training may be delivered in Lithuanian or through bilingual instruction (Lithuanian and another language), in accordance with procedures established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport. The proposed amendments have been submitted to Parliament and are awaiting discussion.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC)
- Lithuanian Employment Service
- National Education Agency

Target group

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders
Adult educators

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[VET Law \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Description of the procedure for the assessment of acquired competencies \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Description of procedures for external evaluation of the activities of VET institutions and other VET providers providing formal VET \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Progress measure to improve the correspondence between the competences acquired in VET in correspondence the labour market and to adapt to the changing environment](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

The National platform for progress in VET

The National platform for the progress in VET, as a team of experts, is established as a response to the European Commission's encouragement to its member states to strengthen vocational training and adapt more flexibly to the needs of the labour market.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Upskilling people in employment

A range of projects for continuing vocational education and training (CVET) were planned within the 2014-20 ESF programming period under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and Innovation.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Practical

measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

Competence assessment and validation arrangements

In 2016, to address the problem that non-formal training for unemployed adults organised by the public employment service (the Lithuanian labour exchange) did not lead to formal qualifications, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport agreed to enable validation and

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Completed

Sectoral professional committees (SPCs)

A joint Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport and the Minister of Economy and Innovation on the Tasks, Functions, Committee, Formation and Financing Procedures of Sectoral Professional Committees was drafted in 2018. It was approved by the ministers in the middle of that year.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Promote vocational training in the form of apprenticeship

Legislation in 2015 introduced provisions for the implementation of apprenticeships. It stipulated that apprenticeships can be organised by a VET institution together with employers, with practice and theory to be provided in alternating periods at the company and VET provider.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28331>