

Increasing the role of stakeholders in the governance of VET institutions

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**REGULATION/LEGISLATION** LITHUANIA

Timeline

2019 Implementation**2020 Completed****ID number 28330**

Background

After a long period of comments and suggestions from employers on their participation in VET management, the VET Law (2017), which entered into force at the beginning of 2019, opened up opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the management of institutions in this area. After the transformation of State-funded VET institutions into public ones, employers were able to get involved in the management of the activities of these institutions as shareholders. This allowed them to take joint responsibility (together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) in areas including matching VET programmes to labour market needs, facilitating conditions for students to acquire quality practical training in companies, enabling work with the latest technology, enhancing professional development of VET teachers and their internships, and improving employment opportunities for graduates. Business associations and municipal administrations registered in Lithuania can participate in the management of VET institutions, as well as in shaping VET content and organisation of services.

Objectives

The goal is to allow enhanced and more intensive involvement of employers in the management of VET institutions and policy-making. A further aim is to balance the strategic development of particular VET institutions with regional and sectoral needs of local economies.

Description

The network of VET institutions was reformed, with the number of schools reduced to 67 at the start of 2019. In the same year, the model of governance for VET institutions was changed. From then on, the governance bodies included representatives from municipalities, businesses and VET schools with the aim of ensuring that the views of more stakeholders were taken on board when organising VET initiatives.

Following growth in the involvement of stakeholders at a strategic level in the management of State-run VET institutions, the next key step has been to form councils in each school to run at an operational level. In 2019, the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania approved councils in 47 VET schools, with the remaining 20 to be established in the near future. Such councils, which act as collegial governing bodies of the

schools, consist of nine members, four of which are selected from representatives of the social partners. These may, for example, be people with impeccable reputation and experience in VET, specialist training or other similar areas. Other members are appointed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, regional development councils and the schools themselves.

The participation of employers in the planning, organisation and quality management activities of VET institutions is aimed at helping make the relevant training services more effective and responding to the specifics of the labour market in individual regions. The idea is that it also increases the transparency and accountability of VET institutions and the schools' autonomy, helping them to accumulate the funds they earn and use them to improve quality: an example is through activities such as purchasing modern teaching equipment and raising teachers' salaries.

School councils are served by the VET school in which they operate; the councils are chaired by business representatives who are in charge of convening the council meetings, at least once a calendar quarter.

2019 Implementation

2020 Completed

In 2020, the reform was finished, all budgetary VET institutions were transformed into public ones and school councils were elected.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Association of Lithuanian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts
- Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists
- Lithuanian Business Confederation (LVK)
- Lithuanian Employers' Confederation

Target group

Education professionals

School leaders

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

Cedefop ReferNet Lithuania (2019) sectoral professional committees: strong voices in the Lithuanian qualifications system

Description of the procedure for selection and approval of members to the council of VET institutions (only in Lithuanian)

Related policy developments

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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