

Sectoral professional committees (SPCs)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE	 LITHUANIA
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Timeline



ID number 28329

Background

The main obstacles to the development of apprenticeships have in the past been a lack of clarity in the relevant legislation, a reluctance among small and medium-sized enterprises (99.8% of companies) to bear the cost of apprenticeships, and the absence of support mechanisms. The new Law on VET adopted in 2017 emphasises the importance of workplace-based learning and apprenticeships, further clarifying provisions in this area and encouraging sectoral professional committees to participate in planning the intake of apprentices.

Objectives

Sectoral professional committees (SPCs) are advisory bodies formed to ensure cooperation between all VET stakeholders in a particular sector of the economy. They support the effectiveness of the sector's qualification system and the labour market relevance of VET programmes.

Description

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.

Sectoral professional committees (SPCs) are funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, while their activities are supervised and coordinated by the Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC). In 2018, an Order of the Director of KPMPC approved the work regulations of the SPCs. This Order defined procedures for measures such as the use of experts for apprentice intake, and the organisation of SPC activities and meetings (including guidance on conducting meetings, the election of chairpersons, electronic meetings and meeting agendas).

Some 18 sectoral professional committees are in place across all economic sectors, with

these entities taking responsibility for drafting, updating and approving qualification standards, and assessing VET programmes and their modules. They also submit proposals to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport relating to qualifications that can be acquired through apprenticeships, and give advice on validation arrangements and the need for new qualifications to be included in the national register of qualifications. Each sectoral committee must have at least nine members and those representing employers should comprise at least half the number when they are formed, unless they propose a smaller number.

2017 Design

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Implementation

In 2019, SPCs discussed and approved 17 draft professional standards. Representatives of the relevant businesses also played an active part in discussions, with their perspective often decisive in the composition of qualifications described in competence standards and specifics. Committee representatives analysed and proposed amendments to by-laws regulating the management of VET services and establishing the responsibilities of people providing them. Members were also interested in the assessment and recognition of qualifications, and the improvement and supervision of VET quality. At least three meetings of each committee took place in 2019.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, 21 meetings of the SPCs were organised, the composition of the SPCs was updated (replacements and new members joining in), six professional standards were approved, and four professional standards were updated.

2021 Implementation

The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice. The composition of sectoral professional committees is being continuously updated in line with needs in the sectors. Under the coordination of the KPMPC that provides methodological assistance and consultations, 12 meetings were held to discuss and give opinions on new standards for qualifications; 2 new standards were approved and 3 others were updated in 2021, in close cooperation with the KPMPC.

The committees contributed to continuing discussions on the implementation of LTQF level 5 qualifications and the need for short-cycle higher education studies; they also provided comments on the descriptions of these study fields.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, annual meetings of SPC took place.

Furthermore, two informational events were organised for the members of SPC to update the competences required for the tasks delegated to SPC.

An Erasmus + programme project, dedicated to capacity building, developing cooperation and sharing best practices among institutions coordinating sectoral occupational developments in the Baltic states, with the title, 'Development of Cooperation between sectoral professional committees', was implemented.

From 2022 a new Erasmus+ project has started with the title 'Strengthening cooperation between the institutions coordinating the work of sectoral expert councils in the Baltic states' (SECBaltics). It initiated a partnership of the Employers' Confederation of Latvia together with the Latvian Agricultural Organization Cooperation Council (LAOCC), the Latvian National Centre of Culture (LNCC), the Estonian Qualifications Authority (EQA) and the Lithuanian Qualifications and vocational education and training development centre (KPMPC). The objective of the

project is to form a partnership, promote cooperation and exchange of good practices among the institutions coordinating the work of sectoral expert councils and other stakeholders involved in the development of VET education in the Baltic States.

The main activities of the project are:

- (a) training visits to the participating countries to find out how sectoral expert councils work in each of the Baltic States;
- (b) virtual mobility and exchange experience between sectoral expert councils in the Baltic States through preparatory meetings for project activities and seminars.

The expected effects of the project are to lay the foundations for a long-term partnership at international level and to promote cooperation between the three coordinating bodies of SECs in Latvia at national level.

2023 Implementation

Ten meetings of sectoral professional committees were organised regarding the approval or update of new qualifications. Members of sectoral professional committees attended two international conferences on skills and qualifications policies. Committee members were consulted regarding the demand for short-cycle studies and new qualifications and competencies to address green and digital transition.

The project 'Strengthening cooperation between the institutions coordinating the work of sectoral expert councils in the Baltic states' (SECBaltics) has been implemented. Activities of the project carried out in 2023: training visit in Latvia, a webinar "Exchange of experience of the Sectoral Expert Councils (SECs) in the Baltic Region", a final conference "Skills - A Success Factor for Economic Transformation"; preparation of three thematic analysis "Sectoral Expert Councils", "Sector involvement in the qualification awarding process" and "Development of qualification requirements".

2024 Completed

In 2024, four meetings of sectoral professional committees were organised to approve or update new qualifications. Committee members were consulted regarding the demand for short-cycle studies and new qualifications and competences to address green and digital transition.

Sectoral professional committees are now an integral part of the VET system and operate on a regular basis.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Ministry of Economy and Innovation
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC)

Target group

Education professionals

School leaders
Adult educators

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

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

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

[Description of tasks, functions and procedures for the creation and financing of sectoral professional committees \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Rules of procedure for sectoral professional committees \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

[Information about Erasmus+ Baltic cooperation project](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Modernising VET legal framework

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.

 LITHUANIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

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.

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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