

Sector skills councils (SSCs)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE	 HUNGARY
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Timeline



ID number 28277

Background

The continuing reform of VET and apprenticeship that started in 2015 aims to raise the attractiveness and quality of VET, including improving the relevance of practical training and raising the number of apprentices.

Description

The 2017 Act CXCVII amending the 2011 Act on VET and adult training opened up the way for establishing sector skills councils (SSCs) from July 2018. The 2017 ACT CXCVII and the governmental Decree No 213/2018 (XI.22.) reinforced the role of employers in education and training.

Sector skills councils are platforms of cooperation between all VET actors to align VET curricula to the needs of the economy. To be representative, at least 51% of their members are economic stakeholders from the same sector. Thirteen SSCs in various sectors (such as engineering, tourism and catering, commerce, information technology) were set up in 2017. The main role of the SSCs is to prevent and overcome skills gaps and make proposals for better matching VET qualifications with skills for jobs. SSCs are coordinated by the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hungarian Chamber for Agriculture for their relative sectors. The main responsibilities of the councils include:

- (a) making suggestions for improving the quality of training programmes leading to qualifications included in the national qualification register (HuQR) and other adult training programmes;
- (b) defining the content of the vocational and examination requirements set for any given occupational qualification listed in the HuQR before the publication of the relevant regulation establishing the qualification;
- (c) supporting the development of school-based VET for young people and adults;
- (d) supporting the professional development of VET teachers;
- (e) supporting the development of qualifications expressed in learning outcomes, in line with the European qualifications framework and the Hungarian qualifications framework;
- (f) appointing experts for developing training activities;

(g) analysing and forecasting skills needs by sector to develop short and medium-term plans for training activities.

2017 Design

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the SSCs formulated their proposals related to the structure of vocational qualifications and their contents. The national qualifications register (HuQR) included more vocational qualifications (759) compared to international practice and to what the domestic economy expected and did not fit the scope of activities defined by employers. VET qualifications taught in the school system are over-specialised in many cases.

The VET 4.0 strategy states that the HuQR has to be rationalised taking into account the demands of the economy, with the aim to have a transparent training system and to meet the demands of the fourth industrial revolution. SSCs formulated their proposals by focusing on those activities where there is no need to have a formal vocational education. As a result of this rationalisation, the number of formal qualifications should be adjusted to those accessible in the countries of the European Union. The outdated picture of the professions has to be updated and the number of qualifications decreased. Profession descriptions have to be transparent for all relevant stakeholders: employers, young people and their parents and adults looking for retraining and further training possibilities. The first step of this development was that the SSCs updated the content descriptions of the professions with the aim to further rationalise the HuQR.

2020 Approved/Agreed

Experts delegated by the sectoral skills councils, in consultation with the SSC members, have been carrying out an analysis of the labour-market-relevance of vocational qualifications and prepared proposals for qualifications standards and programme curricula in formal VET and adult education linked to qualifications included in the national register of vocational occupations.

A booklet with all the necessary information on the new types of qualifications (occupations and sectors concerned), as well as the VET institutions, types and duration of programmes that deliver these qualifications, was prepared and released in 2020. Its aim is to facilitate career choice and familiarise both learners and their families with the new VET offer.

At the end of 2020, SSCs prepared sectoral reviews for amending or creating new qualifications (basic vocational occupations, in the national context). By 31 December 2020, altogether 162 programme requirements had been registered.

The SSCs have made proposals for teacher training courses within the company environment. The system is still being developed.

One of the major tasks for the future is the introduction of validation in VET. Several workshops were held during the year.

2021 Implementation

Based on the new National register of vocational occupations (*Szakmajegyzék*), SSCs operate in 19 sectors, with the active participation of about 330 stakeholders. The difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic did not hinder the work of the SSCs; their work carried out during 2021 ended with significant professional results.

The updated booklet presenting the basic vocational occupations – with the title Information booklet on basic professions with the recommendation of the SSCs 2021/22 – is accessible and can be downloaded from the homepage of IKK Zrt.

(Innovative Training Support Centre Plc).

SSCs have been carrying out professional inspection of the programme requirements (PKs). In 2021; 137 have been commented by the SSCs, of which 42 were registered. Currently 475 programme requirements have been registered and approved.

Approval of additional proposals for teachers' further training within company environments remains in progress. The SSCs have been constantly developing proposals for company placements, practical tasks, training periods, project tasks and to measure the fulfilment of given training actions.

In the revision of the Programme and outcome requirements (KKKs), the reconciliation roundtable (set at county level by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry) started to elaborate a digital competence reference set and to update DigComp levels. This work can help specify the contents of the Programme and Outcome Requirements linked to digital competence. Digital levels per occupations show the digital competence elements and digital knowledge levels in a given sector, needed to fulfil the scope of activities in the given occupation.

2022 Implementation

One of the main tasks of the SSCs in 2022 was to examine elements of the VET system in operation (focus areas: career guidance-enrolment, sectoral foundation education-sectoral basic exam, specialised education, final examination), both in terms of processes and the documents that underpin the education system. For this examination, it was essential to develop closer cooperation with other education stakeholders as well as the regional chamber network. Close cooperation has been established with the county sectoral working groups, whose members have been invited to attend the SSCs meetings to learn about each other's activities and their common issues with the SSCs (the role of the SSCs in VET, the situation of the county VET and the importance of cooperation between VET actors).

In order to build up contacts with dual training placements and chambers of commerce, external meetings were held in several SSCs, where education actors – VET centres, dual training places and economic stakeholders (SSCs members) - exchanged experiences and gained direct insights into the dual training system of certain companies (e.g. AUDI, Pick Zrt., Unicon Zrt.). Interactive conversations helped to explore good practices used at county level related to VET and to collect opinions on the functioning of the existing system.

In 2022, within the framework of the dual VET sectoral monitoring sub-task, the SSCs have prepared an expert analysis by sector, which formulated the current state of play of the operation of the VET institutional system and proposals for improvement in each area.

Since 2022, SSCs are involved in the process of commenting on the programme requirements for vocational training . In 2022, close to 100 programme requirement (PKs) proposals received were subjected to an expert consultation process. Under the amended procedure of March 2022, the SSC or the expert involved by the SSC examined the real economic needs of the vocational qualification defined in the programme requirement.

2023 Implementation

As part of the comprehensive expert activity supporting the operation of the SSCs, a VET Methodology Guide was produced in 2023, aiming to collect good practices and good practice examples on sectoral basis in three focus areas:

- (a) training programme
- (b) project assignment
- (c) portfolio

The information and practices needed to produce the guide were gathered through a

series of expert roundtables in all 19 sectors. The 'Good Practices' have been summarised in the guide and can be shared with schools and dual placements as recommendations, thus facilitating the daily work of actors and the dissemination of good practices in VET.

The content of the Information booklet on the basic vocational occupations (vocational qualifications), prepared on the recommendation of the SSCs was reviewed, supplemented and amendments were proposed in cooperation with the IKK Nonprofit Zrt. The booklet was republished in 2023 to facilitate career choices and to provide information on the basic vocational occupations in the given sector.

2024 Completed

The Information booklet on basic vocational qualification, prepared on the recommendation of the SSCs, was republished in 2024 to facilitate career choices and to provide information on the basic vocational qualifications in the given sector.

The SSCs have continuously commented on the PKs received for the sector concerned. In October 2024, a total of 600 PKs are available on the IKK Nonprofit Zrt. website.

As in 2023, the series of round tables on good practices continued in 2024 as well.

In 2024 the mandates of the chairpersons and members of the SSCs had to be renewed by law after two years. 19 new chairs were appointed and the membership of the SSCs was updated, including new members from higher education institutions. The aim of this reform is to ensure higher education works more closely with VET, in line with the needs of the economy.

The establishment and renewal of the SSC system is completed and SSCs continue to operate on a permanent basis.

Bodies responsible

- Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture (NAK)
- Ministry of Culture and Innovation
- Ministry for Agriculture

Target group

Other

VET policy making
bodies

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Cedefop ReferNet Hungary \(2018\), Sectoral skills councils linking quality VET to jobs](#)

[The VET Act LXXX of 2019 \(entering into force on 1 January 2020\)](#)

[Government Decree No 12/2020 on the implementation of the VET Act \(published on 7 February 2020\)](#)

[Register of VET professions \(new\), Annex No 1 to the government Decree No 12/2020 on the implementation of the new VET Act LXXX](#)

[Adult training programme requirements access link](#)

[Updated 'Information booklet on the basic vocational occupations - recommended by the Sector Skills Councils](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Using learning outcomes in VET and adult learning

Preparation and elaboration of the programme and outcome requirements (KKK) have been realised with experts, who know both their own profession and the learning outcome-based methodology well.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Supporting Lifelong Learning (LLL) in the adult education and training framework

The VET Act of 2019 differentiates vocational education and vocational training. Vocational education can be provided within the IVET framework on the basis of programme and outcome requirements (KKKs) and in formal school-based adult education.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Updating the Register of Vocational Qualifications

According to VET Act LXXX of 2019, the name of the national qualifications register has changed to the register of basic occupations (*szakmajegyzék*), which includes a list of basic qualifications qualifying holders to perform a wide range of activities within a certain economic sector.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Completed

Mid-term VET policy strategy 4.0

The government has accepted, by government Decision No 1168/2019. (III.28.), the new 'Mid-term VET policy strategy for the renewal of VET and adult education (AE), the VET system's answer to the challenges of the fourth Industrial Revolution'.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Green transition in the Hungarian VET

VET has an important role to play alongside higher education and public general education, as learners' decisions as employees and/or managers after graduation are based on the knowledge, skills and experience they have acquired.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2019 Discontinued

Reform of the VET framework curricula

In 2016, the National Office of VET and Adult Learning introduced VET framework curricula for vocational grammar schools.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Sector skills councils (SSCs): Hungary. 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/28277>